

Syllabus

Course Description: The Church from the Reformation is designed to provide the student with a basic introduction to the development of the Christian church from the Protestant Reformation of the sixteenth century to the present time. To achieve this objective, lectures and readings are provided.

Course Objectives: The Church from the Reformation is designed to provide students with a working knowledge of the major themes, issues, and personalities of church history; to help them to make use of the rich resources of church history in their practice of ministry; and to encourage them to seek for spiritual renewal in their own lives, in the church, and in society.

Course Requirements: Students who are taking the course for credit will be asked to listen to all the audio lecture material, take two examinations (a midterm and a final), write one 12-15 page research paper, and complete the assigned reading.

I. Examinations

Two examinations will be given during the course.

Midterm Exam: A closed-book, essay examination covering lectures and readings for Lectures 1-13.

Final Exam: A closed-book, essay examination covering lectures and readings for Lectures 14-24.

Preparing for the examinations: 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 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.

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 the Bible and/or a dictionary) may be used during the exams. Students may take up to three hours to write the exam. Bluebooks will be provided for both exams.

Grading 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..

II. Research Paper

Each student taking the course for credit is required to write one 12-15 page paper. Completed papers should be typed and in correct form (for example, double-spaced, twelve-point font, footnotes where appropriate, bibliography, etc.). Those who have not had as 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.

Selection of topic: Students are free to select, research, and present whatever topic they wish to explore provided (1) that their topic is basically historical in nature; (2) that the topic falls within the period from approximately 1500 A.D. to the present; and (3) that 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 sometimes difficult task of locating and selecting the sources you want to use. This will probably involve several hours of hard work in an archive or library. 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 (which can be purchased in the Gordon-Conwell Bookcentre, used in Gordon-Conwell libraries, or secured on the *Christianity Today* website) are also helpful in selecting topics and locating resources.

Grading of the papers: The research paper 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; and (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 specific ministries to which God has called each one of you.

Note: "Primary" sources are those that come directly from the period or person you

are studying (for example, something written by the individual you have chosen to study). “Secondary” sources do not come directly from the period or person (for example, the Gonzá text is a secondary source). While both kinds of sources have their value, primary sources generally get you closer to the event or person.

III. Required Reading

Students taking the course for credit are required to read a total of 2000 pages for the course, including a careful reading of González (a total of 839 pages), and of Rosell (a total of 288 pages). The remaining 1,161 pages of required reading can include the materials that are used for the research paper and/or additional reading from the “Recommended Reading” section of the Appendix. By the end of the course, please complete the reading report on the back of the Snapshot of Course Requirements page, and turn it in to the Semlink office by the course due date. Remember, “skimming” does not count as “reading.”

The reading grade will be computed 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+; 40-59%=D; 20-39%=D-; Below 20%=F. No credit is given for “skimming.”

Required Textbooks

- Justo L. González, *The Story of Christianity, The Early Church to the Present Day* (Peabody, MA: Prince Press of Hendrickson Publishers, 1994). vol. 2: 399 pages. Note: This text is also available as two separate volumes; content and pagination are identical.
- Garth M. Rosell, *The Surprising Work of God: Harold John Ockenga, Billy Graham, and the Rebirth of Evangelicalism* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2008). 288 pages.

If the González textbook is unavailable or “out of print,” you may choose an alternative general church history textbook to replace González. If you do so, read the chapters which correspond to the topics covered in each lecture (see table on below). Whichever textbook you select, you are required to read it in its entirety to avoid a 10% deduction from your reading grade.

Alternative Textbooks

- Kenneth Scott Latourette, *A History of Christianity, Volume II: Reformation to the Present* (Peabody, MA: Prince Press of Hendrickson Publishers, 1975). 838 pages.
- Williston Walker, *A History of the Christian Church*, 4th ed. New York: Charles Scribner’s Sons, 1985. 291 pages.

The following table gives the relevant chapters of each textbook according to lecture. You must choose one of these textbooks to fulfill your required reading assignment.

