Church History II: Reformation to Modern
Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary
Jacksonville Campus

Professor: Dr. Ryan Reeves
Class Day: Feb. 10-11; Mar. 9-10; April 13-14
(Friday evenings 6:30pm to 9:30pm, Saturdays 8:30am to 4:30pm)

Textbooks: Students will be required to read the following books:

Bruce Shelly, *Church History in Plain Language*
Bruce Gordon, *Calvin*
James Kittelson, *Luther the Reformer*
Mark Noll, *The Rise of Evangelicalism*
George Marsden, *Fundamentalism and American Culture*

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

Course Requirements:

Grading: The point values listed above mean that the total number of points available for the course is 100. Final letter grades will be applied with cutoffs as follows: A+ 97, A 93, A- 90, B+ 87, B 83, B- 80, C+ 77, C 73, C- 70, D+ 67, D 63, D- 60, F below 60

Exams: There will be a mid-term exam Friday March 9th. (30% of your grade)
There will be a proctored final exam at the end of semester (30% of your grade)
Paper: The paper is worth 30% of your final grade. It will be 13-15 pages, Times New Roman font, 12p, with 1-inch margins. Citations should be in Turabian.

Reading: The reading report will make up 10% of your final grade and will be reported on the final exam.

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 reformer 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. Jonathan Edwards). Use the resources in the library to find modern translations of his works. You may 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 325 pages in a modern edition—this amounts to 25 pages of reading a week.

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.

Due date:
Papers are due May 16th by midnight. You may submit these papers via email to: rreeves@gordonconwell.edu

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. 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!