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 travelled 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.
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

CH501: The Church to the Reformation

Gwenfair Walters Adams, Ph.D.
Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary; Fall, 2008
Thursdays, 1:15-4:15 p.m. at Hamilton campus
Phone: 978-646-4089; gadams@gcts.edu
Office Hours: Wednesdays, 10:45-11:45 a.m., most Wednesdays 1:00-3:00 p.m.,
Thursdays, 10:30-11:30 a.m. and as posted outside office.

Course Description & Objectives:
The course will trace the history of the Church through to the Reformation,
examining key themes, figures, events, eras, and issues, exploring their relevance to the
Church today, particularly in relation to the question, “What is the purpose of the
Christian life?” From Early Church martyrs to Medieval knights, from Augustine to
Aquinas, from the catacombs to the cathedrals, from doctrinal disputes to mystical
quests, 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 to various age groups; opportunities for
learning and applying scholarly historical research, analysis, and writing skills; and to
foster an attitude of worshiping the Lord in the midst of seeking a glimpse of His
handiwork in the unfolding of the Story of His Church.

Class Schedule (Subject to change if necessary):
September 11        Introduction to the Story
September 18        Perseverance in Suffering: The Early Church and Persecution
September 25        Getting the Story Straight: The Emergence of the Canon
October 2           Providence in the Midst of Chaos: The First Four Councils
October 9           Worshipping at the Nexus of Heaven and Earth: Eastern
                     Orthodoxy
October 16          READING WEEK
October 23          Drama Between God and Man: Augustine of Hippo
October 30          Stewarding Power: The Papacy
November 6          Spiritual Warfare: Monasticism
November 13         READING WEEK
November 20         Expanding the Kingdom of God: Missions & the Tragedy of the
                     Crusades
November 27         THANKSGIVING
December 5          Earning and Yearning for Heaven: Medieval Spirituality
Required Texts:

Course Requirements:
1. Final Exam (40%) (Take-home; the original bluebook(s) and a typed single-spaced copy due: final day for written work at 4:00 p.m. under professor's office door or in box outside the office; or postmarked on or before due date). Study questions for the exam will be provided at the final day of class.
2. Research Paper (40%) - 10-12 double-spaced pages (Due: final day of classes at 4:00 p.m. under professor’s office door or in box outside the office; or postmarked on or before the due date). Paper will be graded on strength of argument/thought, quality of research (should be grounded in primary sources but interact with secondary works), clarity of structure, and style (grammar, literary expression, proper format). Please follow the “Guidelines for Church History Research Papers” posted on-line, and also read Storey, *Writing History*.
3. Reading (15%) - 1350 pages of reading in the required texts. Please submit a reading log, indicating total number of pages (Due: final day for written work, under professor’s office door or in box outside office door; or postmarked on or before the due date)

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:

- 100% = no change (ex: A to A)
- 75-99% = 1/3 grade drop (ex: A to A–)
- 50-74% = 2/3 grade drop (ex: A to B+)
- 25-49% = 1 grade drop (ex: A to B)
Below 25% = 1 1/3 grade drop (ex: A to B-)
For example, if the average of your paper and exam grades is an A, if you have completed only 72% of the reading, your semi-final grade for the course will be a B+.

4. **Application (5%)** – (Due final day for written work, under professor’s office door or in box outside her office door; or postmarked on or before the due date).
Choose one of the following. You may do any of them as a group project with your spouse, a friend, or group of people. If you do the assignment, you will receive full credit for it, and the semi-final grade of step 3 above will become your final grade for the course. If the application assignment is not done, an additional 1/3 grade drop will be assessed on the semi-final grade that is determined in step 3 above. Unlike in the research paper, in a reflection paper, you are encouraged to express your own personal opinions, and to incorporate Biblical reflections:
  a. View the film *Osama* and write a 2-3 page reflection paper on the Crusades and on evangelism to Muslims. You are welcome to do this assignment with your spouse and/or with a group of friends. Warning: this is a traumatic film.
  OR
  b. Write a 2-3 page reflection paper on the spirituality of the Life of Anthony OR the Benedictine Rule. You may limit yourself to one theme and explore that: for example, spiritual warfare in the *Life of Anthony* OR the role of community in the *Benedictine Rule*.
  OR
  c. Spend two hours in intercessory prayer for our brothers and sisters around the world who are being persecuted, incorporating what you learned in the lecture on the Early Church and Persecution. Write a one-page reflection paper on what you learn spiritually through that experience. (See course links on-line for resources).

- 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."

- Plagiarism is considered a serious academic offense at GCTS. Please follow guidelines at [http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/wts/plagiarism.html](http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/wts/plagiarism.html).

- Extensions must be requested by assignment due dates, from the professor for the paper, and from the Registrar for the exam and reading. Penalties may be applied in absence of extenuating circumstances (illness, death in family).
• No audio, photographic, or video electronic recordings or transmissions may be made in class without the consent of the professor.