

1-1-2001

# CH 501 Church History I

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## Recommended Citation

Chilcote, Paul W., "CH 501 Church History I" (2001). *Syllabi*. Book 602.  
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**CH 501  
CHURCH HISTORY I**

Fall Semester 2001  
ATS Florida  
Tuesday, 9:00-11:40 a.m.  
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**PURPOSE/DESCRIPTION**

The development of the Christian church from the Apostolic Period to the Reformation, with emphasis upon the central historical movements and theological issues of the period, with attention given to their relevance for contemporary ministry.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

1. To gain an appreciation for the Christian Tradition so as to locate oneself on the growing edge of a vast Christian heritage;
2. To acquire basic factual knowledge about the persons and events that shaped the history of the Christian Church;
3. To comprehend the issues that motivated the Church to develop its beliefs, practices, and structures and to grasp why, from time to time, the Church modified them;
4. To develop a panoramic understanding of Christian doctrine;
5. To work directly with important primary sources and develop skills of historical interpretation;
6. To view the present in the light of the prior beliefs and actions of the Christian community;
7. To evaluate one's Christian vocation in the light of the Christian tradition;
8. To gain insight into the nature of Christian ministry from mentors in the great cloud of witnesses.

**SCHEDULE/OUTLINE**

Tue Sep 04      Introductions/Overview  
                         A New Community of Faith  
                         Early Christianity & Ancient Culture

Reading: Story, xiii-xviii, 7-30; Acts 15

Tue Sep 11      The Challenge to Faith: Apostolic Fathers  
**Discussion:** Letter for Crises  
                         Persecution and the Apologetic Tradition  
                         Justin's *Apologia*

**Discussion**

Reading: Story, 31-57  
**Discussion Reading:**

Clement, "First Letter to the Corinthians," Staniforth, 19-51  
Or Ignatius, "Letters," Staniforth, 53-112  
Or Polycarp, "Letters," Staniforth, 113-24

***Reflection Paper Options:***

"The Martyrdom of Polycarp," Staniforth, 125-35  
"The Didache," Staniforth, 187-99  
"The Odes of Solomon," Charlesworth ed.  
"The Shepherd of Hermas," Lake (select any 50 pages)  
Justin, "First Apology," Richardson, 225-89  
"Epistle to Diognetus," Staniforth, 139-51  
*Quo Vadis* (1952 classic movie)

Tue Sep 18 Challenges to Second Century Christianity  
Gnosticism/Marcionism/Montanism  
The "Catholic Faith" Defined & Discussed: Irenaeus of Lyons

Reading: Story, 58-71

***Reflection Paper Options:***

Irenaeus, "Apostolic Preaching," Burghardt ed.  
Tertullian, "Prescriptions," Greenslade, 25-64

Tue Sep 25 Journey to Philippi  
Early Christian Worship  
Redefining God in the Church: Tertullian

Reading: Story, 73-77, 91-101

***Reflection Paper Options:***

"Egeria," Gingras trans., 89-128 (Chs. 24-49)  
"Didascalia," Brock & Vasey  
Tertullian, "Idolatry," Greenslade, 78-110

Tue Oct 02 The Birth of Imperial Christianity & Donatism  
Changes in Worship and Praxis  
The Alexandrian Tradition: Clement and Origen

Reading: Story, 71-73, 78-90, 102-8, 113-28, 151-57, 194-200

***Reflection Paper Options:***

Cyprian, "Unity of the Church," Greenslade, 119-46  
Cyprian, "Born to New Life," Davies ed.  
Serapion's Prayer-Book, Wordsworth ed., 60-95  
Chrysostom, "On the Priesthood"  
Origen, "On Prayer," Greer, 81-117 or 117-63  
Origen, "Song of Songs," Greer, 217-69

Tue Oct 09 Arianism and the Council of Nicaea (325)

Reading: Story, 129-35, 158-72, 251-61

**Reflection Paper Options:**

Athanasius, "The Incarnation," Hardy, 55-110

Gregory of Nazianzus, "Orations," Hardy, 160-93

K. McVey, *Ephrem the Syrian*

Tue Oct 16

**Early Church History Quiz**

The Birth of Christian Monasticism

Early Christian Practices of Prayer

**Discussion** and Practice

**Discussion**

Reading: Story, 136-50, 173-88

**Discussion Reading:**

Bondi, *To Pray and to Love*

**Reflection Paper Options:**

Athanasius, "Life of Antony," Gregg, 29-99

Ancient Hymns and Prayers

"Pseudo-Macarius," Maloney ed.

