The Church From the Reformation  
Hamilton Campus

Dr. Gordon L. Isaac, Spring Semester 2009  
CH502 Thursdays 1:15 pm – 4:15 pm  
Office Hours 9am-12pm M, Fri.

Course Description: The Church from the Reformation is a basic introduction to the development of the Christian Church in its various forms 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.


Examinations:

Final Exam: The exam will include both objective and essay to cover the readings and class lectures.

Note on the Exam: Students may use a full three hours to write the exam. No books or notes (other than the Bible and/or a dictionary) may be used. Bluebooks will be provided.

Course Requirements: Students who are taking the course for credit are expected to attend the lectures regularly, take the examination, complete the required reading, and write two eight-page report papers.

Report Papers: Each student will be asked to write two eight page papers for the course:
**Paper I:** The first paper (due by the time of the class meeting on Thursday, March 5th) should focus on one significant individual in Church History between A.D. 1500 and the present. Research should include the reading of at least one major biography of the person and at least one major piece of writing by that person. The paper should consist of three parts: (i) A brief five-six page biographical sketch of the person you have studied; (ii) a one page annotated bibliography of the primary and secondary materials you have used (also include one or two quotations from the individual that are worthy of note); and (iii) a one page summary of specific ways (both positive and negative) in which your individual's life and work might be of help to you in your future ministry.

**Paper II:** The second paper (due by the time of the class meeting on Thursday, April 16th) should focus on one significant theme or issue in Church History between A.D. 1500 and the present. Research should include the use of both primary and secondary materials. The paper should consist of three parts: (i) A brief five-six page description and analysis of the theme or issue you have selected; (ii) a one page annotated bibliography of the primary and secondary materials you have used (also include one or two quotations from your reading that are worthy of note); and (iii) a one page summary of specific ways (both positive and negative) in which your study might be of help to you in your future ministry.

**Note on the Papers:** The papers may be switched! So, Paper II may be turned in at the first deadline and vice versa. Ideas for paper topics can be found in the textbook as well as the class lectures. Specific issues of Christian History magazine (which can be found in our library, or on CD-ROM through http://www.christianity.net/christianhistory/cd-rom) are also helpful in selecting topics and locating resources.

**Personal Consultations:** The instructor will normally be available for brief conversations before and after each class session. He is also available in his study during regular office hours. Individual appointments are also welcomed and can be made with the professor. Dr. Isaac can be reached by telephone in his study (978-646-4099) or by e-mail (gisac@gcts.edu).

**Grading:** Your final grade for the course will be computed on the following basis:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Final examination</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research paper I</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research paper II</td>
<td>25%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Grading Scale (point values for letter grades from GCTS Catalog):
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.


(Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1988).


John McManners, ed., *The Oxford Illustrated History of Christianity*  

Paul Johnson, *A History of Christianity*  

**Collections of Primary Documents:**

John Baillie, John T. McNeill and Henry P. Van Dusen, eds.,  

John H. Leith, *Creeds of the Churches: A Reader in Christian Doctrine from the Bible to the Present*  

Colman J. Barry, *Readings in Church History*  


**Reference Materials in Church History:**


Jerald C. Brauer, *The Westminster Dictionary of Church History*  


**Helps in Research and Writing:**


**Intellectual Property Rights**

To protect the professor’s intellectual property rights with regard to classroom content, students are asked to refrain from audio and video recording of classes, as well as audio, video, and written publication (including internet posting and broadcasting) or live transmission of classroom proceedings.

**Internet Usage**

Students are asked to refrain from accessing the internet 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 session.
COURSE SCHEDULE:
Thursday, January 29: THE PROTESTANT REFORMATION

Session I: THE CHANGING SHAPE OF CHURCH HISTORY:
Sweeping changes have taken place in church history in the last decades. This is due not only to a multiplication in differing methodologies used but also because the church and the world are changing.

Recommended reading:
Hans Hillerbrand, “Church History as Vocation and Moral Discipline,” in Church History 70:1 (March 2001) 1-18.

