The Church to the Reformation
Hamilton Campus

Dr. Garth M. Rosell, Instructor
CH501/GCTS
Fall Semester, 2014
Tuesdays, 2:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Course Description: The Church to the Reformation is a basic introduction to the history of the Christian Church from its founding at Pentecost to the beginning of the Protestant Reformation.

Course Objectives: The Church to the Reformation is designed to provide students with a working knowledge of the major themes, issues and personalities of Church History; to help them 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 will be asked to attend the lectures regularly, take two examinations, complete 2000 pages of reading (including the two textbooks), and write one 12-15 page research paper.

Examinations: Two examinations will be given during the course:

**Midterm:** Tuesday, October 7: A closed-book, take-home, essay examination covering lectures and readings from September 9 through October 7. To be completed by Tuesday, October 21st, at 5:00 p.m.

**Final:** Tuesday, December 9: A closed-book, take-home, essay examination covering lectures and readings from October 21 through December 9. To be completed by Tuesday, December 16th, at 5:00 p.m.

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 papers, the essay questions in both the midterm and final exams (for the most part) will invite them to engage the themes, issues and personalities they have encountered in the lectures.
Note of the examinations: 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 a dictionary) may be used during the exams. Students may take up to three hours to write the exam. Each student has the option of deciding for himself/herself whether they prefer to write their examinations by hand or to type them into a computer. Students for whom English is not their primary language may write the exam in their primary language using the full three hours allotted during the exam period. Should this option be taken, however, they must also agree to translate their exam into English and submit both versions to the instructor (in person or by campus mail) no later than twenty-four hours following the exam.

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 Justo L. Gonzalez, *The Story of Christianity*, volume 1, revised and updated (a total of 491 pages) and Cyril C. Richardson, *Early Christian Fathers* (a total of 397 pages). The remaining 1112 pages of required reading can include the materials that are used for the research paper and/or additional reading from either the "Recommended Reading" sections of the course syllabus or related reading you select on your own. Students will be asked to submit a report of their reading by 5:00 p.m. Tuesday, December 16, 2014. A form for this purpose is provided at the end of this syllabus.

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 paper. Completed papers should be typed and in correct form (for example, double-spaced, using twelve-point font, footnoted where appropriate, with bibliography, etc.). Those who have not had as 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). Students may also find it helpful to consult William Kelleher Storey, *Writing History: A Guide for Students* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2003).

Due date: Research papers are due by no later than 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 16, 2014.

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 from the beginning of the Christian church at Pentecost to approximately 1500 a.d.; and (3) that the written presentation conforms to one of the recognized manuals of style (for example, Turabian). You do not need the instructor's approval for your choice of topic.

The task of research: Those who need help on their papers should feel free to contact Tyler Lenocker, our Byington for the course. Remember, however, that an important part of writing a research paper is the sometimes difficult 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 a part of your assignment. Ideas for paper topics can be found in the textbooks as well as the class lectures. Specific issues of Christian History & Biography magazine (available in our library and on their website, <www.christianhistoryinstitute.org>) are also helpful in selecting topics and locating resources.

Grading of 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.

Cheating and plagiarism: Please exercise special care in the use of sources. Institutional guidelines can be found in your Student Handbook under "Violations of Academic Integrity." As followers of Christ, we need to maintain the very highest standards of professional conduct.

Late work and extensions: Late work (unless it has been permitted by the Registration Office through an official written extension form) will be penalized one full letter grade for each week (or any portion of a week) that the work is late. Normally, the Registration Office only grants an extension in cases of serious illness and/or a death in the immediate family. Since most students have very busy schedules, it would not be fair for any instructor to grant one individual student a benefit that was not extended to all. In practical terms, this means that you will need to plan your semester carefully so as to complete all required work in a timely manner. Do not ask the instructor for an extension.

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

- Midterm Examination: 30%
- Final Examination: 30%
- Research Paper: 30%
- Reading Report: 10%

Grading scale: The seminary has adopted an official numerical equivalence for
the letter grades that students are assigned. Published annually, these are as follows: 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."

**Computation of course grade:** Based on the above percentages and numerical equivalences, your grade for this course will be computed on the following scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Final Point Total</th>
<th>Final Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3.85 to 4.0</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.65 to 3.84</td>
<td>A-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.3 to 3.64</td>
<td>B+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.0 to 3.29</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.7 to 2.99</td>
<td>B-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3 to 2.69</td>
<td>C+</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.0 to 2.29</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.7 to 1.99</td>
<td>C-</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.3 to 1.69</td>
<td>D+</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.0 to 1.29</td>
<td>D</td>
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<tr>
<td>0.7 to 0.99</td>
<td>D-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.0 to 0.69</td>
<td>F</td>
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</table>

In order to achieve a particular grade, the student must fall exactly within the above scale. No rounding-off is allowed.

