

1-1-2004

CH 501 Church History I

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CHURCH HISTORY I (CH501)

Fall, 2004 3 hours

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Tuesdays 9-11:40 a.m.

This syllabus may be amended prior to the beginning of class.

WELCOME

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.

Instructing students in church history is for me to join with you in exploring and sharing in the odyssey of a remarkable company of women and men; it is to communicate the heritage of the living message of the Body of Christ to its reigning Lord. It is to acknowledge our dependence upon that mighty cloud of witnesses (Hebrews 12:1) who have given testimony by word, deed, and life to His claim upon this universe. It is to recognize that we are not alone in ministry; instead, it is to discover that there are vital resources from the past that might empower and guide each of us who seeks to become a partaker in that vital company of the committed—a vehicle through which God has incredibly transformed this planet over the past two millennia. It is a company filled with its share of failures as well as achievements in faith, and our awareness of both can hopefully enhance our capacity to live out our ministry with discernment and greater faithfulness to the Lord of the Church.

Prepare to meet some fabulous mentors in the faith

As we make our journey together!

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is an introduction to the development of Christianity from the Apostolic Period to the Reformation. Emphasis is placed upon the central historical figures and theological issues, with attention given to their importance form Christian ministry today. Major primary texts and interpretive studies will be read.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. To understand and appreciate the Christian tradition so the student recognizes that our generation lives on the growing edge of a vast Christian heritage.
2. To acquire basic factual knowledge of the persons, places, dates, events, and movements 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 understand the evolution of Christian doctrine and to learn to discern between form and content.
5. To appreciate the importance of primary sources and the nature and effects 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.

COURSE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

During this semester, I expect that you will be able to 1) identify the major historical figures and movements which have contributed significantly to the formation of the doctrinal and institutional expressions of Early and Medieval Christianity; 2) explain the significant issues involved in clarifying the Person and work of Jesus Christ in the first five centuries after Christ, which took shape in the context of the quest to define orthodoxy over against heresy; 3) recognize and evaluate the major issues involved in the effort of the Christian Church to relate to the social and political structures of the ancient and medieval worlds; 4) explore and assess the different concepts of soteriology that emerged in the East and the West in this period; 5) examine the developing views of authority (both institutional and doctrinal) that were formulated to provide grounding for the several theological and ethical systems that predominated in early and medieval Christianity; (5) gain an introduction to non-Western expressions of Christian culture, in their historical development; and 6) to write about your understanding of these issues with increased precision and insight.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS AND REQUIREMENTS

- Submit a reading report on the date of the final exam. (5)

- There will be occasional discussion questions to be answered in groups, based on the readings and lectures.
- There will be three exams primarily on the content of Irvin and Sunquist, and secondarily on the lectures. Questions will be short answer in nature, to be answered in a paragraph (correct grammar) of 50-150 words (max), unless otherwise indicated (75).
- Participation (20).

More than two unexcused absences will result in one letter grade reduction.

Grading: Points will be assigned for the completion of the above course requirements as follows:

Exam 1	25
Exam 2	25
Exam 3	25
Participation	20
Reading Report	5
	100

- 90-100%=A
- 80-89%= B
- 70-79%=C
- 60-69%=D
- below 59%=F

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

Bettenson, Henry. *Documents of the Christian Church*. (Oxford paperback, second ed.). This is a record of crucial letters and texts of official church proclamations that shaped the direction of church leadership in the history of the church.

Gonzalez, Justo, *The Story of Christianity*, Vol. I (Abingdon; paper ed.). For use in elaborating theological developments at crucial junctures.

Irvin, Dale, and Sunquist, Scott, eds., *History of the World Christian Movement, Earliest Christianity to 1453*, Orbis, 2001 (Abbr. HWCM). Main secondary textbook.

Kerr, Hugh T., ed. *Readings in Christian Thought*. (Abingdon paper ed.). A concise collection of selected texts illustrating style and message of major writers in the history of Christian thought through the modern era.

Note: the first and fourth texts will be used through the second semester.

Collateral texts:

Rand McNally Historical Atlas of the World (paperback ed.)

Recognizing that this course is primarily an introduction to the history of Christianity, we are also provided with an attached bibliography of primary and secondary works that will enable us to begin an ongoing reading program in the literature of the history of the church (ATS library call numbers are included). I would encourage you to begin building a good library with tools that will be useful to you on a long-term basis. Be sure to allocate enough time and resources to acquire the tools you need.

READING AND LECTURE SCHEDULE

You are strongly encouraged to start early and keep up with our reading schedule (and even get ahead!). Another reading tip that will be important in our learning is to read an assignment early in the week in which it is to be Discussed.

