The Church from the Reformation  
Hamilton Campus

Dr. Garth M. Rosell, Instructor   Spring Semester 2011  
CH502   Mondays 1:15 - 4:15 p.m.

Course Description: The Church from the Reformation is a basic introduction to the development of the Christian Church from the Protestant Reformation of the Sixteenth Century to the present time.

Course Objectives: The Church From the Reformation is designed to provide students with a working knowledge of the major themes, issues and personalities of Church History; to help them to make use of the rich resources of Church History in their practice of ministry; and to encourage them to seek for spiritual renewal in their own lives, in the church and in society.

Course Requirements: Students who are taking the course for credit are expected to attend the lectures regularly, take the two examinations, complete 2000 pages of required reading, and write one 12-15 page research paper.


Examinations: Two examinations will be given during the course:

**Midterm Exam:** Monday, March 7th. This will be a take-home essay exam covering the readings and class lectures from January 31 through March 7. The completed exam will be due by the time of the class meeting on March 14.

**Final Exam:** Monday, April 18. This will be a take-home essay exam covering the readings and class lectures from March 14th through April 18. The completed exam will be due by no later than 4:00 p.m. on Friday, April 29.

Preparation for the examinations: Many students have found that the most effective way of preparing for the examinations is to focus their study around the major themes, issues and personalities raised by the instructor in the lectures. While students are encouraged to draw upon the required and recommended readings, their study in other courses and the research they are doing for their research paper, the essay questions in both the midterm and the final exams (for the most part) will invite them to engage the themes, issues and personalities they have encountered in the lectures.
Note on the Exams: Students will be asked to write a total of three essays for each of the exams (selecting one question of two possibilities in three categories). No books (other than an unmarked Bible and/or dictionary) may be used during the exams. Students may take up to three hours to write the exam. Bluebooks will be provided for both exams.

Grading of the exams: Your examinations will be evaluated on the basis of three primary criteria: (1) the depth and accuracy of your historical knowledge; (2) the quality, clarity and organization of the analysis/argument you present; and (3) the level of professional skill, creativity and pastoral sensitivity reflected in the way you apply your historical insights to the practice of ministry.

Required reading: Students taking the course for credit are required to read a total of 2000 pages for the course, including a careful reading of both of our required textbooks. The remaining pages of reading (to make up the full 2000 pages required for the course) can include the materials that are used for the research paper and/or additional reading from the "Recommended Reading" sections of the course syllabus or more general reading in related areas of the student's choosing. Students will be asked to submit a report of their reading by 4:00 p.m., Friday, April 29. A form for this purpose is provided.

Grading of the reading will be as follows: 100%=A; 95-99%=A-; 90-94%=B+; 85-89%=B; 80-84%=B-; 75-79%=C+; 70-74%=C; 65-69%=C-; 60-64%=D+; 55-59%=D; 50-54%=D-; Below 50%=F (no credit is given for skimming)

Research Paper: Each student taking the course for credit is required to write one 12-15 page research paper. Completed papers should be typed and in correct form (for example, double-spaced, using twelve-point font, footnoted where appropriate, with a bibliography of all sources used for the study, etc.). Those who have not had much experience in writing research papers may want to consult a reliable style manual like Kate L. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 6th edition (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1996). Any recognized style is acceptable to the instructor so long as it is used consistently throughout the paper.

Due date: Research papers are due no later than 4:00 p.m. on Friday, April 29.

Selection of topic: Students are free to select, research and present whatever topic they wish to explore provided: (1) that their topic is basically historical in nature; (2) that the topic falls within the period between approximately 1500 a.d. and 2006 a.d.; and (3) that the written presentation conforms to one of the recognized manuals of style. You do not need the instructor's approval for your choice of topic.

The task of research: An important part of writing a research paper is the
task of locating and selecting the sources you want to use. This will probably involve several hours of hard work in an archive or library. Don't expect others to do this work for you -- this is part of your assignment. Ideas for paper topics can be found in the textbook as well as the class lectures. Specific issues of *Christian History & Biography* magazine available in our library or on the *Christianity Today* website are also helpful in selecting topics and locating resources. Our Byington for the course, Brendan Payne, is available to help you on your papers if you would like his assistance.

