Course Description: Church History Survey examines key figures, events, and themes stretching from Pentecost to the Present. The study is an exploration of how the Gospel creates opportunities and faces challenges in every era of human history.

Course Objectives: Church History Survey is designed to provide students with a working knowledge of the major themes, issues and personalities of the worldwide Christian movement; 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 (Gordon-Conwell Mission Statement Articles 2, 3, 4, & 5).

Course Structure: This intensive course will meet Monday January 13th through Friday January 17th 9am to 12pm; 1pm to 4pm. Because this is a cohort of IVCF staff, special focus will be given to applying the study of Church History to college campus ministry. The class sessions will emphasize integration of material, so student observations and questions are welcome. Every day together will include three elements: attention to the chronological development of church history, review of reading assignments, and a presentation of thematic issues i.e., diachronic issues. In the course of our time together we will give attention to such issues as, Christianity and Gnosticism, Christianity and violence, Christianity and other religions, and Christianity and Science.

Pre-Reading Assignment: Students should attempt to have as much of the required reading done before we meet in January. That would give full background for our discussions and would stimulate ideas for areas of further study. I do recognize that you are all working full time and that there are end of the semester activities that occupy your attention at present.

Textbooks:


**On-line Readings:**
1) Cyril of Jerusalem, “Catechetical Lectures.”
2) Martin Luther, "On the Freedom of a Christian."
3) Martin Luther King, Jr., *Letter from the Birmingham Jail.*
   [www.africa.upenn.edu/Articles_Gen/Letter_Birmingham.html](http://www.africa.upenn.edu/Articles_Gen/Letter_Birmingham.html)

**Course Requirements:** Students will
1) Attend lectures
2) Complete approximately 2000 pages of reading (including the three textbooks and online readings which amount to almost 1,000 pages). The remaining 1,000 pages of reading should be more than enough to give you material for your two papers.
3) Write two papers 8-10 pages in length. These papers give the opportunity to dig a bit deeper into the life of an individual or a movement of your interest. You can do one paper on an individual and one on a movement. Or you could do both papers on a movement, or both papers on individuals. Read some primary resources and some secondary sources to enhance your understanding. The bibliography page is to give annotated comments on the sources that you used. For example, if you do a paper on John Wesley and you found the biography to be hagiographic say so.
4) Write a “Commonplace” that responds to five frequently asked questions from your college campus experience that draws on your study of church history. You are free to craft the five questions from your own experience. The short one-page responses will not entirely “answer” the problems that are surfaced but should point in some evocative directions that stimulate discussion and frame the question in a positive way. Five pages.

**Course Grading:**
- Paper on person 40%
- Paper on movement 40%
- Commonplace 20%

**Last Day for Written work ("J" Session) is February 3rd.**

**Course Schedule:** subject to change – (diachronic study)*

**Monday January 13**
- Session One: Early Church & Persecution
- Session Two: The Challenge of Gnosticism (Christianity & Gnosticism)*

**Tuesday January 14**
Session One: The Ecumenical Councils
Session Two: Monasticism and the Papacy (Monasticism & Papacy)*

**Wednesday January 15**
Session One: The Crusades
Session Two: Forerunners of the Reformation (Christianity & violence)*

**Thursday January 16**
Session One: Reformation
Session Two: Modernist/Fundamentalist Controversy (Christianity & Science)*

**Friday January 17**
Session One: The Development of Evangelicalism
Session Two: Missions & Globalization (Christianity and World Religions)*

**Academic Standards**
Cheating and plagiarism are considered serious breaches of personal and academic integrity. Cheating involves, but is not necessarily limited to, the use of unauthorized sources of information during an examination or the submission of the same (or substantially same) work for credit in two or more courses without the knowledge and consent of the instructors. Plagiarism involves the use of another person’s distinctive ideas or words, whether published or unpublished, and representing them as one’s own instead of giving proper credit to the source. Plagiarism can also involve over dependence on other source material for the scope and substance of one’s writing. Such breaches in academic standards often result in a failing grade as well as other corrective measures. For more information, please consult the Student Handbook.

**A Brief Note on Intellectual Property Rights**
No audio or video recordings are allowed. Furthermore no publication (audio, video, written) or live transmission of classroom proceedings will be permitted. Any requests for such privileges must be made in writing and must receive written approval from the instructor.

**A Brief Note Regarding Internet Usage**
Please do not access the internet (email, apps, websites, etc.) for non-class activities during class time. This can be extremely distracting to all parties and quite frankly it is unbecoming to do so. Exceptions may be made on occasion.

**Regarding Extension Requests**
No extensions will be granted on the assignments unless there is a “last-minute” event that was unavoidable and substantial (as determined by me). An extension request may not be granted, even in the event of an “unavoidable, substantial, last-minute circumstance,” if an appropriate amount of progress (determined by me) on the assignment has not been made prior to the request of the extension.