Week One

(Sept. 7)

The Fullness of Time: The First Hundred Years

- HWCM, 1-46

Week Two

(Sept. 14)

Early Christian Expansion Amid Opposition

- Kerr, 1-2 (=Section numbers)
- Bettenson, pages 1 - 6
- HWCM, 47-97, 118-top 121

Week Three

(Sept. 21)

Heresy and the Formation of Orthodoxy

- Kerr, 3-5
- Bettenson, pp 7-14 (so section “J”), 23-24 (section “a” and “b”), 29-33, 35-38.
- HWCM, 102-136, and review Irenaeus on 72, 74f, and Alexandrian thought on 89f; Gonzalez, 58-81

Week Four

(Sept. 28)

Pastoral Care, Worship, and Church Life in the Apostolic Church

- Bettenson, pp. 62-77 (through Cyprian)
- HWCM, 137-153.
- **EXAM 1**

Week Five

(Oct. 5)

Constantine and the Response of the Christian Community

- Bettenson, pp. 15 (starting with “I”)-19 (through section “o”), 77-79
- HWCM, 160-172 and pages 209-214 (on Donatist and monastic responses to Constantine)

Week Six

(Oct. 12)

Arius and the Age of Nicea

- Kerr, 8 (creeds 1, 2, & 4), 83-5 (Vincentian Canon)
- Bettenson, 38-44
- HWCM, 173-183, 184-187; Gonzalez. 158-167, 173-180

Week Seven

(Oct. 19)

Augustine and the End of an Era

- Kerr 6

- Bettenson, I, 6
- HWCM, 231-234, Gonzalez, 207-219

Week Eight

(Oct. 26)

Theology East and West: Christological Controversy in the East and the Dawn of a New Day in the West

- Kerr, 8 (third creed)
- Bettenson, pp.44-52, 89 (section “a”), 97-101, 117-128;(collateral: Gonzalez, 251-261)
- HWCM, 187-208, 214-231and 234-239, 240-254

Week Nine

(Nov. 2)

Review

EXAM 2

Week Ten

(Nov. 9)

New Challenges in the East and the Making of Western Christendom

- Bettenson, 97-117
- HWCM, 257-283, 323-353; Gonzalez, 266-272

Week Eleven

(Nov. 16)

Christianity in the Aftermath of Islam

- Bettenson, 104 (“c”), 111 (“a”), 128-132
- HWCM, (collateral: 289-295), 295-304, 360-380, 383-405, 406-422

Reading Week, Nov. 22-26.

Week Twelve

(Nov. 30)

Scholastic Theology and the Decline of the West

- HWCM, 423-449, 476-504; Gonzalez, 311-323, 342-365
- Bettenson, 137-151, 135-136, 173-179
- Kerr, 9, 10, 12, 14, 15

Week Thirteen

(Dec. 7)

New Christian Horizons

- HWCM, 305-322, 450-475
- Kerr, 17-19

Week Fourteen

(Dec. 14)

- Review
- **EXAM 3**

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I. EARLY CHURCH

A. Documents:

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2. Cox, A. C., ed., The Ante-Nicene Fathers, (10 volumes, 1884-86)
3. Kidd, B. J., Documents . . . (3 volumes, 1920-23)
4. Quaston, J., and J. C. Plumpe, eds., Ancient Christian Writers, (in process 1946-)
5. Schaff, P. and Wace, H., eds., The Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers, (14 volumes, second series: 1890-95)
6. Stevenson, J., ed., A New Eusebius: Documents Illustrative of the History of the Church to A.D. 337, (paper, 1957)
7. Wright, F. A., Fathers of the Church, (Latin fathers only, 1929)

B. Theological Interpretations:

1. Barnard, L., Studies in the Apostolic Fathers and Their Background, (1966)
2. Bethune-Baker, J. F., An Introduction to the Early History of Christian Doctrine, (1951)
3. Campenhausen, H. E. Von, The Fathers of the Greek Church, (1963)
4. _____, The Fathers of the Latin Church, (1964)
5. Danielou, J., Origin, (1955)
6. Grillmeier, Alois, Christ in Christian Tradition from the Apostolic Age to Chalcedon 451, (1965)
7. Kelly, J. N. D., Early Christian Doctrines, (1958)
8. Lietzmann, Hans, The Beginnings of the Christian Church, (1937)
9. Little, V. A., The Christology of the Apologists, (1935)
10. Morgan, James, The Importance of Tertullian in the Development of Christian Dogma, (1928)
11. Torrance, T. F., The Doctrine of Grace in the Apostolic Fathers, (194)
12. Turner, M. C. The Patristic Doctrine of Redemption, (1952)
13. Wingren, Gustav, Man and the Incarnation: A Study in the Biblical Theology of Irenaeus, (1959)