Tue Oct 23

The Latin Doctors

Augustine of Hippo

The Great Salvation Debate: Augustine vs. Pelagius

**Drama**

Reading: Story, 189-93, 201-19, 231-38

**Reflection Paper Options:**

Ambrose, "Letters," Greenslade, 190-258

Jerome, "Letters," Greenslade, 281-301, 312-44

Augustine, "Confessions," Books 5-10

Tue Oct 30

Christianity Beyond the Boundaries & Medieval Foundations

Celtic and Benedictine Christianity

**Discussion**

Reading: Story, 242-50, 261-65

**Discussion Reading:**

St. Benedict's *Rule*

**Reflection Paper Options:**

DeWaal, *Every Earthly Blessing*

*The Heliand*, ed. Murphy

*Bede*, ed. Van de Weyer

Steindl-Rast, *The Music of Silence*

Tue Nov 06

The Witness of Roswitha

Reform and Renewal in the Medieval Church

Mendicant Monasticism

**Drama**

Reading: Story, 238-42, 266-311

**Reflection Paper Options:**

Francis of Assisi (*Francis and Clare*, 25-106)

Clare of Assisi (*Francis and Clare*, 189-234)

Video Option: "Brother Sun, Sister Moon"

Tue Nov 13

Medieval Scholasticism

The Theological Synthesis of Thomas Aquinas

"Gothic: The Medieval Synthesis in Stone"

Reading: Story, 311-23

**Reflection Paper Options:**

Anselm, "Why God Became Man," Fairweather,

*A Scholastic Miscellany*, 100-83)

Aquinas, "On Grace," Fairweather, *Aquinas on Nature*

*And Grace*, 137-64, 182-202)

Bernard of Clairvaux, *On Loving God*

Video Option: "Becket"

READING WEEK BREAK

Tue Nov 27

The Road to Medieval Collapse

Mysticism and Medieval Women

**Medieval Church History Quiz**

**Discussion**

Reading: Story, 324-74

**Discussion Reading:**

Hildegard, *The Windows of Faith*

**Reflection Paper Options:**

Julian of Norwich, *Showings 13-14* (224-305)

Thomas à Kempis, *The Imitation of Christ*,

*Books 1-2* (31-99) Or *Books 3-4* (103-236)

Catherine of Genoa, *The Spiritual Dialogue Loving God*

Zagano, *Woman to Woman*, 6-35

Tue Dec 04

***The Second Shepherd's Play of the Wakefield Cycle***

**Drama**

Closing Eucharist

Tue Dec 11

Turn in Projects (No formal class session)

## RESOURCES

### Required Texts:

Justo Gonzalez, *The Story of Christianity*, Volume 1 (Story)  
Maxwell Staniforth, ed., *Early Christian Writings* (Staniforth)  
Roberta Bondi, *To Pray and to Love*  
Benedict of Nursia, *The Rule*  
Hildegard of Bingen, *Windows of Faith*

### Supplemental Texts:

James Charlesworth, ed., *The Odes of Solomon*  
Kirsopp Lake, ed., *Works of the Apostolic Fathers*, Vol. 2 (Lake)  
Cyril Richardson, ed., *Early Christian Fathers* (Richardson)  
*Egeria: Diary of a Pilgrimage*  
George Gingras, ed., *Didascalia*  
S. Greenslade, ed., *Early Latin Theology*  
S. Brock & M. Vasey, *Liturgical Portions of the* (Greenslade)  
Irenaeus, *Proof of the Apostolic Preaching* (ed. Burghardt)  
Cyprian, *Born to New Life* (ed. Davies)  
John Wordsworth, ed., *Bishop Serapion's Prayer-Book*  
Rowan Greer, ed., *Origen*  
Edward Hardy, ed., *Christology of the Later Fathers* (Hardy)  
Robert Gregg, ed., *Athanasius*  
John Chrysostom, *On the Priesthood*  
George Maloney, *Pseudo-Macarius*  
Augustine, *The Confessions* (ed. Chadwick)  
K. McVey, *Ephrem the Syrian*  
Esther DeWaal, *Every Earthly Blessing*  
Ronald Murphy, *The Heliand*  
Robert Van de Weyer, *Bede: Celtic and Roman Christianity*  
David Steindl-Rast, *The Music of Silence*  
*Francis and Clare: The Complete Works*  
E. R. Fairweather, ed., *A Scholastic Miscellany* (Fairweather)  
Bernard of Clairvaux, *On Loving God*  
A. M. Fairweather, ed., *Aquinas on Nature and Grace*  
Julian of Norwich, *Showings*  
Thomas à Kempis, *The Imitation of Christ*  
Catherine of Genoa, *The Spiritual Dialogue*  
P. Zagano, *Woman to Woman*