**Personal consultations:** The instructor is usually available in the classroom before and after each class session. Regular office hours are posted outside his seminary office (AC345). He can also be reached by phone (978-646-4139) or by e-mail <grosell@gordonconwell.edu>

**Readings and Prayer:** For some years now it has been my practice to open each class session with a brief reading and prayer.

**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.

Everett Ferguson, *Church History: From Christ to Pre-Reformation* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2005);  

**Collections of Primary Documents:**

**Reference Materials in Church History:**

**Popular Presentations of Church History:**
- *Christian History Magazine* (issues on selected individuals and themes in Church History published under the auspices of *Christianity Today*).

**Helps in Research and Writing:**

**Schedule of Classes:**

**September 9: Pentecost and the Birth of the Christian Church**

**Recommended reading:**
- Edward A. Engelbrecht, ed., *The Church from Age to Age: A History*


**September 16: Growth of the Christian Church: Into Asia, Africa and the Roman Empire**

**Session I: Growth of the Church in Asia and Africa**

**Recommended reading:**


Robert E. Buswell, ed., *Christianity in Korea* (Honolulu: University of...
Hawaii, 2007).

Timothy S. Lee, Born Again: Evangelicalism in Korea (Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 2010).


Lian Xi, Redeemed by Fire, The Rise of Popular Christianity in Modern China (New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 2010).


F. C. Burkitt, Early Christianity Outside the Roman Empire (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1899).

**Session II: Growth of the Church in the Roman Empire**

**Recommended reading:**


September 23: The Spreading Flame

Recommended reading:
Michael Green, Evangelism in the Early Church (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1983).
Ronald H. Nash, Christianity and the Hellenistic World (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1985).

September 30: Early Christian Faith and Life

Recommended reading:


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**October 7: The Cost of Discipleship and the Formation of the Biblical Canon**

(Midterm Exam will be distributed today. Due back by 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 21st)

**Session I: The Martyr Faith**

Over the first three centuries, the Christian communities experienced periods of intense persecution. Using four early martyrs as our points of reference, we will seek to understand the nature of discipleship as it developed in the early Church.

**Recommended reading:**


**Session II: The Formation of the Biblical Canon**

During this class session we will be exploring the formation of the Christian Scriptures. Our Byington for the course, Brendan Payne, will provide the lecture.

**Recommended reading:**


Lee Martin McDonald, *The Biblical Canon: Its Origin, Transmission and
and Authority (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2006).
Timothy George, Reading Scripture with the Reformers (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2011).

Optional class session: Following class today, students who would like to do
so are invited to remain for an informal "question/answer" session with the instructor. The focus of the discussions will be on either the midterm examination or the research papers. This session, of course, is completely optional.

October 13-17: Reading Week (no class session but students are expected to use this time for reading and research)

October 21: The Age of Constantine (Constantine the Great and Augustine of Hippo) Midterm Exam due by 5:00 p.m. on October 21st.

Session I: Constantine the Great
This class will focus upon some of the positive and negative changes which were brought about by Emperor Constantine's official recognition of Christianity during the early 4th century.

Recommended reading:

**Session II: Augustine of Hippo**

This session will focus upon the life and work of the most influential of all the early Christian theologians.

**Recommended reading:**


**October 28: The Development of Christian Doctrine**

**Session I: The Ecumenical Councils**

During this session we will examine the development of Christian doctrine during the early years of the Church. Special attention will be given to the first four ecumenical councils.


Session II: The Monastic Movement

During this session we will explore the rise and development of monasticism. Special attention will be given to the rule of St. Benedict.

Recommended reading:


**November 4: Eastern Orthodoxy and the Iconoclastic Controversy**

**Session I: The Iconoclastic Controversy**

The Seventh Ecumenical Council, held in 787 a.d. at Nicaea, was primarily concerned with the question of whether or not icons could be used in the Church's worship. During this class I want us to focus on that event as a means of better understanding the role of art within the Christian community.

**Recommended reading:**


**Session II: Missionary Outreach in the Middle Ages**
During this class we will examine the missionary expansion of the Church during the Middle Ages.


**November 10 to 15, 2014: READING WEEK** (no class session but students are expect to use this time for reading and research)

**November 18: The Crusades and the Christian Understanding of War**

During this class we want to examine the history of the Crusades and their implications for our understanding of war and peace today. Since I will be out of town (attending and giving a paper at the American Academy of Religion, Society of Biblical Literature and Evangelical Theological Society meetings in San Diego), our Byington for the course, Tyler Lenocker, will be giving the lecture and leading a discussion today on the Crusades and their implications for ministry.

