CH502: The Church from the Reformation
Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary

Course Description
The Church from the Reformation is a basic introduction to the development of the Christian Church from the Protestant Reformation of the Sixteenth Century to the present time.

Gordon-Conwell Mission
This course satisfies the following institutional learning objectives

- To maintain academic excellence in the highest tradition of Christian scholarship in the teaching of the biblical, historical and theological disciplines. (Article 2)
- To train and encourage students, in cooperation with the Church, to become skilled in ministry. (Article 3)
- To provide leadership and educational resources for shaping an effective evangelical presence in Church and society. (Article 5)
- To develop in students a vision for God's redemptive work throughout the world and to formulate the strategies that will lead to effective missions, evangelism and discipleship. (Article 6)

Course Learning Objectives
Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

- Identify and describe the key persons, places, movements and doctrines of significance to the Christian church from the Reformation to the present.
- Explain the historical and theological developments of the period, and relate those to contemporary issues in the church.
- Demonstrate ability to communicate in a scholarly context via written assignments.
- Consider how reflection on course content has caused them to grow spiritually in the contexts of their relationships, local church service, and personal devotion.
- Understand and appreciate the rich heritage of the Church's global history in order to be able to interact more biblically and effectively in our contemporary world.

Module Topics
The Lectures for this course have been built using the lectures from the Semlink Classic course. Please refer to this document found in Resources to help you map the Semlink Classic lectures to this course. The following is a listing of the modules topics in this course:

1. The Protestant Reformation and the Roman Catholic Response
   - Week 01: The Protestant Reformation I
     - Lecture 01: Introduction
Required Materials


Course Requirements - Learning Activities
Achievement of the course objectives will be measured through a variety of activities as described below.

Examinations
Two Examinations will be given during the course:

- **Midterm Examination:** An essay exam covering the readings and class lectures from weeks 1-6. The completed exam will be due no later than 11:55 PM EDT on the Sunday, October 27, 2013.
- **Final Examination:** An essay exam covering the readings and class lectures from Weeks 8-13. The completed exam will be due no later than 11:55PM EST on Monday, December 16, 2013.

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 the research they are doing for their research paper, the essay questions in both the midterm and the final exams (for the most part) will invite them to engage the themes, issues and personalities they have encountered in the lectures.
All exams in this course will be proctored. Your proctor must be someone who works for a church or volunteers for a church in an officially recognized capacity (pastor, elder, ministry leader, office administrator, etc.), a library or a school. Your proctor cannot be a member of your family or a current Gordon-Conwell student. Your proctor should be present throughout the time you are taking the exam.

The student will need to identify a suitable proctor and submit his/her name and email address to the Semlink office via the proctor registration form before each exam. The Semlink office will then email your proctor login information for your exam so he/she can help you login at the time when you take the exam. Please submit your proctor information to the Semlink office at least 2 business days before you plan to take the exam. Check with libraries in advance for special summer and holiday hours.

Note on the Exams: Students will be asked to write a total of three essays for each of the exams (selecting one question of two possibilities in three categories). No books (other than an unmarked Bible and/or dictionary) may be used during the exams. Students may take up to three hours to write the exam.

Grading of the exams: Your examinations will be evaluated on the basis of three primary criteria: (1) the depth and accuracy of your historical knowledge; (2) the 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.

Reading
You are required to read a total of 2000 pages for the course, including a careful reading of all three of our required textbooks. The remaining pages of reading (to make up the full 2000 pages required for the course) can include the materials that are used for the research paper and/or additional reading from the "Recommended Reading" sections of the course syllabus or more general reading in related areas of the student's choosing. Viewing of recommended videos can be included as part of the "reading requirement" (with 5 minutes of viewing equivalent to one page of reading). No credit is given for skimming.

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

In order to complete 2,000 pages of reading (or equivalency), it is necessary to read an average of 143 pages per week. Your reading will not be tracked week to week. You will be asked to submit one report of their reading by no later than 11:55PM EST on Monday, December 16, 2013.

Research Paper
You are required to write one 12-15 page research paper. Completed papers should be typed and in correct form (for example, double-spaced, using twelve-point font, footnoted where appropriate, with a bibliography of all sources used for the study, etc.). Those who have not had 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). Any recognized style is acceptable to the instructor so long as it is used consistently throughout the paper.

Research paper is due no later than 11:55PM EST on Monday, December 16, 2013.

Selection of topic:
You are free to select, research and present whatever topic they wish to explore provided:
1. The topic is basically historical in nature;
2. The topic falls within the period between approximately AD 1500 and the present;
3. The written presentation conforms to one of the recognized manuals of style.
You do not need the instructor's approval for your choice of topic.

The task of research:
An important part of writing a research paper is the task of locating and selecting the sources you want to use. This will probably involve several hours of hard work in an archive, the library, or on the web. Don't expect others to do this work for you -- this is part of your assignment. Ideas for paper topics can be found in the textbook as well as the class lectures. Specific issues of Christian History magazine available in our library or at the Christian History Institute website: www.christianhistorymagazine.org are also helpful in selecting topics and locating resources. A CD-ROM/PDF version of Issues 1-99 (text only) of Christian History magazine is also available through the Christian History Institute.

Grading the papers: (Rubric found in Resources)
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
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.
Reflection Papers
You are required to complete 2 reflection papers. Completed papers should be typed and in correct form (for example, double-spaced, using twelve-point font, footnoted where appropriate.) Each of the reflection papers are to be 3-5 pages in length. The reflection papers will focus on two of the required readings (Jenkins and Shaw).