Lecture	González (vol. 2)	Latourette	Walker
1	1-2	Preface; 29-31	Period VI, 1
2	3-4, 9	32	Pd. VI, 2, 5-6
3	5	33	Pd. VI, 3
4	7, 10-11, 20		Pd. VI, 7-8, 15
5	6	34-35	Pd. VI, 4, 14
6	8, 17	36-37	Pd. VI, 9-10
7	12-13, 18, 29, 32-33	38-40, 46	Pd. VI, 11-13; Pd. VII, 16-17
8	14-16		
9	19, 21-23	44, 47, 48	Pd. VII, 5-7
10	24	41-43	Pd. VI, 16-17; Pd. VII, 2
11			Pd. VII, 8-10
12			
13	25-27	45	Pd. VII, 13-15
14			
15			
16		49, 53	
17	30	51, 52, 54, 55	
18			
19	28	50	Pd. VII, 1, 3-4, 11-12
20		56	
21	31, 34-35	57	
22			
23	36	58-59, 62	Pd. VII, 18-19
24		60-61	

Note: Many students find it helpful to consult a church history timeline periodically throughout the course in order to make connections with other movements and events inside and outside the church. The following works are recommended (but not required) sources for timelines.

- Donald W. Kies, *Church History at a Glance*. Elmhurst, IL: Keydon Charts, n.d.
- *The Oxford Illustrated History of Christianity*, John McManners, ed. Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press, 1990, pp. 686-704.

- *Eerdman's Handbook to the History of Christianity*, Tim Dowley, ed. Grand Rapids, MI: WM. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1977, pp. 22-23; see also numerous timelines in individual chapters for specific eras.
- Earle E. Cairns, *Christianity Through the Centuries: A History of the Christian Church*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1954, 1981, pp. 24-25.
- Bruce Shelley, *Church History in Plain Language*, 2nd ed. Dallas: Word Publishing, 1995, see various timelines in individual chapters for specific eras.

IV. Interaction

Purpose

- To enhance distance learning by encouraging and providing a context for students to meet and interact with other students taking similar courses and with their course instructors as they work through their Semlink materials. Only Semlink students taking a course for credit are required to complete the interactive component of the course. Non-credit students who are taking Semlink classes for personal enrichment are encouraged to contact the Semlink office (see the contact information section below) if they want to participate in these discussions.
- As a member of the Association of Theological Schools, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary recognizes the value of interactivity in distance learning and complies with the standards for accreditation set by ATS which include interactivity as a compulsory component of any distance learning program that wishes to continue granting credit for its courses.
- It is highly recommended that you spread out your completion of the interactivity requirements outlined below over the six months you have to complete the course, rather than attempting to complete them all at once or very near your due date. By spreading out your completion of the requirements, you will be able to benefit fully from your interaction with other students and receive feedback from the course teaching fellow.

Requirements

The interaction requirement for Semlink courses is to be fulfilled in two ways:

- 1) **An online discussion forum:** converse with other students and with instructors.
 - Integration questions will be posted by the team of Semlink teaching fellows. These questions are designed to encourage you to analyze, synthesize, and apply what you are learning in your course in a cross-curricular environment. You will be interacting with other students who are taking this course and related courses.
 - Discussions may be based on current events, culture, literature, case studies, and Scripture.
 - You are required to participate four (4) times in the discussions relating to your area of

study. For example, if you were taking “The Church to the Reformation,” you would be required to participate in the Church History integration discussions four times during the six months you have to complete the course.

- You may also submit an integration question for your course to your Semlink teaching fellow (see contact information section below). If your question is selected for use, it may fulfill one of your four required interactions in the discussion forums.
- To ensure successful completion of this requirement, please complete your participation in the discussion forums at least one week prior to your course due date. This will allow sufficient time for you to resubmit any responses if necessary.
- Please note that there are many ongoing discussions on the Semlink website. While you are welcome to participate in any of these discussions, only participation in the discussions listed for your course will be given course credit.

2) **Email-based conversation** with a Semlink teaching fellow.

- Together with the lecturing professor and/or mentoring professor, the Semlink teaching fellows have written a conversation starter, designed to tie together some of the overarching themes raised in the course.
- The conversation starter will be posted on the Semlink website. You will go to the Semlink website, navigate to your course homepage (see below), and submit your first response to the question via email. The submission will be read and responded to by your Semlink teaching fellow, who will take the conversation further based on your original thoughts and comments.
 - You are required to email a total of three (3) times, including your original response to the conversation starter.
 - Please allow a minimum of one month to complete this conversation to allow time for the teaching fellow to respond. Allow five business days for a response to each of your submissions.

