Looking up with prayer to God as our guide, we, trust indeed, that we shall have the power of Christ as our aid, though we are totally unable to find even the bare vestiges of those who may have traveled the way before us; unless, perhaps, what is only presented in the slight intimations, which some in different ways have transmitted to us in certain partial narratives of the times in which they lived; who, raising their voices before us, like torches at a distance, and as looking down from some commanding height, call out and exhort us where we should walk, and whither direct our course with certainty and safety.
Eusebius (early 4 C) in the Introduction to *Ecclesiastical History*, the first Church History text

**CH500: Survey of Church History**

“So look to the Lord and his strength; seek his face always. Remember the wonders he has done, his miracles, and the judgments he pronounced...”

*[I Chronicles 16: 11-12, NIV]*

Dr. Gwenfair Walters Adams  
Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary - Hamilton  
Spring Semester, 2013, Mondays 2:00-5:00 p.m.  
Office Hours: Mondays 10:30-12:00 p.m., Wednesdays 10:00-11:00 a.m., Thursdays, 3:00-4:00 p.m.  
Contact info: given in class

**Course Description & Objectives:**

The course will trace the history of the Church from Pentecost to the present, examining key themes, figures, events, eras, and issues, exploring their relevance to the Church today. From Early Church martyrs to Medieval knights, from Augustine to Aquinas, from Calvin to Carey, from the catacombs to the cathedrals, from doctrinal disputes to mystical quests and cyberspace globalization, it will study the interaction of God and His people.

The course seeks to provide a framework for lifelong learning in the history of the Church; opportunities for students to participate in creative learning experiences that can be incorporated into future ministry; opportunities for learning and applying scholarly historical research, analysis, and writing skills; and to foster an attitude of worship of the Lord in the midst of seeking a glimpse of His handiwork in the unfolding of the history His Church.

**Class Schedule** (Subject to change if necessary):

- **January 28**  Introduction
- **February 4**  Perseverance in Suffering: The Early Church & Persecution
- **February 11**  Getting the Story Straight: Canon and Councils
- **READING WEEK: NO CLASS**
- **February 25**  Structuring Life: Monasticism
- **March 4**  Late Medieval Spirituality
- **March 11**  Reformation I
- **March 18**  Reformation II
- **READING WEEK: NO CLASS**
- **April 1**  Revival and Renewal
- **April 8**  Development of Evangelicalism
April 15  Facing Hitler: Christian Responses in World War II
April 22  Modern Missions and Globalization
April 29  Final exam

Required Texts:


Course Requirements:
Seniors need to submit all work by senior work deadline by 4:00 p.m. (under professor's office door or in box outside office door).

1. Final Exam (40%) (Take-home, closed-book; the original bluebook(s) and a typed copy due: final day for written work at 4:00 p.m. under professor's office door). Study guide will be provided on April 22.

2. Reading (20%) - 1200 pages (including specified pages from the required texts, reserve readings, and any scholarly reading done for paper) - Annotated bibliography - please indicate total # of pages (Due: final day for written work, under professor's office door by 4:00 p.m.)

Grading method for the reading: The paper and exam grades will be averaged. If 100% of the reading has been completed, the paper/exam average will be the grade for the course. Otherwise, the proportion of reading not done will be deducted from the grade at the following rate:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Grade Impact</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>100%</td>
<td>(ex: A to A = no change)</td>
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<tr>
<td>75-99%</td>
<td>(ex: A to A- = 1/3 grade drop)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50-74%</td>
<td>(ex: A to B+ = 2/3 grade drop)</td>
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3. Research Paper (40%) - 11-13 pages of main text, including footnotes, double-spaced (Due: April 22, under professor's office door). Paper will be graded on strength of argument/thought, quality of research (should be grounded in primary sources but interact with secondary sources), clarity of structure, and style (grammar, literary expression, proper format). Please follow instructions in Guidelines for Writing Church History Papers (access on-line at GCTS Student Portal). Make sure you use footnotes (rather than embedded references) and include a bibliography. It is advisable to speak with the professor about the topic in advance of writing the paper.

• Extensions during term are given only by permission of instructor. If the instructor determines that the circumstances are extenuating (illness, death in family) an extension without penalty may be granted for a length of time equivalent to the time lost. Occasionally, in other circumstances, the instructor may grant an extension with penalty (one full grade per week of extension). If you need an extension beyond the final day for written work, you will need to request it from the Registrar in advance. Seniors need to submit all work by the senior work deadline.

• Grading scale is the one indicated in the Gordon-Conwell academic catalog guidelines:
"Grade A is given for meeting with conspicuous excellence the demands which can fairly be made in relation to the requirements of the course. These demands would normally include unusual accuracy in fact, completeness in detail, perfection in form of work, independence of method, grasp of the subject as a whole and constructive imagination. Grade B is given for exceeding the minimum of satisfactory attainment and for meeting certain aspects of the course with excellence. Grade C is given for attaining satisfactory familiarity with the course and for demonstrating at least some ability to use this knowledge in a satisfactory manner. Grade D is a passing mark but indicates unsatisfactory control over the material. Grade F declares that the course has been failed."

• Class attendance may be taken into account, with one point per missed, unexcused absence being taken off of the final grade. More than three unexcused absences may result in failure of the class.

• Plagiarism is considered a serious academic offense at GCTS and can result in penalties as serious as failing a course, suspension, etc. Please follow guidelines at http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/wts/plagiarism.html.
• **Internet/Game Usage:** Students are required to refrain from accessing the internet or playing computer/cell phone games, etc. at any point during class sessions, unless otherwise instructed by the professor. Surfing the web, checking email, and other internet-based activities are distracting to other students and to the professor, and prevent the student from fully participating in the class sessions. This applies to auditors as well.

• **Intellectual Property / Privacy Rights:** To protect the professor’s intellectual property rights with regard to classroom content and to protect the privacy of the professor and other students, students are required to refrain from audio, photographic, and video recording of classes, as well as audio, video, photographic, and written publication (including internet posting and broadcasting) or live transmission of classroom proceedings. This applies to auditors as well.