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

“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; Mondays 1:15-4:15 p.m., Spring, 2010
Office Hours: Mondays, 10-12 a.m.; Wednesdays, 10:45-11:45 a.m. and as posted outside my office (Library basement 115)
Phone: 978-646-4089; gadams@gcts.edu (please do not send attachments)

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 25 Introduction
February 1 The Early Church
Persecution (Martyrdom) and Constantine (Church-State relations)
February 8 Development of Canon (Christocentricity and Authority of God’s Word)
Early Church Councils (Heresy prevention; God’s Sovereignty; Trinity & Christology)
READING WEEK
February 22 The East (Eastern Orthodoxy; The Arts)
Augustine and Gnosticism (Evangelism)
March 1 Papacy (Models of Leadership)
Four Medieval Models (Monasticism, Pilgrimage, Crusades, and Missions)
March 8 Late Medieval Spirituality (Making Satisfaction)
Pre-Reformers and Heretics
March 15 "Simplifying"
Luther, Žwingli, Calvin, English Reformation (Magisterial Reformers)
Anabaptists (Radical Reformers)
READING WEEK
March 29  "Going Deeper: Three Streams of Renewal"
            Puritans, Revivals, Pietism, and Pentecostalism
April 5   "Standing Strong"
            Development of Evangelicalism
            The African-American Church
April 12  MAKE-UP / SNOW DAY (in case earlier class is cancelled)
April 19  "Reaching Out"
            History of Missions
            The Church World-Wide

**Required Texts:**

1. Bruce Shelley, *Church History in Plain Language*. (Third edition) - 978-0718025533

**Recommended Text:** *The Baker Atlas of Christian History* (Baker Books)

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

1. Final Exam (40%) (Take-home; 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 given
2. Reading (20%) - 1500 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>A to A = no change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75-99%</td>
<td>A to A- = 1/3 grade drop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50-74%</td>
<td>A to B+ = 2/3 grade drop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-49%</td>
<td>A to B = 1 grade drop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Below 25%</td>
<td>A to B- = 1 1/3 grade drop</td>
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</tbody>
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For example, if the average of your paper and exam grades is an A, if you have completed only 72% of the reading, your final grade for the course will be a B+.

3. Research Paper (40%) - 10-12 pages (Due: April 23 at 4:00 p.m. 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.

• The Grading Scale used for the course is the one in the Gordon-Conwell Student Handbook, which I paraphrase as follows: doing all the work for the course fully, well, and with touches of excellence will merit a grade in the mid to high B range, which is excellent. Doing all the work fully and at an outstanding, scholarly level will raise the grade into the A range.

• 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.

• No internet or phone access or audio, photographic, or video electronic recordings or transmissions may be made in class without the consent of the professor. This applies to auditors as well.