## Reference Works of Note:

Henry Chadwick, *The Early Church*  
E. L. Cross, ed., *The Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church*  
A. DiBerardino, ed., *Encyclopedia of the Early Church*, 2 vols.  
E. Ferguson, ed., *Encyclopedia of Early Christianity*  
Carol Lee Flinders, *Enduring Grace: Living Portraits of Seven Women Mystics*  
K. S. Latourette, *A History of Christianity*  
Joseph Lynch, *The Medieval Church*  
Ronald Southern, *Western Society and the Church*  
Williston Walker, *A History of the Christian Church*  
Frances Young, *The Making of the Creeds*

## REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATION

1. **General Class Participation** (10%). Your lively and informed participation in all class activities is valuable for you and contributes to the edification of all. Active involvement in class will be taken into account in determining final grades. There are four formal discussions scheduled in the syllabus.

Tue, Sep 11	Letters for Crises (Selections from Staniforth)
Tue, Oct 16	Bondi, <i>To Pray and to Love</i>
Tue, Oct 30	St. Benedict's <i>Rule</i>
Tue, Nov 27	Hildegard of Bingen, <i>Windows of Faith</i>

It is important that you read, study, and inwardly digest the assigned discussion readings for these sessions. Come to the discussion with your own one page set of questions and/or observations, to be turned in following discussion. Sometimes these discussions will take place in small groups; sometimes within the context of the entire class.

2. **Reflection Papers** (40%). Each student is required to write/complete *two* Reflection Papers/Projects. Each assignment is due on the day indicated in the syllabus. No exceptions! This requirement can be completed by exercising a number of options. There are lots of choices! Each assignment is worth 20% of your final grade. The options are:

A. **Reflection Paper.** At the end of the syllabus you will note "Reflection Options." There are many reading options (including 3 viewing options). The Reflection Paper is essentially a 5-6 page (typed and double-spaced) historical/textual analysis of a "reading" from these listings (or any other approved by the instructor). A "Guideline" for this exercise will be distributed on the first day of class.

B. **Creative Reflection.** Some of you may have a creative bent that you would like to exercise. Therefore, you may choose to do some sort of creative reflection on any one, but no more than one of these assignments. "Creative reflection" is a term that covers a

multitude of possibilities! You may wish to submit poetry, artwork, dramas, multi-media or power point presentations, music, liturgical items, etc., etc. The only stipulation associated with this option is that:

1. you submit an “Abstract” of the text upon which you are reflecting (see Reflection Paper Guidelines), and
2. you include a concise narrative of two pages describing your project and its meaning in light of the topic/text.

C. **History Comes to Life Drama.** You may choose to participate in a small group re-enactment of an important “historical” event. There are three such opportunities, as follows:

1. The Great Salvation Debate (Tue, Oct 23)
2. The Roswitha Play (Tue, Nov 6)
3. *The Second Shepherd’s Play* (Tue, Dec 4)

Students may participate in no more than one of the dramas.

D. **Individual Options.** Any other creative options can be explored in consultation with the instructor. You may wish to prepare a biographical “first person” presentation or a “traditional” lecture/presentation on a topic of interest. Feel free to broach your own ideas!

3. **Quizzes (20%).** There will be two objective quizzes that cover the material of the course. Each quiz will be valued at 10% of the final grade and will be administered:

Tue	Oct 16	<b>Early Church History Quiz</b>
Tue	Nov 27	<b>Medieval Church History Quiz</b>

4. **Final Practical Project (30%).** The final component of the course is a practical project, due no later than Thursday, Dec. 11. The purpose of this project is to translate your learning from the course into something that is relevant and pertinent to your ministry. The project can take many forms. You may wish to focus on a particular figure, event, or theme. You may wish to prepare a broad survey of an era or period. Whatever the focus of the project, the point is to bring the treasures of the past to life in your own contextual setting, to help the people you are called to serve fall in love with their story!

The standards of conduct that are articulated in the Student Handbook concerning academic matters are important to the integrity of our community and the high ethical standards we expect of those who are preparing for Christian ministry. Abuse of these policies will be handled accordingly. In addition to these standards, it is important for you to realize that due dates will be strictly enforced, both for your good and for mine. If you encounter difficulties in the ordering of your tasks and responsibilities, the critical key is to “talk to me.” In most cases you



will find me extremely empathetic and supportive. I want to help you learn and progress toward your goals related to ministry. If you don't communicate your need for an "extension" before a due date, I have no recourse but to penalize for the late work. Please, talk to me!

**The story of Christianity  
is not only old; it is also ever new.  
In each age it must be told afresh . . .  
Each generation of historians can say of its predecessors:  
'Without us they cannot be made perfect.'  
No historian can hope to give the final  
or definitive account of the  
course of Christianity.**

*Prepare to meet some fabulous mentors in the faith  
As we make our journey together!*