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CH 500 Turning Points in Church History

Meesaeng Lee Choi

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CH 500

Turning Points in Church History

Meesaeng Lee Choi, Ph.D.

Office: AD 402

Direct Line: 859-858-2046

Home Study (cell): 859-312-2156

meesaeng_choi@asburyseminary.edu

July 2008 (July 7-25)

3 credit hour units

Class: Mon-Tue & Thu-Fri, 9am-12 pm

Office Hours: Tue 12:30-2pm

(other times by appointment)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course is designed to be an introduction to **selected critical themes as turning points** in the history of the Christian Church from its origins to the present time. Within the broad sweep of the four main periods of the Church (Early, Medieval, Reformation, and Modern), students will consider key persons, dates, developments, movements, and theological concepts. Special attention is devoted to mastery of the foundations (information, resources, and methodologies) essential for further studies in church history and historical theology. Open to MA students (other than MATS) only.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Students will value the theological resources of the Church, including the creeds, great writings, issues faced, and decisions made by previous generations throughout church history. In order to begin making the fulfillment of that goal possible, this course introduces students to the theological and historical heritage of the Church. By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- identify critical issues of historical study and develop strategies for relating the “data” of historical study to the questions of historiography.
- determine key dates and concepts and analyze that information in light of the students’ own faith commitment.
- explore the work of key individuals and movements and to understand their work in light of the students’ own ministry.
- explore the major developments in the history of the Church and relate them to current discussions in the Church.
- develop and formulate historical and theological constructs which reflect the students’ awareness of biblical, historical, and theological concerns.
- critique various formulations and determine their degree of conformity to biblical, theological, and historical criteria.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Noll, Mark A. *Turning Points: Decisive Moments in the History of Christianity*, 2nd ed. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic Books, 2000.

Olson, Roger E. *The Story of Christian Theology: Twenty Centuries of Tradition & Reform*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1999.

St. Athanasius. *On the Incarnation*. St. Vladimir’s Seminary Press, 2000.

St. Benedict. *The Rule of St. Benedict in English*, ed. Timothy Fry. Liturgical Press,

Hattaway, Paul and als. *Back to Jerusalem: Three Chinese House Church Leaders Share Their Vision to Complete the Great Commission*. Gabriel Publishing, 2003.

CH500 Course Packet (ATS bookstore)

Selected primary source and additional readings cited under each lesson (see the “Course and Reading Schedule” below) are available at Virtual Campus/SII2008/CH500/Primary Source

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATION

All work is expected to be completed **on time** as indicated in the requirements (unless prior arrangements are made); **late papers** will be applied an automatic graduated grade deduction (you will receive **grade only** without any comment).

Inclusive languages are encouraged for class discussions and **required** for all written work.

1. Class Attendance, Reading Assignment, and Participation: 15%

- If you attend all the classes, you will get one additional point in the final grading. If you miss one lecture (each session has 2 lectures), you will lose one point (up to 5 lectures). 3 “cuts” (6 lectures) mean automatic fail.
- You must complete the assigned reading from the required texts prior to each class session (see ‘the Course and Reading Schedule’).
- The Final Reading Report (use **the form** prepared) must be turned in at the last class day (July 25).
- See Handout 1 (“**How to Read Academic Texts Critically**”).

2. Discussion Papers and Readings for Discussion from Primary Source Reading: 45%

You are required to read the assigned primary source text and prepare a one-page discussion paper (approximately 600 words, single spaced) on each text for the class discussions.

Your paper should focus on the evidence which the text provides for understanding Christian beliefs, practices and attitudes of **its own time**.

After you use your paper during discussion session and submit it at the end of each class.

- Six Discussion Papers would be graded. (6 points x **6** = 36).
- Three Readings for Discussion: Participation score only (3 points x **3** = 9).

6 Discussion Papers (DP) and 3 Discussion Readings (DR)

- DP1** (July 8) Perpetua, “The Martyrdom of Perpetua and Felicitas” [CH500/Discussion Sources].
- DP2** (July 10) Athanasius, *On the Incarnation* (St. Vladimir Seminary Press, 2000). [book purchase].
- DRa** (July 11) Benedict, *The Rule of Benedict* (Liturgical Press) [book purchase].
- DP3** (July 14) Anselm, *Why God Became Human* [CH500/Discussion Sources].
- DP4** (July 17) Martin Luther, “The Babylonian Captivity of the Church (1520)” [CH500/Discussion Sources].
- DRb** (July 18) Philip Spener, “Pia Desideria,” *Pietists, Classics of Western Spirituality*, 31-49 [Course packet].
- DP5** (July 21) John Wesley, “Christian Perfection,” “On Perfection.” [Course Packet]
Sermon 40 “Christian Perfection (1741),” in *The Works of John Wesley*, vol 2: Sermons II 34-70, ed. Albert C. Outler (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1985).
Sermon 76 “On Perfection (1784),” in *The Works of John Wesley*, Vol 3: Sermons III 71-114, ed. Albert C. Outler (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1986).
- DRc** (July 24) William Carey, “An Enquiry into the Obligations of Christians to Use Means for the Conversion of the Heathens”. [CH500/Discussion Sources]
- DP6** (July 25) Paul Hattaway & als. *Back to Jerusalem: Three Chinese House Church Leaders Share Their Vision to Complete the Great Commission* [book purchase].

A Brief Guideline for discussion papers

(You can find example papers in our course center.)

- a. Write a very succinct background (who, where, when, why . . .) **in its own historical context**.

- b. Interact with the text (primary source) by highlighting several (if not a few) major points from the text.
- c. You can make some comments by interpreting and reflecting those points and/or by pointing out why and how they are significant and applicable for the theology of ministry.
- d. Make sure that you include bibliographical source information (footnotes or in-text notes) for both direct and indirect quotes in your paper.

