Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary
Syllabus for the course
Church History 501
La Iglesia hasta la Reforma

Professors:
Dr. Catherine Gunsalus González - catyly@aol.com
Dr. Justo Luis González - justo325@aol.com

Mailing address:
336 South Columbia Dr.
Decatur, GA 30030

Course objective: By the end of the course participants will be able to outline the general course of church history from its inception to the eve of the Reformation. They will be able to point to the fundamental characteristics of each period, and to reflect on how this history impacts or could impact, and how it may enrich, their ministry and that of their church.

Textbook: The textbook for the course will be:

Requirements:
Before the class sessions each participant should:
1) Read the textbook.
2) Write and deliver in the first class session no more than two double-space pages on each of the four periods in which that book divides church history to the eve of the Reformation, pointing out, for each of these periods:
   a) Three to five of its main characteristics. (No more than a sentence on each.)
   b) Three to five of the issues debated. (No more than a sentence on each.)
   c) At least one negative consequence of that period that may still be seen. (No more than a sentence on each.)
   d) At least one point in which what has been read and learned may enrich the ministry both of the student and of the church. (No more than a paragraph on each.)
   e) At least one question or doubt still remaining. (No more than a sentence on each.)

   Students who for whatever reason are unable to meet this requirement before the class session will not be able to participate in nor to complete the course.

During the class sessions: Participate actively in discussion. At appropriate times, relate what was written in the preliminary paper to what is being discussed in class.

After the class sessions: A written paper in two parts, five to seven double-spaced pages each, discussing two of the following themes chosen by the student:
1) The development of the church as an institution, particularly on matters of organization and authority.
2) The relationship between faith and culture in different times and circumstances.
3) The evolution of worship.
On each of the subjects selected, this written work will:
1) Follow its course from the end of the New Testament period to the eve of the Reformation.

2) Reflect on the manner in which this study illumines the student’s ministry and that of the church.

Note that this is a course on the history of the church, and not on the New Testament nor the church in the first century. The papers described above must follow the theme throughout the history of the church, beginning after the close of the New Testament and on to the eve of the Reformation.

Additional readings: Each student is responsible for at least 500 pages of additional reading from standard books on the history of the church or others suggested in the “For Further Reading” sections of the textbook. These readings may be used in the preparation of the final written work.

Jointly with that written work, each student will send a report listing the materials read.

The final paper and the report on readings must be in the hands of the professors no later than six weeks after the conclusion of the class sessions.