Survey of Church History  
Hamilton Campus  

Dr. Garth M. Rosell, Instructor  
CH500 (Monday-Friday)  
9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  

January Session Intensive  

Course Description: The Survey of Church History is a basic introduction to the history of the Christian Church from its founding at Pentecost to the present day.  

Course Objectives: The Survey of Church History 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, to take a final examination, to write a 15-20 page research paper and to complete 1500 pages of reading including the textbook.  

Research Paper: Each student taking the course for credit is required to write one 15-20 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 6:00 p.m. on Monday, February 2nd, 2015.  

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; and (2) 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.

**Examination:** One final take-home examination will be distributed during the final day of the course. It will be a closed-book, essay examination covering all of the lectures and readings. The exam is to be completed and returned no later than 6:00 p.m. on Monday, February 2nd, 2015.

**Preparation for the examination:** 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 their own individual research, 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 on the exams:** Students will be asked to write a total of four essays (selecting one question of two possibilities in four categories). No books (other than an unmarked Bible and/or dictionary) may be used during the exams. Students may take up to four hours to write the exam. Computers, typewriters or personal handwriting are all acceptable.

**Grading of the exam:** Your examination will be evaluated on the basis of three primary criteria: (1) the depth and accuracy of your historical knowledge; (2) that 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 at least 1500 pages including the assigned textbook: Bruce L. Shelley, *Church History in Plain*
*Language* (500 total pages). A reading report must be submitted with the final examination no later than 6:00 p.m. on Monday, February 2nd, 2015.

**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.

**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 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 schedule 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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Examination</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Paper</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading Report</td>
<td>30%</td>
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</tbody>
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**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>
</tr>
</thead>
<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>
</tr>
<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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.0 to 1.29</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.7 to 0.99</td>
<td>D-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.0 to 0.69</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</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@gcts.edu>

**Readings and Prayer:** For some years now it has been my practice to open each class session with a brief reading and prayer. The readings for this term are taken from the parables of William E. Barton, who was before his death a Congregational minister in the Chicago area. The stories are available in Garth M. Rosell and Stan Flewelling, eds., *Parables of a Country Parson* (Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 1998).

**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.


**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:**


**COURSE SCHEDULE:**

**Monday Morning, January 5: THE EARLY CHURCH**

**Session I: INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY OF CHURCH HISTORY AND THE BIRTH OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH**


**Session II: THE SPREADING FLAME:** During this session we will explore the tremendous growth of the Christian Church to the East into the Middle East and Asia, to the South into Africa, and to the Northwest into Europe.

**MONDAY AFTERNOON: EARLY CHRISTIAN FAITH AND LIFE**

**Session I: THE CHURCH GATHERED**


**Session II: THE CHURCH SCATTERED**


**Tuesday, January 6, 2015: THE CHURCH MATURES: THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP AND THE AGE OF CONSTANTINE**

**Tuesday Morning: Session I: THE MARTYR TRADITION**

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


**Tuesday Morning: Session II: THE AGE OF CONSTANTINE**

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:**

**Tuesday Afternoon: Session I: ST. AUGUSTINE AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF DOCTRINE**

**Recommended Reading:**


**Session II: 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.


**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7: THE CRUSADES, THE MEDIEVAL HERITAGE AND THE COMING OF REFORMATION**

**WEDNESDAY MORNING: Session I: THE CRUSADES**

During this class we want to examine the history of the Crusades and their implications for our understanding of war and peace today.

**Recommended Reading:** Jonathan Riley-Smith, *The Crusades* (New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1987).


**WEDNESDAY MORNING: Session II: THE MEDIEVAL HERITAGE**

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:**


**WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON: THE PROTESTANT REFORMATION**

**Wednesday afternoon: Session I: LUTHERAN AND REFORMED**

During this class we will be exploring the Magisterial Traditions of the Protestant Reformation. Special attention will be given to the work of Martin Luther, Huldrich Zwingli and John Calvin.


**Wednesday afternoon: Session II: ANABAPTIST AND ANGLICAN**

During this class we will explore both the development of the Anabaptist wing of the Protestant Reformation and the rise of the Anglican Tradition within the English Reformation.

**Recommended Reading:** W. R. Estep, Jr., *The Anabaptist Story* (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1989).


*Christian History* magazine, Vol IV, No. 1 (Anabaptists)


**THURSDAY, JANUARY 8: MOVEMENTS OF SPIRITUAL RENEWAL**

**Thursday morning: Session I: PIETISM AND PURITANISM**

Following the initial enthusiasm of the Protestant Reformation, many of its newly created institutions entered a period of stagnation and decline. This class will explore how three of these (German Lutheranism, English Anglicanism and American Puritanism) were spiritually revitalized through prayer, Bible study and renewed vision.

**Recommended Reading:** Richard Lovelace, *Dynamics of Spiritual Life: An Evangelical Theology of Renewal* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1964).


Thursday Morning: Session II: THE HOLINESS AND PENTECOSTAL TRADITION

Springing from the work of John and Charles Wesley, Eighteenth and Nineteenth Century America was profoundly influenced by what has come to be called the Holiness Movement. This movement spawned a variety of denominational groups, including those which constitute classic Pentecostalism. This class will explore those developments.


Thursday Afternoon: The Missionary Movement

Kenneth Scott Latourette has labeled the 19th century as “the Great Century” of missionary expansion. During this class we will explore some of the major strands of this inspiring story.


**FRIDAY, JANUARY 9: THE CHALLENGE OF MINISTRY IN THE CONTEMPORARY WORLD**

**FRIDAY MORNING: SESSION I: Fundamentalists and Modernists**

**Recommended Reading:** George M. Marsden, *Fundamentalism and American Culture* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1982).

**FRIDAY AFTERNOON: THE RISE OF NEW EVANGELICALISM AND THE CHALLENGE OF MINISTRY IN A POSTMODERN WORLD**


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


Reading Report  
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By February 2nd, 2015, each student is expected to have read the textbook for the course: Bruce L. Shelley, *Church History in Plain Language* (500 total pages). This reading report should be filled-out and submitted with your exam and research paper no later than 6:00 p.m. on Monday, February 2nd, 2015, to Dr. Rosell's seminary postbox (in the seminary mailroom in the slot labeled "Faculty and Staff").

Grading for 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.

Number of pages read in Shelley (of 500 total):

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Percentage of Shelley completed: ____________________________

Number of additional pages (of the 1500 total pages required) that you have read: ______________

Number of regular classroom sessions you have attended: ________
   (of the five 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. days)

Name:
__________________________________________________________

Seminary postbox number: ________________

E-mail address or phone: __________________________