On questions of writing style, see example papers (CH500/Example papers) and/or Handout 2 (“Turabian Style: Sample Footnotes and Bibliographic Entries”).

For more details see Kate L. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 6th ed. (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1996).

3. Final Take-Home Exam: 40 % (Due: July 31, 2008, 9am)

Your take-home exam is to be answered in essay form with footnotes and bibliography.

On questions of writing style, see Example papers (CH500/Example papers) and/or Handout 2 (“Turabian Style: Sample Footnotes and Bibliographic Entries”).

For more details see Kate L. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 6th ed. (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1996).

GRADING

A letter grade will be given based on the grades of work done.

A (95-100), **A-** (90-94),

B+ (87-89), **B** (83-86), **B-** (80-82),

C+ (77-79), **C** (73-76), **C-** (70-72),

D (60-69), **F** (less than 60).

From the 2006 *Catalog*:

A Exceptional work: surpassing or outstanding achievement of course objectives

B Good work: strong, significant achievement of course objectives

C Acceptable work: basic, essential achievement of course objectives

D Marginal work: inadequate, minimal achievement of course objectives

F Unacceptable work: failure to achieve course objectives.

COURSE AND READING SCHEDULE

Date	Topic	Reading Assignments		Primary Source Reading For Discussion Paper
		<i>Turning Points</i>	<i>The Story</i>	
S1 (July 7) Introduction and Overview	Introduction			
	Why Study Turning Points in Church History?	11-22	11-23	
S2 (July 8) After the Fall of Jerusalem (70)	Christianity's Conflict with State & Culture: Persecution, Martyrdom & Apologetics (Jewish, Hellenistic, & Latin Christianity)	25-46	25-67	Discussion Paper 1 "The Martyrdom of Perpetua and Felicitas" [CH500/Discussion Sources].
	Heresy and Church's Response: Canon, Apostolic, and Creeds		68-135	
S3 (July 10) Church & Empire: From Nicaea to Chalcedon (325-451) Video, 1	The Trinitarian Controversy: The Council of Nicaea (325) and the Council of Constantinople (381)	47-64	137-96	Discussion Paper 2 <i>Athanasius, The Incarnation of the Word of God.</i> [book purchase]
	The Christological Controversy: The Council of Chalcedon (451) and Afterwards	65-82	197-249	
S4 (July 11) Monastic Challenge (530) Video, 2a	Monastic Rescue and <i>The Rule of Benedict</i> (530)	83-105	251-77	Reading for Discussion <i>Benedict, The Rule of Benedict</i> [book purchase]
	Later Monastic Developments: Cluniac (10th), Cistercian (12th), and the Mendicants (13th)			
S5 (July 14) Christendom (800) and Scholasticism The Great Schism (1054) Video, 2b	The Culmination of Christendom (800) The Rise of Universities/Scholasticism	107-27	311-47	Discussion Paper 3 <i>Anselm, Why God Became Human</i> [CH500/Discussion Sources].
	The Great Schism Between East & West (1054): Eastern Orthodoxy & Roman Catholicism	129-50	278-310	
S6 (July 15) Age of Reform (1250-1550)	Conciliar Movement Mysticism and <i>Devotio Moderna</i> Independent Reform Movement		348-67	
	Nominalist Renewal & <i>Via Moderna</i> Revival of Classical Learning: Renaissance & Humanism			
S7 (July 17) The Beginnings of Protestantism (1521) Video, 3	Luther's Theology of the Cross	151-74	369-96	Discussion Paper 4 "The Babylonian Captivity of the Church (1520)." [CH500/Discussion Sources]
	Zwingli, Calvin, & the Anabaptists		397-428	

Date	Topic	Reading Assignments		Primary & Additional Sources
		<i>Turning Points</i>	<i>The Story</i>	
S8 (July 18) English (1534) & Catholic Reformation (1540) Video, 4a	The English Reformation (1534) Catholic/Counter Reformation (1540)	175-220	429-49	
	The Rise of Pietism (1675)	221-44	451-517	Reading for Discussion Philip Spener, “Pia Desideria,” <i>Pietists</i> , CWS, 31-49. [course packet]
S9 (July 21) The Wesleys’ Revival (1738) Holiness Revival Video, 4b	The Wesleys’ Evangelical Revival (1738) The First Great Awakening (1735)	"	"	Discussion Paper 5 John Wesley, Sermon 40 “Christian Perfection” and Sermon 76 “On Perfection.” [course packet]
	The 2nd & 3rd Great Awakenings Holiness Revival/Evangelicalism			
S10 (July 22) The French Revolution (1789) Response to Modernity (1901) Video, 5	The French Revolution (1789) and the Demise of Christendom Deism and Enlightenment	245-68	518-32	
	Liberals (Modernism) & Conservatives (Fundamentalism) to Modernity (1901)		533-69	
S11 (July 24) World Missionary Conference (1910) & Global Christianity Video, 6	Modern Missionary Movement (1792) World Missionary Conference (1910): Evangelical vs. Ecumenical		570-89	Reading for Discussion William Carey, “An Enquiry” [CH500/Discussion Sources]
	Karl Barth (1918) & Neo-Orthodoxy	269-94	590-613	
S12 (July 25) Pentecostal, Charismatic, and New Apostolic	Pentecostalism (1906) Charismatic Movement (1960) 3rd Wave & New Apostolic			Discussion Paper 6 Paul Hattaway, Brother Yun, and als., <i>Back to Jerusalem</i> [book purchase]
	Further Turning Points? Bible Translation; Women; Vatican II; Survival under Communism; Southern Christianity	295-316	"	
July 5 (Thursday)	Final Exam Due (3pm)			