

**Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary
Hispanic Ministries Program**



Syllabus

CH502 – Church History II: From the Reformation to the Present (3 cr.)

Fall, 2014 (September 11-14, 2014)

(3-10pm, Thurs.; 8:30am-4:30pm, Fri.- Sun.)

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COURSE DESCRIPTION & OBJECTIVES: This course is a basic introduction to the history of the Christian Church from the beginnings of the Protestant Reformation to the present. The course is designed to provide students with a practical knowledge of the major themes, issues and personalities of Church History; to train them to use their knowledge in their ministerial practice; and to encourage them to seek spiritual renewal in their lives, the life of the Church and in society.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

- Finke, Roger & Rodney Stark. *The Churching of America: Winners and Losers in Our Religious Economy* (Rutgers, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 2005) ISBN: 9780813535531
- Gonzalez, Justo L. *The Story of Christianity: The Reformation to the Present Day* (San Francisco: HarperCollins, 2010) ISBN: 978-0061855894
- McGrath, Alister. *The Christian Theology Reader* (Oxford: Blackwell Publishers, Ltd., 2011) ISBN: 9780470654842 (readings from the McGrath text will be assigned during the class meeting week)
- One additional text will be selected by the student from a list provided during the class-meeting week

Course Requirements & Grade Value:

- I. **Due on the first class meeting date** (see below for grade value):
 - A. **Reading Report (10%)** – students are required to read Justo Gonzalez' *The Story of Christianity: the Reformation to the Present Day* and Stark & Finke's *The Churching of America* in their entirety. A written declaration of the percentage of the readings that have been completed will be submitted on the first day of class.
 - B. **Sermons/Bible Studies (20%)** – submit (in hard-copy) 5 sermons or Bible studies that use a separate person, movement or event who lived or transpired between the historical periods of the Protestant Reformation and World War II as a subject. Each sermon or Bible study is to demonstrate a graduate-level understanding of the subject, a Biblical/theological analysis, and its relevance for the Church today. The length of each should be 2-4 pages in length and double-spaced (10-20 total pages). No footnotes or endnotes are required. One cumulative works cited section is required for all of the sermons or Bible studies (do not submit a separate works cited section for each sermon or Bible study).
2. **Attendance & Participation (5%)** – Class meetings are not to review the material covered in the required texts. Rather, each class presentation presents new information and builds upon the readings for a more comprehensive understanding of the history of the Church. The student's informed contribution adds to the process and helps to build a learning community. As a result, any absence is a lost opportunity to learn and will affect the final paper. Given the intensive nature of this course, only one half-day absence is permitted. More than this will result in failure of the course.

3. **Critical Analysis OR Church Visitation Paper (15%)** –

The student is to choose which of these to complete for their course requirements. If both are done, one will be considered for extra credit.

A. **Critical Analysis** – the professor will provide a list of books from which the student is to select one to write a 3-5 page critical analysis. Additional instructions will be provided in class. ***This paper is due six weeks after the last class meeting.***

B. **Church Visitation** – this paper is based on a visit to a house of worship from a denominational or faith background different from ones own. The reflection should provide a brief historical background on the denomination or religion and on the local house of worship. Additionally, the following questions should be addressed: How does the faith tradition differ from one’s own? How is it similar? Does the contemporary expression of the tradition appear to be similar to any point of Christian history that have been discussed in class or in the readings? What were your impressions & feelings of the experience? What do you take with you from this experience? Additional instructions will be provided in class. ***This paper is due six weeks after the last class meeting.***

4. **Final Paper (50%)** – The final paper is to be a 15-20 page paper that integrates the assigned readings, class dialogue and the lectures. The font size should be no more than 12 points, margins no more than 1” in the top/bottom & 1.25” in the sides. References should be footnoted using the *Turabian* format. The theme should be a person, movement, institution, event or idea that has been discussed in the reading materials or in class. How does the subject help the local church address a social issue it faces on a daily basis? Additional instructions will be provided in class. ***This paper is due six weeks after the last class meeting.***

Grading and Plagiarism – please see the Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary catalog

Course Schedule

Day		Topic
Thursday	Session #1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Syllabus Review • Sociological Considerations • Precursors to the Reformations • Scholasticism, Humanism and the Reformation
	Session #2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes in the 16th century • The Lasting Impact of the Catholic, Magisterial and Radical Reformations • The People Already Here
Friday	Session #3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rationalism and Pietism • US Revivals and Manifest Destiny • “Christianities” in the US
	Session #4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Church and the Creation of Modern Racism • The Church, Slavery and the US Civil War
Saturday	Session #5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Fundamentalist-Modernist Controversy • The World Wars, US Expansionism and Missions
	Session #6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global Pentecostals Before Azusa • Oneness Pentecostalism • Pentecostal Pacifism
	Session #7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Impact of African-American Christianity • The Church and the Civil Rights Movement
Sunday	Session #8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Revolutions, the Cold War & the Church • Vatican II, Liberation Theology & the transformation the Catholic Christianity
	Session #9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Rise of the Religious Right • Globalization, Post-modernity, Post-Colonialism, Internationalization and the future of Global Christianity

Selected Bibliography

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- Bartleman, Frank. *Azusa Street*. New Kensington, PA: Whitaker House, 2000.
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- Bennett, Herman L. *Africans in Colonial Mexico: Absolutism, Christianity, and Afro-Creole Consciousness, 1570-1640 (Blacks in the Diaspora)*. Bloomington, Indiana: Indiana University Press, 2005.
- Bosch, David J. *Transforming Mission: Paradigm Shifts in Theology of Mission*. Maryknoll, N.Y.: Orbis Books, 1991.
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