The Church To the Reformation (CH501)
Fall 2015

PROFESSOR: Dr. Ryan M. Reeves

OFFICE HOURS: By appointment

OBJECTIVES: This is a survey course to introduce the student to the history of the Christian church in the early and medieval periods (100 -- 1500 A.D.) The course objective is to thoroughly acquaint the student with the historical and theological development of key figures, movements and doctrines. Special emphasis will be on reading the primary sources.

CLASS TIMES: October 9-10, October 30-31, November 13-14

TEXTBOOKS: Students will be required to read the following:

Philip Jenkins, *The Lost History of Christianity*

Bruce Shelly, *Church History in Plain Language*

St. Gregory, *The Book of Pastoral Rule*

St. Athanasius, *On the Incarnation*

VIDEOS: In this course there are a series of 20-30 minute video lectures that will carry us through parts of the early church background and medieval world. Assigned dates and links for watching each video will be distributed the first day of class.

*The material from the videos is testable material on the midterm and final, so notes should be taken on them.*
EXAMS:

There will be a midterm and final exam each worth 30% of your grade (60% combined)

Please note: exam dates
- The mid-term will be held October 26th – 30th, and will be taken in the library or proctored offsite. The exam will be placed on reserve Monday morning, and students have until the start of class Friday to take the exam. Plan ahead to take the mid-term in the library.

- The final will be distributed at our last class in November and students have until December 5th to take the exam and return it.

NOTE: the midterm and final exams are open book and open note. However the focus of the exams are not in memorization but on processing material. The questions asked on the exam are not obvious and require thought and judgment, which means students may use everything at their disposal: notes, books, videos, etc. Citation of printed materials (books) do not have to be footnoted, but the exams will be in long form, essay format.

Sample of a midterm/final type question: ‘Was Luther too extreme in his views on salvation? Describe your view historically and defendbiblically.’

PAPER:

The paper will be worth 30% of your final grade. It will be 14+ The paper will be due December 10th at 11am. You must email the exam to me at: reeves@gcts.edu

FORMATTING YOUR PAPER: The paper will be emailed to me in Word format only, 1-inch margins, 12 font, Times New Romans. Pay attention that title pages and lists of cited works will not count towards the 14 page count. Citations will be in footnotes, Turabian style.
For information on the paper assignment, see below.

**READING REPORT:** The reading report will make up 10% of the final grade and will be reported in writing via email: rreeves@gcts.edu

**Late work:** All late work will be penalized the equivalent of one letter grade per day beyond the due date, unless arrangements are made ahead of time. Extenuating circumstances will be considered as appropriate. If you anticipate a problem, contact the professor as soon as possible.

**Attendance:** Class participation is essential for the format of this course. Attendance and active participation are required for all class sessions. According to seminary policy, a letter grade penalty will be assessed for an absence of more than 3 hours.

**Paper**

**GOAL:** The goal of this paper is for students to immerse themselves in the writings of one theologian or major church figure from the lectures. The essay assignment that goes along with this reading is a reflective, critical examination of the spiritual and theological substance of your reading. To be clear: I want you to graze through the writings of just one of these great Christian thinkers: I do not want this to be superficial reading assignment or an exercise in abstract thinking.

Your assignment is to engage with one figure – perhaps a church father you always wanted to learn more about – and really pour over his devotional, biblical, and theological works. Take notes on things that inspire you, ponder things that challenge you, and question things that trouble you. Christian pastors and missionaries have read these works for centuries as part of their devotional and
spiritual diet. If I can get you hooked on just one, I will have done my job!

METHOD: Throughout the semester, choose one figure (e.g. Augustine). Use the resources in the library to find modern translations of his works. You might, for example, choose his sermons or several of his theological texts. You may also choose to read portions of each of these areas. I am always available to discuss this with students (particularly if you are uncertain who to read).

You should be sure to begin with some biographical work on your source. The assigned texts for this course have short biographies of every major figure, but you may also consult other reference works that sketch historical biographies.

It is preferred that you read these works regularly throughout the semester rather than in one or several sittings. By the end of the semester, you must have read an equivalent of 275 pages in a modern edition.

ESSAY: The essay will be graded 1/3 for your writing style/execution and 2/3 on the substance of your reflections. Students are to be reflective, engaging their readings in the light of scripture and the modern world.

The penalty for late papers is one letter grade per day that it is late, if you have not received permission from the professor to submit it late. If it is turned it at 12:01pm, then I’m afraid it will count as the “next day”, and so will only receive a B or lower. Given that this paper is cumulative for the entire semester, permission for late papers will be given for only serious issues. Common colds and fatigue, I’m afraid, will not suffice!

SOURCES: In addition to standard printed versions of primary texts, there are several approved online sources for your readings. For print versions,
use either the Schaff edition or any of a dozen stand alone printings of individual Fathers. Please contact the library staff for print versions of these texts, or speak to the professor about which versions you may wish to purchase.

New Advent:  [http://www.newadvent.org/fathers](http://www.newadvent.org/fathers)

New Advent is a Catholic site that maintains a database of nearly every text from the early church. The texts are easy to read, the biblical citations are hyperlinked in, and they even tell you if a text is ‘spurious’ or ‘authentic’. This site, in particular, is highly recommended.