Reflection Papers are due no later than 11:55 PM EST Sunday, November 10, 2013.

These should include a brief overview of the content and basic argument of each book along with a discussion of at least three key insights (either positive or negative) that you gained from reading the book.

"Oral History" Interview
As a way of helping you to connect your study of Church History with the practice of ministry, we are asking that you select one individual who is currently engaged in ministry for an "Oral History" Interview. This interview should be recorded and submitted as an mp3 (no editing necessary) with the rest of your concluding work.

The interview is due no later than 11:55PM EST on Monday, December 16, 2013.

Prior to asking questions, you will need briefly to identify yourself, introduce the person you are interviewing and note the date, time and location of the interview. While you are encouraged to ask questions of your own, the interview should include the following questions:

1. When did you first sense that God was calling you into ministry and what role, if any, did those around you (family, mentors, friends, etc.) play in your positive response to that call?
2. What have been some of your greatest satisfactions in ministry?
3. What have been some of your greatest disappointments in ministry?
4. What resources have you found most helpful in nourishing your own spiritual life?
5. What period of Church History, in your estimation, most resembles our own?
6. What role, if any, have the people, events and issues of Christian history played in shaping your ministry?
7. If you had the opportunity to speak to a group of seminary students, what would you want them to know about ministry?
8. What role, if any, do you think the church should play in spreading the Gospel and in addressing the needs of the larger community?
9. What in your estimation are the major issues facing the Christian community today?
10. What makes you most hopeful about the future of the Christian church?

Please remember that you need to record to interview, so make sure you find a place that resulting recording will be audible.

Discussion/Interaction
There will be two live online/conference call seminars and five asynchronous discussion forums. These discussions are an important part of the course. They provide an opportunity for us to engage in thoughtful discussion on various topics related to church history, and for us to get to know each other a bit better.

For the two live online/conference call seminars, you will be required to attend at least one of them by the internet and/or phone. We encourage you to attend both. It will be a time before the midterm and the final to gather with your classmates and instructors.

Regardless of the seminar you are planning to attend, you will be required to submit questions for the seminars. They will be submitted through the Forum tool and are due at least a week before the seminars.

You will need to submit the questions for Seminar One by 11:55PM EDT on Monday, October 14, 2013. You will need to submit the questions for Seminar Two by 11:55PM EST on Tuesday, December 3, 2013.

Seminar One will be held on Monday, October 21, 2013 at 7PM to 8:30PM EDT. Seminar Two will be held on Tuesday, December 10, 2013 at 7PM to 8:30PM EST.

For the five asynchronous discussion forums, you will be required to post an initial response to the key question and a response to a fellow student's post. It is recommended to continue responding and interacting with your fellow students beyond the required posts to further enhance your learning and experience. You will be expected to post about 500 words for each Forum topic and a response of 150 words to at least one other student's post. (Additional comments and responses can be any length.) A Grading Rubric can be found in Resources.

The five key questions correspond to the major module topics. They are:

- **Module 1:**
  1. What is the Church's Primary Authority?
     - Initial post due by 11:55PM EDT Friday, September 20, 2013.
     - Response post due by 11:55PM EDT Friday, September 27, 2013.

- **Module 2:**
  2. Is Spiritual Renewal Possible?
     - Initial post due by 11:55PM EDT Friday, October 11, 2013.
     - Response post due by 11:55PM EDT Friday, October 18, 2013.

- **Module 4:**
  3. What is the Primary Mission of the church?
     - Initial post due by 11:55PM EDT Friday, November 1, 2013.
     - Response post due by 11:55PM EST Friday, November 8, 2013.

- **Module 5:**
  4. How should Christianity relate to Culture?
     - Initial post due by 11:55PM EDT Friday, November 15, 2013.
Module 6:

5. How can the Church be faithful to both Purity and Unity?
   - Initial post due by 11:55PM EDT Friday, November 29, 2013.
   - Response post due by 11:55PM EDT Friday, December 6, 2013.

Grading Policy
Your final grade for the course will be computed as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Examination</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Examination</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Paper</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reflection Papers</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;Oral History&quot; Interview</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion/Interaction/Seminar</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading Report</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grading Scale
Grading Scale (point values and definitions of letter grades can be found in the "Grading Scale" section of the Gordon-Conwell Student Handbook):

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."

Other Course Policies

Proctored Exams
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Instructor Feedback
The instructor will attempt to respond to questions or messages within a few days. The instructor will provide feedback on assignments within one week of submission. The instructor will post grades in the gradebook within two weeks of submission.

Document Formatting and Submission
Papers should be submitted as attached files in PDF format. Assignments should be double spaced with 1" margins on all sides of each page, and should be printed in Times New Roman 12 point type or another font of similar size and appearance. Those who have not had 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). Any recognized style is acceptable to the instructor so long as it is used consistently throughout the paper. Assignments must be submitted electronically by posting to the Sakai site. Hard-copies will not be accepted.

Late Work
All work must be posted or uploaded to Sakai by 11:55PM EDT of the day it is due. For each day an assignment is late, the following deductions will be made: Forum posts will lose 1 point (of 3 possible) per day late; Comments on forum posts will lose 1 point (of 2 possible) per day late; Reflection papers and the "Oral History" interview will lose 1 point (of 5 possible ) per day late; Research paper and examinations will receive a deduction of ⅓ grade level per day (i.e. A to A-, A- to B+, etc.)

Netiquette
Gordon-Conwell does not tolerate disruptive or disrespectful behavior in the online communications in any course. Students should review the netiquette policy in the Student Handbook and this website: http://www.albion.com/netiquette.