**Recommended reading:**

Christopher Tyerman, *God's War: A New History of the Crusades* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2006);


Jonathan Riley-Smith, *The Crusades: A Short History* (New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1987);

Arthur F. Holmes, ed., *War and Christian Ethics* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2005);
Louis J. Swift, *The Early Fathers on War and Military Service* (Wilmington, Delaware: Michael Glazier, 1983);
John A. Wood, *Perspectives on War and the Bible* (Macon, GA: Mercer University Press, 1998);
Richard Fletcher, *The Cross and the Crescent: Christianity and Islam from Muhammad to the Reformation* (New York: Viking, 2003);

**November 25: No Class Session (Thanksgiving Week)**

**December 2: The Medieval Heritage: Scholasticism and the Mystic Tradition**
During this class we will explore some of the contributions of Medieval Christianity—including the Mystic Tradition, the Scholastic Tradition and the development of Christian art.

**Recommended reading:**
Gwenfair Walters Adams, *Visions in Late Medieval England* (Leiden,
Netherlands: Brill Academic Publishing, 2007); 
Bernard McGinn, *The Essential Writings of Christian Mysticism* (New York: 
Modern Library, 2006); 
Jacob Boehme, *Essential Writings of Christian Mysticism* (Red and Black 
Publishers, 2010); 
Evelyn Underhill, *Mysticism* (Create Space Independent Publishing Platform, 2012); 
Winfried Corduan, *Mysticism: An Evangelical Option?* (Grand Rapids, MI: 
Zondervan, 1991); 
(Oxford: Blackwell Publishing, 2004); 
Burns, Oates and Washbourne, 1950). 
December 9: Forerunners of the Protestant Reformation
(Final Examination will be distributed today. Due by 5:00 p.m.,
Tuesday, December 16th)

Session I: Heretics and Inquisitors
During this session we will be examining the so-called
"heretical" tradition of the Middle Ages--what might better be
titled the great Free Church Tradition. Special attention will be
given to the Waldensians.

Recommended reading:
Donald F. Durnbaugh, The Believers' Church: The History and
George B. Watt, The Waldenses in the New World (Durham,
Arthur S. Tuberville, Medieval Heresy and the Inquisition
Gunnar Westin, The Free Church Through the Ages (Nashville:
Euan Cameron, The Reformation of the Heretics: The
Waldenses of the Alps, 1480-1580 (Oxford: at the
Emilio Comba, History of the Waldenses of Italy (New York:
Pius Melia, The Origin, Persecutions, and Doctrines of the
Session II: Forerunner of the Reformation
During this final session we will examine the forerunners of the Protestant Reformation--giving special attention to John Wycliffe and John Hus.

Recommended reading:
G. R. Evans, John Wyclif: Myth and Reality (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2005);
Stephen Lahey, John Wyclif (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2008);
John L. Wilson, John Wyclif, Patriot and Reformer (Kessinger Publishing, 2010);
Herbert B. Workman, John Wyclif (Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock, 2001);
The English Works of John Wyclif (Adamant Media Corporation, 2001);
I. C. Levy, A Companion to John Wyclif (Leiden, Holland: Brill, 2006);
John S. Black, John Hus: A Short Biography (Shamrock Eden Publishing, 2011);
Matthew Spinka, John Hus and the Czech Reform (Shoe String Press, 2000);
Matthew Spinka, The Letters of John Hus (Manchester, England: Universtiy of Manchester Press, 1972);
Lauro Martines, Fire in the City: Savanorola and the Struggle for the Soul of Renaissance Florence (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2006);

**Optional class session:** Following class today, students are invited to remain for an informal discussion with the instructor on any questions they might have relating to the final examination. This session, of course, is completely optional.

**Reading Report**
Due no later than Tuesday, December 16, at 5:00 p.m.

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<tr>
<th>Justo Gonzalez</th>
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<tr>
<td>Number of Pages Read: ____________________________</td>
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<td>(of 491 total pages)</td>
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<td>Percentage of Gonzalez Read: __________%</td>
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<tr>
<th>Cyril Richardson</th>
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<td>Number of Pages Read: ____________________________</td>
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</table>
(of 397 total pages)

Percentage of Richardson Read: __________%

Total Pages Read in Both Textbooks: ________________

Percentage of Both Books Read: __________%

Name: ___________________________________________________

Date: ____________________________

Be sure to attach a full listing (with complete citations) of the additional 1,112 pages of required reading you completed for the course.

Number of pages of additional reading completed: ________________

Percentage of 2000 pages of required reading completed: __________