CCEL: [http://www.ccel.org/fathers.html](http://www.ccel.org/fathers.html)

Another popular site, though I find their page layout to be frustrating and difficult to read. Others love the convenience of being able to pay a bit for a downloadable pdf version of a text.

SUGGESTED BOOKS:

**Christianity after the Apostles**

*Letters of Clement* (compare 1 Clement to the book of Hebrews)
*Letters of Ignatius*
*The Letter of Polycarp to the Philippians*
*The Epistle of Barnabas*
*The Shepherd of Hermas*
Early Christian Devotional Literature
Martyrdom Narratives
*The Martyrdom of Polycarp*
*Letter from the Churches of Vienna and Lyons*
*The Passion of Perpetua and Felicity*
Prayer Guides
Three Works on Prayer by Tertullian, Cyprian, and Origen (available as one volume in the Popular Patristic Series volume titled “On the Lord’s Prayer”)*
Early Church Orders
*The Didache*
*The Apostolic Tradition*
*The Apostolic Constitutions* (Books 1-7)
Early Christian Apologies
*The Epistle to Diognetus*
Justin Martyr’s First and Second *Apologies*
Athenagorus of Athens- *Plea for the Christians* (part one of two)
Athenagorus of Athens- *On the Resurrection of the Dead* (part two of two)
Tertullian- *Apology*
Irenaeus of Lyons, the first great theologian
*Against Heresies*, Books 3 and 4
*On Apostolic Preaching*
Christian Engagement with Judaism
*The Epistle of Barnabas*
Justin Martyr- *Dialogue with Trypho*
Melito of Sardis- *On Pascha* [Easter]
Hippolytus of Rome- *Expository Treatise against the Jews*
Tertullian, Dogmatic works
*On the Flesh of Christ* (part one of two)
*On the Resurrection of the Flesh* (part two of two)
*Against Praxeaus*, on the Trinity
Tertullian, Moral Works
*On Prayer* (*De Oratione*)
*To My Wife*, on Widowhood and Remarriage (*Ad Uxorem*) (in two parts)
*On Repentance* (*De Poenitentia*)
*On Baptism* (*De Baptismo*)
*On the Shows* (*De Spectaculis*)
*On Purity* (*De Puditicia*)

NOTE: the following works are in their probable chronological order spanning over thirty years. Taken together in this order, they show Tertullian's increasingly uncompromising moralism, especially after he embraced the Montanist sect in around 207 (*On theShows* and especially *On Purity*).

Tertullian, Polemical Works
*Five Books against Marcion*
*Prescriptions against Heretics*
Cyprian of Carthage
Select Letters on the Church
(Popular Patristics Series, sections 1 and 2)
Select Treatises on the Church
(Popular Patristics Series, *On the Lapsed, On the Unity of the Church*)
Clement of Alexandria- The Teacher (*Paedagogus*)
Origen of Alexandria- *On First Principles*
Eusebius- *The Church History* (strictly speaking a post-Nicene work, though it mostly covers the ante-Nicene period)

**Creeds, Councils, and Theologians**
Athanasius of Alexandria- *Against the Arians*, books 1-3
Popular Patristics Series, “Works on the Spirit”
Didymus the Blind- *On the Holy Spirit*
Athanasius of Alexandria- *Letters to Serapion on the Holy Spirit*
Basil of Caesarea- *On the Holy Spirit*
Cyril of Jerusalem- *Catechetical Lectures* (especially the last five so-called *Mystagogical Lectures*)
Ephrem the Syrian- *Hymns* (Classics of Western Spirituality)
Gregory of Nyssa- *Address Concerning Religious Instruction*
Gregory of Nazianzus, *On God and Christ* (Popular Patristics Series)
*Five Theological Orations*, on the Trinity
*Two Letters to Cledonius*, on the nature of Christ
Gregory of Nazianzus, *Festal Orations* (Popular Patristics Series)
various sermons delivered on principle feasts of the church (Christmas, Easter, etc)
Ambrose of Milan- *Five Books on the Christian Faith*
Jerome- *Letter 22 to Eustochium, on Virginity*
Hilary of Potiers- *On the Councils* (*De synodis*)
John Chrysostom- *Six Books on the Priesthood*
select sermons and letters on marriage
a sermon series on the Parable of Lazarus
John Chrysostom- *Eight Sermons on the Book of Genesis*
John Chrysostom- *Baptismal Instructions*
Augustine of Hippo- *On Catechizing the Uninstructed* (*De Catechizandis Rudibus*)
Augustine of Hippo- *On Christian Doctrine*
Augustine of Hippo- *The Enchiridion, or Handbook on Faith, Hope, and Love*
Augustine of Hippo - *On the Trinity*, books 1-8 and 15
Augustine of Hippo - *Tractates [Sermons] on the Gospel of John*
Augustine of Hippo - *Expositions on the Psalms*
Augustine of Hippo - *On Baptism, against the Donatists*
Augustine of Hippo - *On Nature and Grace*
Augustine of Hippo - *On Grace and Free Will*
Cyril of Alexandria, various works in John McGuckin’s *Saint Cyril of Alexandria and the Christological Controversy*
Cyril of Alexandria - *On the Unity of Christ* (Popular Patristics Series)
John Cassian - *Conferences*