**Grading the papers:** Your research papers will be evaluated on the basis of three primary criteria: (1) the depth of the research in both primary and secondary materials; (2) the quality of the analysis/argument you present; and (3) the clarity, accuracy and beauty of the writing. Attention to these matters will not only help you on this paper assignment but it will also aid you in developing the kinds of skills you will be using in those various ministries to which God has called each one of you.

**Personal Consultations:** The instructor will normally be available for brief conversations before and after each class session. He is also available in his study (AC345) during regular office hours. These are posted outside his seminary office. Dr. Rosell can be reached by telephone in his study (978-646-4139) or by e-mail (grosell@gcts.edu).

**Discussion sessions:** Following class on both March 7 and April 18, Dr. Rosell will be available for an informal "Question and Answer" session for any students who wish to attend (these sessions, of course, are not mandatory).

**Readings and Prayer:** For some years now it has been my practice to open each class session with a brief devotional reading and prayer. The readings for this term are taken from the parables of William E. Barton, who was before his death a Congregational minister in the Chicago area, and published in Garth M. Rosell and Stan Flewelling, eds., *Parables of a Country Parson* (Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 1998).

**Grading:** Your final grade for the course will be computed as follows:
- Midterm examination: 30%
- Final examination: 30%
- Research paper: 30%
- Reading report: 10%

Grading Scale (point values and definitions of letter grades can be found in the "Grading Scale" section of the *Gordon-Conwell Student Handbook*):
- A+=4.0; A=4.0; A-=3.7; B+=3.3; B=3.0; B-=2.7; C+=2.3; C=2.0; C-=1.7;
- D+=1.3; D=1.0; D-=0.7; F=0.0

"A" means "conspicuous excellence;" "B" means "exceeding the
minimum; "C" means "satisfactory" work; "D" means "passing" but "unsatisfactory;" and "F" means "course has been failed."

**General Surveys of Church History:** We are fortunate to have a number of fine surveys of Church History available to us, both ancient and modern. Some of these are listed below for those students who may want to supplement their basic reading.


**Collections of Primary Documents:**


John H. Leith, *Creeds of the Churches: A Reader in Christian Doctrine from the Bible*
Reference Materials in Church History:

Popular Presentations of Church History:
Bruce Shelley, *Church History in Plain Language* (Waco, TX: Word Books, 1982).
*Christian History & Biography* magazine (issues on selected individuals and themes in Church History published under the auspices of *Christianity Today*).

**Helps in Research and Writing:**

**COURSE SCHEDULE:**
**Monday, January 31: THE PROTESTANT REFORMATION (THE LUTHERAN TRADITION)**

**Session I:** Introduction to the Course
**Session II:** The Magisterial Reformers: Martin Luther

**Recommended reading:**
"Reformation Overview," Christian History Institute's "Complete Video Curriculum" (including six thirty minute videos on the lives of Wycliffe, Hus, Luther, Zwingli, Calvin, the Anabaptists and Tyndale).


Session I: The Magisterial Reformers: The Reformed Tradition (Zwingli Calvin and Knox)

**Recommended reading:**

Session II: The English Reformers: Latimer, Boleyn & Cranmer

**Recommended reading:**

**Monday, February 14: THE PROTESTANT REFORMATION (THE RADICAL REFORMERS)**

**Session I: The Radical Reformers**

**Recommended reading:**

**Session II: Movements of Spiritual Renewal**

**Recommended reading:**
- Richard Lovelace, *Dynamics of Spiritual Life: An Evangelical Theology of Renewal* (Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1964)
- Arthur James Lewis, *Zinzendorf the Ecumenical Pioneer*
February 21-25, 2011: READING WEEK (No Class)

Tuesday, February 28: EIGHTEENTH CENTURY MOVEMENTS OF SPIRITUAL RENEWAL

Session I: Movements of Spiritual Renewal: Pietism and Methodism

Recommended reading:

Session II: Movements of Spiritual Renewal: Puritanism in Old and New England

Recommended reading:
Tuesday, March 7: THE GLOBAL EXPANSION OF CHRISTIANITY
Take-home Midterm Exam will be distributed. Due by the class meeting on March 14. (An optional "Question and Answer" session will be held following today's class session for those who may have questions about the midterm or about their research papers)

Session I: The Modern Missionary Movement

Recommended reading:


Yamamori Tetsunao, Church Growth in Japan: A Study in the Development of Eight Denominations (South Pasadena, CA: Carey Library, 1974).