To find the website and specific interactivity details for your course:

- 1) Log on to the Semlink website (www.gordonconwell.edu/ockenga/semlink) and enter the section for “Current Students.”
- 2) Select your course from the menu, and go to the homepage for your course. This page contains links to the specific interactivity requirements for your course and other Semlink resources.
- 3) If you are unable to access the internet, please contact the Semlink office (see the contact information section below) and alternative arrangements will be made.

Please Note: In the case of any differences between the specific interactivity requirements given for this course on the website and the information given in this workbook, the website takes precedence.

Evaluation of Submissions

- You will not be assigned a letter grade for your participation in Semlink interactivity, but completion of your interactivity requirements is required to receive credit for your course. **If you fail to complete the interactivity requirements, you will fail your course.**
- Your submissions will be evaluated as complete or incomplete based on quality of thought and clarity of expression (see the general guidelines described below and the specific guidelines found on your course home page on the Semlink website).
- In the event of an unacceptable response, you will be informed and given the opportunity to expand or re-submit your thoughts, provided that your final submissions are made before the course due date. Submissions made after the course due date will be subject to penalty.

General Guidelines for Submissions

- Proper grammar and punctuation are required (no webspoken).
- Your response should demonstrate original thought and interaction with the issues being addressed, including a coherent flow of thought or argument. Please answer the questions fully and specifically.

If the interactivity requirement is not completed by your due date for the course, the final assignment will be held and will not be submitted to the professor for grading until the interactivity requirement is complete. Therefore, there will be no final grade given for the course until the interactivity requirement is fulfilled. Once this requirement is completed, the professor will receive and grade the final assignment and you will be given a final grade for the course. If a student has not completed all interactivity requirements within ONE MONTH after the end date of the course, the student will automatically fail the course with no exceptions.

V. Workbook

As you listen to the lectures, you can answer the questions in the accompanying workbook. The workbook is provided as a resource for your study. The questions have been designed to help you to learn and process the information in this course. The completed workbook will also serve as an outline of the course for your future reference. You may find it helpful to

stop the tape of the lecture at various times to consider the questions and answer them more fully. This is highly encouraged. You may also wish to take additional notes in the margins of the workbook or in the other spaces provided. You are not required to turn in your workbook.

Grading: Your final grade for the course will be computed on the following basis:

Midterm examination	30%
Final examination	30%
Research paper	30%
Reading report	10%
Interaction	Completion Required

Grading Scale: The seminary has adopted an official numerical equivalence for the letter grades that students are assigned. Published annually, these are as follows:

A+=4.0; 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-=.07; 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.”

Computation of course grade: Based on the above percentages and numerical equivalences, your grade for this course will be computed on the following scale:

Final Point Total	Final Grade
3.85 to 4.0	A
3.65 to 3.84	A-
3.3 to 3.64	B+
3.0 to 3.29	B
2.7 to 2.99	B-
2.3 to 2.69	C+
2.0 to 2.29	C
1.7 to 1.99	C-
1.3 to 1.69	D+
1.0 to 1.29	D
0.7 to 0.99	D-
0.0 to 0.69	F

Personal Consultations: The instructor is always delighted to talk with students. Should you need to contact me, you can call me at my South Hamilton campus office (978-646-4139) or contact me by email (grosell@gcts.edu).

Frequently Asked Questions

How do I arrange to take my exam?

1. Contact the Semlink office via email (semlink.office@gcts.edu) or phone (978-646-4144 or 1-877-736-5465, toll free). Please allow at least 48 hours to process your exam request as well as additional time for mailing to destination.
2. If you are a student at the Hamilton campus, your exam will be sent to Goddard Library.
3. If you are a student at CUME, Charlotte, or off-campus, you will need to find a proctor and provide proctor contact information when requesting your exam.
 - a. Your proctor should be a church official, an education official, or a librarian. Your proctor cannot be a GCTS student or a family member.
 - b. Your exam will be sent directly to your proctor, so you must provide a mailing address for him or her.
 - c. Your proctor will be responsible for mailing your exam to the Semlink address provided in the contact information section. **Please provide your proctor with an envelope with pre-paid postage for this purpose. The proctor must mail the exam so that it is postmarked by the course due date in order to avoid late penalty. Any work postmarked after the due date will be considered late.**

How do I send in written work?