II. THE MEDIEVAL CHURCH

A. Documents:

1. Bettenhouse, R. W., ed., A Companion to the Study of St. Augustine, (1955)
2. Gilby, T., ed., St. Thomas Aquinas, (1960)
3. McKeen, Richard, ed., Selections from Medieval Philosophers I. Augustine to Albert the Great, (1957)
4. Ryan, J. K., and B. H. Bonansea, eds., John Duns Scotus, (1965)
5. Schaff, P., and J. Wace, eds., The Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers, (14 vol. 1890-95)

B. Theological Interpretations:

1. Gilson, Etienne, A History of Christian Philosophy in the Middle Ages, (1955)
2. _____, The Christian Philosophy of St. Augustine, (1961)
3. _____, The Philosophy of Thomas Aquinas, 1929)
4. Kelly, J. N., The Athanasian Creed, (1964)

5. Knowles, David, The Evolution of Medieval Thought, (1962)
6. MacIntyre, John, St. Anselm and His Critics, (1954)
7. Moody, E. A., The Logic of William of Ockham, (1935)
8. Murray, A. V., Abelard and St. Bernard, (1967)
9. Obermann, H. A., Forerunners of the Reformation: The Shape of Late Medieval Thought, (1967)
10. Underhill, Evelyn, Mysticism, (1950)
11. Workman, H. B., The Evolution of the Monastic Ideal, (1927)

III. THE CHURCH FROM THE TIME OF THE REFORMATION

A. Documents: Arranged by Subjects:

1. Pauck, W., ed., Luther's Lectures on Romans: Library of Christian Classics XV, (1961)
2. Rupp, E. G., ed., Luther and Erasmus on Free Will: Library of Christian Classics XV, (1961)
3. Tappert, T. G., ed., Luther's Letters of Spiritual Counsel: Library of Christian Classics, XVIII, (1955) BR331 E5 T3
4. Torrance, T. F., ed., Luther's Early Theological Works: Library of Christian Classics, XVI, (1962) BR330 E4
5. McNeill, J. T., ed., Calvin: Institutes of the Christian Religion: Library of Christian Classics, XX, XXI, (1960) BX9420 I65
6. Reid, J. K. S., ed., Calvin: Theological Treatises, Library of Christian Classics, XXII, (1964) BX9420 T68
7. Haroutunian, J., ed., Calvin: Commentaries: Library of Christian Classics, XXIII BS485 C333
8. Thompson, B., ed., Liturgies of the Western Church, (1965)
9. Pauck, W., ed., Melanchthon and Bucer: Library of Christian Classics, XIX BR336 L62
10. Hutterian Brethren, eds., The Chronicle of the Hutterian Brethren (1987) BX8129 H8 G67
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15. Ferm, R.L. ed., Readings in the History of Christian Thought (see representatives of Modern Era), (1964) BT10F4.
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17. Tappert, T. G., ed., Spener, Pia Desideric, (1964 ed.) BR1650 A2 S613
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19. Smith, J. E., ed., Edwards: A Treatise Concerning Religious Affections (1959) BX7230 E4
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2. Dannenfeldt, Karl H., The Church of Renaissance and Reformation: Decline and Reform From 1300 to 1600 (1970) BR280 D33
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4. Hillerbrand, Hans Joachim, Christendom Divided: the Protestant Reformation BR305.2 H49
5. Kingdon, Robert McCune, Transition and Revolution: Problems and Issues of European Renaissance and Reformation History (1974) BR309 K5
6. Oberman, Heiko Augustinius, The Roots of Anti-Semitism in the Age of Renaissance and Reformation (1984) BM535 O2413
7. Oxment, Steven E., The Age of Reform (1980) BR270 O9
8. Schribner, Robert W., For the Sake of Simple Folk: Popular Propaganda for the German Reformation (1981) BR307 S464
9. Torrence, T.F., Kingdom and Church: A Study in the Theology of the Reformation BV600 T58
10. Dowey, E. A., The Knowledge of God in Calvin's Theology, (1952) BX9418 D64
11. Van Buren, Paul, Christ in our Place: The Substitutionary Character of Calvin's Doctrine of Reconciliation, (1957) BT198 V3
12. Wendel, F., Calvin, (1963) BX9418 W3833
13. Littell, F., The Anabaptist View of the Church, (1958) BX4931 L5

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28. Cragg, G. R., The Church and the Age of Reason, (1966) BR455 C72

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