Session II: THE MAGISTERIAL REFORMATION: LUTHER
During this class we will begin to explore the Magisterial traditions of the Protestant Reformation. Special attention will be given to the life and work of Martin Luther.

Required reading: Gonzalez Vol. II 1-45; Placher 9-19
Recommended reading:
"Martin Luther: The Early Years" and "Martin Luther: The Later Years and Legacy," *Christian History* magazines, Issues 34 and 39.

Thursday, February 5: THE PROTESTANT REFORMATION

Session I: THE MAGISTERIAL REFORMATION: ZWINGLI, CALVIN AND KNOX
During this session we will explore the Reformed branch of the Magisterial Reformation. Special attention will be given to the work of Ulrich Zwingli in Zurich and John Calvin in Geneva.
Recommended reading:

Session II: THE RADICAL REFORMATION: SATTLER & SIMONS
During this class we will be examining the development of the Anabaptist wing of the Protestant Reformation. Special attention will be given to the Swiss Brethren and the Mennonites.

Recommended reading:

Thursday, February 12: THE PROTESTANT REFORMATION

Session I: THE REFORMATION IN ENGLAND
During this class we will focus upon the Reformation in England. Special attention will be given to the emergence and development of the Church of England.

Required reading: Gonzalez 70-124, Placher 38-57
Recommended reading:

Session II: THE CATHOLIC REFORMATION

**Recommended reading:**

READING WEEK (February 16-20): NO CLASS

Thursday, February 26: CHRISTIANITY IN THE ENLIGHTENMENT

**Session I: PURITANISM**
During this class we will explore the rise and development of the Puritan Movement in England.

**Required reading:** Gonzalez 128-95, Placher 66-90; 98-106. 
**Recommended reading:**
Gerald R. Cragg, *From Puritanism to the Age of Reason*  
(Cambridge: University Press, 1950)

**Session II: RELIGION IN THE AGE OF REASON**

The eighteenth century inaugurated the modern epoch. Christianity faced a plethora of complex and often caustic ideas during this time period. Supernaturalism began to be challenged and Christianity had to respond.

**Recommended reading:**

- Gerald R. Cragg, *The Church and the Age of Reason*  
- A. C. McGiffert, *Protestant Thought Before Kant*,  
  (New York: G. P. Putnam’s Sons, 1927)

**Thursday, March 5: CHRISTIANITY DURING THE ENLIGHTENMENT**

Paper I due today

**Session I: CONTINENTAL PIETISM**

**Required Reading:** Gonzalez 196-216, Placher 91-98.

**Recommended reading:**

- F. Ernest Stoeffler, *Continental Pietism and Early American Christianity*  
  (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1976)
- Philipp Jakob Spener, *Pia Desideria*, trans. and ed.,  
  Theodore G. Tappert (Philadelphia: Fortress, 1964)
- "Zinzendorf and the Moravians," *Christian History* magazine,  

**Session II: METHODISM**

A remarkable renewal touched England during the 18th century under the ministry of John and Charles Wesley and George Whitefield. Not only did this bring new life to the Church of England but it spilled over to form the modern Methodist movement.

**Recommended reading:**

Thursday, March 12: AMERICAN CHRISTIANITY IN THE 17TH & 18TH CENTURIES

Session I: NEW ENGLAND PURITANISM
During this class we will examine the Puritan and Pietist roots of American Christianity—using the Massachusetts Bay Colony (founded in 1630) as our basic point of reference.

Recommended reading:

Session II: THE AMERICAN REVIVAL TRADITION
During this session we will be exploring the great revival tradition in America. Special attention will be given to the Great Awakening of the Eighteenth Century and the Second Great Awakening of the early Nineteenth Century.

Recommended reading:
- Garth M. Rosell and Richard A. G. Dupuis, eds., *The Memoirs of*


William McLoughlin, Jr., Modern Revivalism (New York: Ronald Press, 1959)


Thursday, March 19: AMERICAN CHRISTIANITY IN THE NINETEENTH CENTURY

Session I: EVANGELICALISM AND CERTAIN OTHER ISM’S
American Evangelicalism emerged as a recognizable historical movement during the revivals of the Great Awakening. But alongside evangelicalism several other movements and ideas of importance swept through America as well, including Unitarianism, Transcendentalism, Universalism, and Liberalism.