1. All course work is due by the course due date.
2. Course materials should be sent to the Semlink office address provided in the contact information section.
3. Any course work that is mailed to the Semlink office must be postmarked by your due date to avoid penalty.
4. Please include the address to which you would like your work sent. For Hamilton students, please use your campus box number.

How do I request an extension?

1. For Hamilton, Charlotte, or CUME students, extensions should be requested through your home campus' registration office.
2. For off-campus students, extensions should be requested through the Semlink office.
3. Extension requests must be made in writing and must be submitted on or before the due date of your course. Your extension request should include the unavoidable/avoidable circumstances that have prevented you from completing

your course and the amount of time lost due to those circumstances. You should also state what work you have completed and what is still unfinished. Please state for which course work you are seeking an extension.

4. Off-campus students who have not matriculated on to a campus should submit extension requests with a \$25 processing fee per course.
5. Generally, extension requests based on avoidable circumstances are granted with a grade penalty.
6. Extensions cannot be granted after the due date.
7. You cannot withdraw from a course after receiving an extension.

How do I withdraw from a course?

1. You can withdraw from your course up to the due date.
2. For Hamilton, Charlotte, and CUME students, requests to withdraw must be in writing and are to be submitted to your home campus registration office.
3. For off-campus students, requests to withdraw must be in writing and are to be submitted to the Semlink office.
4. Should you withdraw from the course, the tuition refund policy is as follows:
 - a. 100% up to 15 days, 50% up to 30 days, no refund after 30 days.
 - b. Material cost is non-refundable.
 - c. Courses dropped prior to the 15 day deadline will not appear on your transcript. A “W” (withdrawn) will appear on transcripts for courses dropped after 15 days.

What is the penalty for late work?

All course work submitted to the Semlink office after the due date will be assessed a grade penalty. On-campus students should contact their home campus’ registration office for more information on the specific grade penalty that will be applied. Off-campus students should contact the Semlink office.

When is my course due?

1. Your course due date can be found on the confirmation sheet sent to you separately. We highly recommend that you make this sheet a part of your course materials.
2. Your course is due six months after your start date which is based on the date you registered for the course allowing time for preparation of the course materials by the Semlink office and shipping the materials to you.
3. Graduating seniors should note that during their final semester the due date for Semlink courses will be the due date for course work for seniors.

Contact Information

At Semlink, there are a number of different offices working together as a team in order to care for you as a student. Please read the following descriptions and contact the appropriate office when questions arise.

For Questions About:

Course materials

Administrative issues

Exam requirements

Registration information

Extensions

If you're unsure whom to call

Contact:**The Semlink Office**

The Semlink office handles your registration, course materials, and exams. They also handle extensions and other administrative issues. If you are unsure whom to call, the Semlink office will be able to direct you.

Phone: 978-646-4144 or 1-877-736-5465 (toll free)

Fax: 978-646-4565

Email: semlink.office@gcts.edu

Address: Semlink Office

130 Essex St

South Hamilton MA 01982

Hours: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Friday

For Questions About:

Ordering textbooks

Contact:**The BookCentre**

The BookCentre stocks the required textbooks for every course.

Phone: 978-646-4017 or 1-888-252-4287 (toll free)

Email: books@gcts.edu

Website: gcts.christianbook.com

For Questions About:

Interactivity requirements

Contact:**The Semlink Teaching Fellows**

The Semlink teaching fellows have been selected for demonstrated proficiency in a particular subject area. The teaching fellows work closely with the mentoring professor to help you to interact at a deeper level with the course content and to provide you with opportunities to interact with other students and instructors in an area related to this course.

Email: semlink.history@gcts.edu

Website: www.gordonconwell.edu/semlink

For Questions About:

Course content

Suggested supplemental reading

Contact:**The Mentoring Professor**

The mentoring professor grades your course work, sets the course syllabus, approves paper topics, and can answer questions about the course content. Please contact the mentoring professor only with the above type of questions.

Name: Dr. Garth Rosell

Phone: 978-646-4139

Email: grosell@gcts.edu

Address: Dr. Garth Rosell

130 Essex Street

S. Hamilton, MA 01982