Session II: The Rise of American Evangelicalism

Recommended reading:


Mark A. Noll, The Rise of Evangelicalism: The Age of Edwards,
Tuesday, March 14: THE MODERN PENTECOSTAL MOVEMENT AND THE RISE OF THE BLACK CHURCH IN AMERICA  (Midterm exams are due by the beginning of the class session)

Session I: The Azusa Street Revival and the Rise of Modern Pentecostalism

Recommended reading:


Dennis J. Bennett, *Nine O’Clock in the Morning* (Plainfield, NJ:...

**Session II: The Emergence of the Black Church in America**

**Recommended reading:**

*Encarta Africana* (1999), a multimedia CD-Rom produced by Microsoft and co-edited by Henry Louis Gates, Jr. and Kwame Anthony Appiah. The is the culmination of W.E.B. Dubois' longstanding dream and it includes more than 3,000 articles.

March 21-25, 2011: READING WEEK (NO CLASS)
Tuesday, March 28: THE STRUGGLE FOR AMERICA'S SOUL: FUNDAMENTALISM AND MODERNISM

Sessions I and II: The Fundamentalist and Modernist Controversies of the 1920s

Recommended reading:
George M. Marsden, *Fundamentalism and American Culture* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1982)
George M. Marsden, *Understanding Fundamentalism and Evangelicalism* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1991)

Tuesday, April 4: THE ROMAN CATHOLIC AND ECUMENICAL RESPONSE TO THE PROTESTANT REFORMATION

Session I: The Response of Modern Catholicism: Trent, Vatican I and Vatican II

Recommended reading:
Session II: The Response of the Ecumenical Revolution: From Edinburgh to Lausanne

Recommended reading:
- Martin E. Marty, *Church Unity and Church Mission* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1964)

Tuesday, April 11: NEO-ORTHODOXY AND THE NEW EVANGELICALISM

Sessions I and II:
Recommended reading:
- David Harrington Watt, *Transforming Faith: Explorations of*


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**Tuesday, April 18: THE CHURCH IN A POSTMODERN WORLD**

Take-home Final Exam will be distributed. Due no later than 4:00 p.m., Friday, April 29. An optional "Question and Answer" session will be held following today's class.

**Session I: The Global Expansion of Evangelical Christianity**

**Recommended reading:**


**Session II: The Challenges of Ministry in a Postmodern World**

**Recommended reading:**


- Gene Edward Veith, Jr., *Postmodern Times: A Christian Guide to Contemporary Thought and Culture* (Wheaton, IL:

By the end of the course, each student is expected to have read a total of 2000 pages. This total must include the careful reading of both required textbooks for the class plus the additional pages read during the course including reading done in connection with the research paper. This reading report should be filled out and submitted with your final exam by no later than 4:00 p.m. on Friday, April 29.

**Required Reading:**

Grading of the reading will be as follows:

100% = A; 95-99% = A-; 90-94% = B+; 85-89% = B; 80-84% = B-; 75-79% = C+;
70-74% = C; 65-69% = C-; 60-64% = D+; 55-59% = D; 50-54% = D-; Below 50% = F.

No credit is given for skimming.

Either Justo Gonzalez (398 total pages) or Kenneth Scott Latourette (839 total pages).

Exact number of pages you have read in the Gonzalez text: ______________________
or

Exact number of pages you have read in the Latourette text: ______________________

Garth M. Rosell, *The Surprising Work of God* (227 page total)

Exact number of pages you have read in the Rosell text: __________________________

Please provide full citations for all reading that you completed in addition to the textbooks. For example: (1) George M. Marsden, *Fundamentalism & American Culture* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1980), read all 230 pages. Use the back of this sheet if you need more space.

Exact number of additional pages you have read: _________________

Exact number of total pages you have read for the course: _________________

Name (print): ______________________________________________________

Date: ______________________________________________________