

1-1-2006

## CH 500 Turning Points in Church History

Meesaeng Lee Choi

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### Recommended Citation

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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): 859-887-2828

[meesaeng\\_choi@asburyseminary.edu](mailto:meesaeng_choi@asburyseminary.edu)

Fall 2006

3 credit hour units

Class: Wednesdays, 2:30-5:30pm

Office Hours: Tuesdays 9-11am

(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*, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 CH500/Course Center.

## **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: 17%**

- 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 Reading Report** (use **the form** prepared) must be turned in at the beginning of each class period.
- See Handout 1 (“**How to Read Academic Texts Critically**”).

### **2. Discussion Papers and Readings for Discussion from Primary Source Reading: 38%**

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

Your discussion 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.

- Five Discussion Papers would be graded. (6 points x **5** = 30).
- Four Readings for Discussion: Participation score (2 points x **4** = 8).

#### **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 (CH500W1/Course Center/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).

### **5 Discussion Papers (DP) and 4 Discussion Readings (DR)**

**DP1** (Sep 13) Perpetua, “The Martyrdom of Perpetua and Felicitas”. [CH500W1/Course center/Discussion Sources]

**DP2** (Sep 20) Athanasius, *On the Incarnation* (St. Vladimir Seminary Press, 2000). [book purchase]

- DR (Sep 27) Benedict, *The Rule of Benedict* (Liturgical Press). [book purchase]  
DR (Oct 4) Anselm, *Why God Became Human*. [CH500W1/Course center]  
**DP3** (Oct 25) Martin Luther, "The Bablylonian Captivity of the Church (1520)," free electronic version, 1-34. [CH500W1/Course center] or [Course packet]  
DR (Nov 1) Philip Spener, "Pia Desideria," *Pietists*, Classics of Western Spirituality, 31-49. [Course packet]  
**DP4** (Nov 8) John Wesley, "Christian Perfection (1741)," "On Perfection (1784)." [Course Packet]  
**Sermon 40** "Christian Perfection," in *The Works of John Wesley*, vol 2: Sermons II 34-70, ed. Albert C. Outler (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1985).  
**Sermon 76** "On Perfection," in *The Works of John Wesley*, Vol 3: Sermons III 71-114, ed. Albert C. Outler (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1986).  
DR (Nov 29) William Carey, "An Enquiry into the Obligations of Christians to Use Means for the Conversion of the Heathens". [CH500W1/Course center]  
**DP5** (Dec 6) Paul Hattaway, Brother Yun, Peter Su Yongze and Enoch Wang, *Back to Jerusalem: Three Chinese House Church Leaders Share Their Vision to Complete the Great Commission* (Gabriel Publishing, 2003), chapters 1-4, 8-9.

### 3. Mid-term (21%) & Final Take-Home Exam (24%): 45%

Take-home exams are to be answered in essay form with footnotes and bibliography. On questions of writing style, see Example Papers (CH500W1/Course Center/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).

**Mid-term Exam Due: Oct 18, 2006, 5:30pm**

**Final Exam Due: Dec 15, 2006, 2pm**

## 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 2005-06 Catalog, 30-31:

- 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>	
<b>S1 (Sep 6)</b> Introduction and Overview	Introduction			
	Why Study Turning Points in Church History?	11-22	11-23	
<b>S2 (Sep 13)</b> The Fall of Jerusalem (70)	Christianity's Conflict with State & Culture: Persecution, Martyrdom & Apologetics (Jewish, Hellenistic, & Latin Christianity)	25-46	25-67	"The Martyrdom of Perpetua and Felicitas" [CH500/course center].
	Heresy and Church's Response: Canon, Apostolic, and Creeds		68-135	
<b>S3 (Sep 20)</b> Church & Empire: From Nicaea to Chalcedon (325-451) Video, 1	The Trinitarian Controversy: The Council of Nicaea (325) and of Constantinople (381)	47-64	137-96	Athanasius, <i>The Incarnation of the Word of God</i> . [book purchase]
	The Christological Controversy: The Council of Chalcedon (451)	65-82	197-249	
<b>S4 (Sep 27)</b> Monastic Challenge (530) Video, 2	Monastic Rescue and <i>The Rule of Benedict</i> (530)	83-105	251-77	Benedict, <i>The Rule of Benedict</i> . [book purchase]
	Later Monastic Developments: Cluniac (10 <sup>th</sup> ), Cistercian (12 <sup>th</sup> ), and the Mendicants (13 <sup>th</sup> )			
<b>S5 (Oct 4)</b> Christendom (800) Scholasticism The Great Schism (1054)	The Culmination of Christendom (800) The Rise of Universities and Scholasticism	107-27	311-47	Anselm, <i>Why God Became Human</i> [CH500/course center].
	The Great Schism Between East and West (1054): Eastern Orthodoxy and Roman Catholicism	129-50	278-310	
<b>S6 (Oct 11)</b> Age of Reform (1250-1550)	Conciliar Movement Mysticism and <i>Devotio Moderna</i> Independent Reform Movement		348-67	
	Nominalist Renewal and <i>Via Moderna</i> Revival of Classical Learning: Renaissance and Humanism			
<b>Oct 18</b>	<b>No Class</b> <b>Mid-term Exam Due (5:30pm)</b>			

Date	Topic	Reading Assignments		Primary & Additional Sources
		Turning Points	The Story	
<b>S7 (Oct 25)</b> The Beginnings of Protestantism (1521) Video, 3	Luther's Theology of the Cross	151-74	369-96	"The Babylonian Captivity of the Church (1520)." [course packet]
	Zwingli, Calvin, and the Anabaptists		397-428	
<b>S8 (Nov 1)</b> English (1534) and Catholic (1540) Reformation Video, 4a	The English Act of Supremacy (1534) Catholic or Counter Reformation (1540)	175-220	429-49	
	The Rise of Pietism (1675)	221-44	451-517	Philip Spener, "Pia Desideria," <i>Pietists</i> , CWS, 31-49. [course packet]
<b>S9 (Nov 8)</b> The Wesleys' Revival (1738) Holiness Revival Video, 4b	The Wesleys' Evangelical Revival (1738) The First Great Awakening (1735)	"	"	John Wesley, Sermon 40 "Christian Perfection" and Sermon 76 "On Perfection." [course packet]
	The Second and Third Great Awakenings Holiness Revival/Evangelicalism			
<b>S10 (Nov 15)</b> 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) and Conservatives (Fundamentalism) to Modernity (1901)		533-69	
<b>Nov 22</b>	Thanksgiving Break			
<b>S11 (Nov 29)</b> World Missionary Conference (1910) & Global Christianity Video, 6a	Karl Barth (1918) and Neo-Orthodoxy		570-89	
	Modern Missionary Movement (1792) World Missionary Conference (1910): Evangelical vs. Ecumenical	269-94	590-613	William Carey, "An Enquiry" [CH500/course center].
<b>S12 (Dec 6)</b> Pentecostal and Charismatic, Video, 6b	Pentecostalism (1906); Charismatic Movement (1960); New Apostolic			
	Further Turning Points of the 20 <sup>th</sup> Century: Bible Translation; Women; Vatican II; Survival under Communism; Southern Christianity	295-316	"	Paul Hattaway, Brother Yun, and als., <i>Back to Jerusalem</i> [book purchase]
<b>Dec 15</b>	<b>Final Exam Due (2pm)</b>			