**Early Middle Ages**
Transition in the West
Augustine of Hippo - *The City of God, against the Pagans*, select books of interest
Book 1: the intertwining of the Cities of God and Man
Book 5: the true origins of Rome’s prosperity
Book 8: Plato the closest of the pagan philosophers to Christian truth
Book 11: the origins of the two cities, a treatment of the Genesis creation account
Book 13: the nature of the fall and the curse
Book 17: prophecies concerning the coming of Christ
Book 19: the end, or purpose, of the two cities
Book 20: the last judgment
Book 21: the eternal punishment of the damned, the fate of the City of Man
Book 22: the glorification of the City of God in eternity
Prosper of Aquitaine - *Calling of the Nations*
Prosper of Aquitaine - *Defense of St. Augustine*
Vincent of Lerins - *Commonitory (Commonitorium)*
Boethius - *On the Consolation of Philosophy*
Isidore of Seville - *Etymologies*, esp. books 6 - 8
Isidore of Seville - *The Church Offices (de Ecclesiasticis Officiis)*
Early Medieval Monastic Rules
Augustine of Hippo- *Rule of St. Augustine*
Benedict of Nursia- *Rule*
Early Medieval “Lives”
St. Patrick- *Confession*
Adomnan of Iona- *Life of Saint Columba*
Willibald of Mainz- *Life of Saint Boniface*
Venerable Bede- *History of the English Church and People*
Venerable Bede- *On the Song of Songs and Selected Writings* (Classics of Western Spirituality)
Eastern Theology and Spirituality in the Middle Ages
Pseudo-Dionysius- *The Complete Works* (Classics of Western Spirituality)
Maximus the Confessor- *On the Cosmic Mystery of Jesus Christ*
Maximus the Confessor- *Selected Writings* (Classics of Western Spirituality)
John of Damascus- *Exposition of the Faith*
John of Damascus- *Three Treatises on the Divine Images*
Symeon the New Theologian- *Discourses*
Gregory Palamas- *The Triads*
Gregory Palamas- *Homilies*
Various Authors- *The Philokalia*, 4 volumes

**The Medieval West and Medieval Theologians**
Various Medieval Penitentials from *Medieval Handbooks of Penance*, tr. by McNeill and Gamer
Part 1: Early Irish Penitential Documents, esp. the “Penitential of Cummean”
Part 3: Penitentials of the Anglo-Saxon Church, esp. the “Penitential of Theodore”
Part 4: Penitentials by Irish Authors, esp. the “Penitential of Columban” and other material from Parts 1 – 7 as desired
Hildegard of Bingen- *Selected Writings* (Penguin Classics)
Anselm of Canterbury- *Cur Deus Homo*
Anselm of Canterbury- *Proslogion*
Anselm of Canterbury- *Monologion*
Peter Abelard- *The Story of My Misfortunes*
Peter Abelard- *Commentary on the Epistle to the Romans*
Peter Abelard- *Sic et non*
Peter Abelard- *Ethics*
Peter Abelard- *Dialogue between a Philosopher, a Christian, and a Jew*
Peter Lombard- *The Sentences*
Book 1: The Mystery of the Trinity
Book 2: On Creation
Book 3: On the Incarnation of the Word
Jocelyn de Brakelond- *Chronicle of the Abbey of Bury St. Edmunds*
Bernard of Clairvaux- *The Steps of Humility and Pride*
Bernard of Clairvaux - *Sermons on the Song of Songs*
Bernard of Clairvaux - *On Loving God*
Penguin’s *Chronicles of the First Crusade*
Penguin’s *Chronicles of the Crusades*
Jean de Joinville - *The Life of St. Louis* (7th Crusade)
Anonymous - *The Song of the Cid* (about a hero of the Spanish Reconquest)
The Fourth Lateran Council - *Canons* (in “Readings in Medieval History,” ed. by Geary)
Albert the Great - *On Cleaving to God*
Francis and Claire of Assisi - *Complete Works* (Classics of Western Spirituality)
Bonaventure - *The Souls Journey into God*
Bonaventure - *The Tree of Life*
Bonaventure - *The Life of St. Francis*
Duns Scotus - *Philosophical Writings* (various works in one volume tr. by Allan Wolter)
Duns Scotus - *A Treatise on God as First Principle*
Meister Eckhart - *Selected Writings* (Penguin Classics)
Thomas Aquinas - *Summa Contra Gentiles*, Books 1, 2, 3, 4
Thomas Aquinas - *Summa Theologica*
Catherine of Siena - *The Dialogue of Catherine of Siena*
William of Ockham - *Summa Logicae*
Julian of Norwich - *Showings of Divine Love*
Margery Kempe - *The Book of Margery Kempe*
Anonymous - *The Cloud of Unknowing*
Erasmus of Rotterdam - *In Praise of Folly*