Required reading: Gonzalez 234-322, Placher 120-55.

Recommended reading:


Ronald C. White, Louis B. Weeks and Garth M. Rosell, American Christianity (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1986)


Session II: THE BLACK CHURCH IN AMERICA
During this session we will examine both the struggles and the many contributions of the African-American church in America.

Recommended reading:
Bertram Wyatt-Brown, *Lewis Tappan and the Evangelical War Against Slavery* (Cleveland: Case Western Reserve, 1969).

READING WEEK (March 23-27) NO CLASS

Thursday, April 2: THE FUNDAMENTALIST-MODERNIST CONTROVERSY

Session I: THE RISE OF FUNDAMENTALISM
During this class and the next we will be examining the rise of Fundamentalism and Modernism during the late 19th century, their bitter battles during the first three decades of the 20th century and the impact of these events upon the Christian church.
Required reading: article on reserve

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)


Session II: THE FUNDAMENTALIST-MODERNIST CONTROVERSY

Recommended reading:


Thursday, April 9: THE CHURCH IN THE MODERN WORLD

Following the collapse of both Modernism and Fundamentalism in the early 1930's, two renewal movements emerged within American religious life. This class will explore the rise and development of Neo-Orthodoxy in the 1930s and Neo-Evangelicalism in the 1940s.

Session I: THE NEO-ORTHODOX IMPULSE IN EUROPE AND AMERICA

Required reading: Gonzalez 326-97, Placher 156-89.
Recommended reading:
Donald B. Meyer, *The Protestant Search for Political Realism*
(Berkeley: University of California Press, 1960)
Charles W. Kegley and Robert W. Bretall, eds.,
*Rerihold Niebuhr* (New York: Macmillan, 1952)

Session II: THE NEW EVANGELICAL IMPULSE IN AMERICA

Recommended reading:
Carl F. H. Henry, *Fifty Years of Protestant Theology* (Boston: Wilde, 1950)

Thursday, April 16: THE CHURCH IN THE PRESENT
Paper II due today.

Session I: THE ECUMENICAL REVOLUTION
One of the dominant patterns of Church History since the Protestant Reformation of the 16th century has been its tendency toward schism. Some denominations have split again and again. Early in the 20th century, however, a movement emerged which sought to reverse this trend. Today’s class will focus upon what has come to be called the Ecumenical Movement--a development that began in the great 1910 missionary convention held in Edinburgh.

Required reading: on reserve, Placher 190-203.
Recommended reading:
J. D. Douglas, ed., *Let the Earth Hear His Voice*  
(Minneapolis: Worldwide Publications, 1975)

Harold E. Fey, *A History of the Ecumenical Movement*  

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

Session II: THE WORLD-WIDE CHRISTIAN MOVEMENT
Sweeping changes have affected the character of the world-wide Christian movement. This session will address the trends, the prevailing winds, and issues that affect the church today.

**Required reading:** Article

**Recommended reading:**
- Walter M. Abbott, ed., *The Documents of Vatican II*  
  (New York: Guild Press, 1966)
- Philip Jenkins, *The Next Christendom: The Coming of Global Christianity*  
- Andrew Walls, *The Missionary Movement in Christian History*  
  (Edinburgh: T & T Clark, 1996)

Advice for Preparing for the Final:
The final will include 10 identifications (1 pt each), 10 short definitions (1 pt each), and four essays (25 pts each) for a total of 95 pts.

1) Go through your reading. Note headings, major movements, important individuals and dates.

2) Use the study guide that I will hand out.

3) Study through your class notes and get in mind the various phases of our study together.

4) Take notes about some of the most important movements we have studied and identify several characteristics that stand out.

5) Practice legible writing. Pray. Don’t forget to put your name and your box # on your bluebook.