

CHURCH HISTORY 501--THE CHURCH TO THE REFORMATION

Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, Hispanic Ministries Program: Summer 2019

Thurs.-Sun. May 23-26, 2019

Englewood, New Jersey

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COURSE OBJECTIVE: By the end of this course students will be able to trace the major themes, issues, and personalities of Church History from its inception in Palestine to the eve of the Protestant Reformation and will be able to integrate this knowledge into their practice of ministry. (Cf. GCTS Statement of Mission: Articles 2, 5, & 6. M.Div. degree goals: 2., 5., 6., 7.)

TEXTBOOKS:

1. **Justo L. González, *The Story of Christianity. Volume One: The Early Church to the Dawn of the Reformation.* 2nd ed. (New York: HarperOne, 2010) [ISBN: 978-0061855887]** (Spanish-speakers may read the Spanish version: *Historia del Cristianismo* (Spanish House, 2010): Vol. 1 only [Available on Amazon or through the Gordon-Conwell online bookstore at: <http://gcts.christianbook.com>]

If preferred, you may **substitute either** of the following:

- Bruce L. Shelley, *Church History in Plain Language*, 3rd ed. (Dallas, TX: Word Books, 1982, 1995, 2008): Chapters 1-23 (**note that students using Shelley should do an additional 150 pages of independent reading**). [ISBN: 0718025539]
 - Kenneth Scott Latourette, *A History of Christianity. Volume I: to A.D. 1500.* Revised ed. (New York: HarperOne, 1975). [ISBN: 978-0060649524]
2. **Michael A.G. Haykin, *Recovering the Church Fathers: Who They Were and How They Shaped the Church* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2011).** [ISBN: 978-1-4335-1043-4]
https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/143351043X/ref=ox_sc_act_title_1?smid=ATVPDKIKX0DER&psc=1
 3. **David A. Currie, “Ecclesiapolis: Two Millennia of Mutual Transformation between Church and City,”** in Seong Hyun Park, Aida Besancon Spencer, William Spencer eds., *Reaching for the New Jerusalem: A Biblical and Theological Framework for the City* (Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock, 2013): 38-57 – NO PURCHASE REQUIRED, THIS TEXT WILL BE PROVIDED FOR YOU ON CANVAS.

For detailed bibliographical information, see “Suggested Readings” or “Suggestions for Further Readings” or “Selected Bibliography” at the conclusion of each chapter of González, Shelley, or Latourette.

CORE COURSE (“C”-LEVEL ALSO “PASS/FAIL”) REQUIREMENTS:

- 1) Regular class attendance and participation in small and large group discussions.
- 2) Assigned readings, completing as scheduled and being ready to discuss in class.
- 3) A “take-home” **Final Exam** (accessed & submitted through the CH501 Canvas Portal under “Assignments” & *due July 20*) -- open book, open notes; essays based upon lectures, discussions, and readings (special emphasis should be given to incorporating outside non-assigned readings, especially primary sources). **Please read the plagiarism advisory** on CH501 Canvas Portal to ensure proper citations of sources used.
- 4) **500 pages** of *independent outside* reading as noted on a Reading Report (accessed & submitted through CH 501 Canvas Portal under “Assignments” & *due July 20*). These 500 pages do **not** include assigned text reading. Try to focus reading on some area of ancient or medieval Church History of particular interest. For suggestions, consult the “Suggested Topics” list below and the instructor. (Note that slow readers may count hours instead of pages, one hour=40 pages, and pre-approved audio & video materials may be counted at the same rate.)

“B”-LEVEL REQUIREMENTS:

- 1) All of the Core Course Requirements.
- 2) An additional 250 pages of independent reading (**750 pages total**). **List on Reading Report form** accessed & submitted through CH501 Canvas Portal under “Assignments” & *due July 20*.
- 3) **Reading reflections of no less than 5 and no more than 10 double-spaced pages** (submitted through CH501 Canvas Portal under “Assignments” & *due July 20*) based upon on independent reading on some specific topic related to Church History to the Reformation. Readings must be other than the assigned texts, preferably primary sources.

“A”-LEVEL REQUIREMENTS:

- 1) All of the Core Course Requirements.
- 2) An additional 400 pages of independent reading (**900 pages total**). Readings must be other than the assigned texts, preferably primary sources, but may be related to the Research Paper. **List on Reading Report form** accessed & submitted through CH501 Canvas Portal under “Assignments” & *due July 20*.
- 3) **Research Paper** on some specific topic related to Church History to the Reformation. (For suggestions see “Suggested Topics” list.) Emphasis should be upon primary sources (what was written at the time by participants) rather than secondary sources (what was written about the topic later by scholars). The papers should be typed and consistent in form (e.g. Turabian, MLA, Chicago Manual of Style), and no less than 10 pages and no more than 15 pages double-spaced (submitted through CH501 Canvas Portal under “Assignments” & *due July 20*). Please include a bibliography and endnotes or footnotes. **Please read the plagiarism advisory** on Canvas Portal to guide citations.

CONTRACT GRADING:

Grading will be based upon **both** fulfilling the grade level requirements and the **quality** of work submitted. **Contracts for grades will be due May 25, 2019** and will be recorded by the professor. Exams and papers will be graded according to the level of grade contracted and will not contain percentages or letter grades.

It is not possible to receive a letter grade higher than contracted for, though it is possible to receive a letter grade lower than contracted for. For example, if a student who contracts for a "B" performs "A" quality work on their exams, that student would receive a "+" on exams, but no higher than a "B+" grade. However, a student who contracts for "B" and performs "C" quality work on their exams would receive a "-" on their exams and could receive a "C" grade for the course.

Students may adjust their grade contract up or down simply by emailing the professor requesting a change.

In keeping with the policy of the Association of Theological Schools, students who do not turn work in on schedule and who have not requested appropriate extensions from the Hispanic Ministries Program Office will receive an "F" (Failing grade) for the course on their transcript, not an "I" (Incomplete). Work turned in late without an extension or after the extension expires may be graded and the "F" changed to a passing grade at the discretion of the instructor and Hispanic Ministries Registration Office.

COURSE OUTLINE AND ASSIGNMENTS

ALL TEXTBOOK READINGS SHOULD BE COMPLETED BEFORE THE FIRST CLASS SESSION:

- González—Volume 1 (all chapters, or chapters covering same material in Shelley [chapters 1-23] or Latourette—Volume 1)
- Haykin – *Recovering the Church Fathers* (all chapters)
- *Reaching for the New Jerusalem: "Ecclesiapolis: Two Millennia of Mutual Transformation between Church and City,"* pp. 38-57

SECTIONS AND TOPICS

- Church History and the Early Christian Movement
 - What is Church History and Why Does It Matter?
 - The New Testament Roots and the Birth of the Ecclesia
 - The Blood of the Martyrs: Persecutions, Apologists, and Spread to 312 A.D.
- Councils, Creeds, and Controversies
 - The Institutionalization of the Church and the Birth of Christendom
 - Snakes in the Vineyard: The Heresies of the Early Church
 - Watchers on the Walls of Zion: Councils, Creeds, and Orthodoxy
- Evolution and Reform
 - Augustine of Hippo: Donatists, Pelagians, and the City of God
 - The Burgeoning Preeminence of the Bishop of Rome
 - Escaping the World for Christ: Early Monastic Movements

- East, West, and South: The Church in the World
 - Ikon: The History and Identity of the Eastern Orthodox Church
 - Christ Before Me: The Spread of Christianity to Western Europe
 - An Ancient Global Church: Early Christianity in Africa and Asia

- Church and State: Crisis and Conquest in the Medieval Church
 - The Growth of Papal Power and the Avignon Papacy
 - The Rise of the State and the Power of Kings
 - Deus Vult: The Crusades

- The Great Minds of Medieval Christianity
 - Anselm of Canterbury
 - Peter Abelard
 - Thomas Aquinas

- Medieval Reform Movements
 - Monastic Reform Movements: Franciscans, Dominicans, Cistercians
 - Early Christianity in the Caribbean
 - The Conciliar Movement

- On the Edge of Reformation
 - The Rise of Christian Humanism
 - The Abuses of the Late-Medieval Roman Catholic Church
 - The Ferment of Reform

FINAL ASSIGNMENTS TO BE SUBMITTED BY *July 20, 2019*

All work to be submitted through CH501 Canvas Portal under “Assignments.”

Final Exam []

Reading Report Form []

Reading Reflections for Students with "B" Contracts []

Research Paper for Students with "A" Contracts []

SUGGESTED TOPICS FOR INDEPENDENT READING AND RESEARCH PAPER

Abelard	Conciliarism	Macrina (327-379)
Marcella (325-410)	Paula (347-404)	Anselm
Crusades	Monica (Augustine's mother)	Apostles Creed
Doctrine (e.g of Christ)	Missions (___to___)	Aquinas
Dominicans	Montanism	Athanasius
Donatism	Augustine of Canterbury	Augustine of Hippo
Neo-Platonism	Meister Eckhart	Nicene Creed
Venerable Bede	Eusebius of Caesarea	William of Ockham
Ursula of Munsterberg	Hildegarde of Bingen	Clare (1194-1253)
Evangelism (___to___)	Pelagius	Benedict of Nursia
Francis of Assissi	Preaching (___to___)	Bernard of Clairvaux
Franciscans	Jerome	Prudentius
Elizabeth of Hungary	Catherine of Siena	Joan of Arc
Gregory the Great	John Hus	John Tauler
Thomas Kempis	Vittoria Colonna	Margaret of Navarre
Hymnology (___to___)	Tertullian	Justin Martyr
Cathari	Celibacy	Origen
Theodosia	Christological Controversies	Joachim of Flora
Trinity	Chrysostom	John of Damascus
Vigilantius	Julian the Apostate	Juliana of Norwich
Waldenses	Constantine	Marsilius of Padua
John of Paris	Clement of Alexandria	Teresa of Avila
Catherine of Aragon	Brigitta of Sweden	Cluny
Ignatius	Gregory of Nazianzus	Monasticism
Columbus	Lindisfarne	Iona