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CH 501 X Church History I

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CHURCH HISTORY I (CH501XL)

Summer 2008 - 3 Credit Hours

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Note: “The development of this extended learning syllabus is intended for distribution to members of the course and others by my permission. It is not intended for general distribution on the Internet. Permission to copy, in whole or in part, must be requested from the professor.”

Welcome to our great Christian heritage class, CH501XL (Church History I). I am looking forward to joining with you in this learning venture. We will have an opportunity to study the development of the global Christian church that Jesus Christ has built and the gates of Hades will not overcome (Matthew 16:18). We will examine the theological issues of the primary texts in their own historical contexts. The story of the last two millennia that are full of examples of men and women can challenge, encourage, and teach us. Our study of the history of the world Christianity will provide an understanding of the present state of Christianity/Christian Church and insights and wisdom for the future.

Preliminaries: Although I have taught the online course last several years, I still have much to learn about teaching and working in an online environment, especially due to some changes. I would ask that you extend some grace to me as we learn to communicate and work in this medium. I will be also looking forward to your comments on the class. Are the assignments and discussions working? Are you having problems? Are your minds and hearts moved by some insights and wisdom from your study? Let me know.

OFFICE HOURS (Where do you find me?)

I will be keeping online office hours on Wednesday afternoons from about 2 pm to 4 pm Eastern Time and Friday mornings from 11am-12pm. During this time, I will be logged into the system, and I will be responding to all of your postings (in the order in which they were received). I will also be checking on the class periodically throughout the week. However, Thursday is my writing day, and I am not available to students on that day.

I will let you know if I am going to be away during my office hours. Please let me know if you will be away for any extended periods as well. We can also arrange times to speak via telephone either during my office hours or by special appointment. Just let me know if you would like to set that up.

ExL SUPPORT TEAM

ExL Contact Information:

For **general questions regarding the ExL program**, contact **Dale Hale** at ExL_Office@asburyseminary.edu

For **technical support**, contact **Information Commons** at 1-866-454-2733 or Information_Commons@asburyseminary.edu

For **library research support**, contact the Information Commons at 1-866-454-2733 or Information_Commons@asburyseminary.edu

For **library loans**, contact Library Loan at Library_Loan@asburyseminary.edu

Obtaining Library Materials and Assistance

1. General Questions: Information_Commons@asburyseminary.edu, or Toll-free 1-866-454-2733

This is the best place to start when you have questions about library resources. Help is available Monday-Thursday from 8am – 7pm and Friday and Saturday from 8am - 5:45pm. If the people at the Information Commons desk cannot answer your questions, they will direct you to the person or department who can.

2. Materials Requests: Library_Loan@asburyseminary.edu, or Toll-free 1-866-454-2733

ExL Students may request books, photocopies or email attachments of journal articles/reference books from Asbury Seminary's Library. Please allow 3-10 business days for all requests to be filled. Contact the library loan office for information on costs and instructions on how to make requests.

ExL students are also encouraged to make use of local library resources. Students who live within a 50 mile radius of either the Florida or the Wilmore campus should come to campus to obtain their materials.

3. Research Questions: Information_Commons@asburyseminary.edu

Or call the toll-free number and then **Information Commons x2233**.

ExL students are encouraged to contact Information Commons for advanced research assistance including help choosing a paper topic, determining the best sources to use for a paper, finding book reviews, or research questions about using the online databases or any other library materials.

4. Online Databases:

To access the online library resources including the library catalog and full-text journal databases, go to <http://www.asburyseminary.edu/information> and enter your 10-digit student ID# number in the login box. Your student ID# is provided on the biographical information section of the student registration webpage. Add a 2 and enough 0's to the front to make a 10-digit number (20000XXXXX where XXXXX = your student id). If you have questions, contact the Information Commons.

HOW TO SUBMIT YOUR ASSIGNMENT

When submitting assignments to the appropriate assignment links, please use the following formula to name your attached file: **Your last name followed by DP** for discussion paper followed by the number, 1, 2, 3, etc., **MQ** for module question, and **FE** for final exam. For example, if I were turning in my first discussion paper using an attachment I would call it **ChoiDP#1** (For my first Module Question answer, **ChoiMQ#1**). Your assistance in this way will help me keep all the papers that I get in order. Thanks.

ONLINE SECTION DESCRIPTIONS AND COMMUNICATION GUIDELINES

The Virtual Classroom is built upon the open-source Moodle platform. By logging into <http://virtual.asburyseminary.edu> you will have access to this course and be able to collaborate with participant-colleagues and me throughout the course. The following are functions with which you should familiarize yourself:

1. The **Course Information Center** contains many features to be used throughout the semester:
 - a) **Course News and Announcements**, where I will post items important for the entire class;
 - b) **Syllabus**, where a copy of the syllabus is provided;
 - c) **To Professor**, which is a way for you to post a message directly to me and we can discuss an issue privately;
 - d) **Course Questions**, which is a public forum where you can publicly post any questions you have regarding the course so others may see your message and respond. Anytime you have a question or comment about the course, the schedule, the assignments, or anything else that may be of interest to other participants and me you should post it to the Course Questions Forum;
 - e) **Prayer Forum**, which is a public forum where you can post prayer concerns and praises for all to see. This is a way for us to build community;
 - f) **Open Forum**, which is a public forum where you can post anything that is not course-related for all to see. Examples include someone getting married, an upcoming birthday, discussions on topics not course-related, etc. This is a way for us to build community.
2. **Modules**, which are located below the Course Information Center, will contain forums where group discussions will take place, documents or other files to download or view online, and assignment links where you will post your assignments to me. Modules will be clearly labeled so you can follow along during the semester.
3. **Resources**, a section located on the left side, provides links to items you may want to use often in the semester.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is an introduction to the development of the Christianity from the Apostolic Period to the dawn of the Reformation. Emphasis is placed upon the central historical movements, figures, and theological issues of the period from the global perspective, with attention to their relevance for Christian ministry today. Major primary texts and interpretive studies will be read and reflected.

LEARNING GOALS (Adopted from the Area of Church History, ATS)

A. General Learning Goals

- 1) To feel and appreciate the Christian Tradition so the student understands that our generation lives on the growing edge of a **vast Christian heritage**.
- 2) To grasp the normative historical expressions of the church that defined its community and mission. The historical traditions developed within the history of Christianity will

- be related to the challenges to, and opportunities for, Christian ministry today.
- 3) To acquire **basic factual knowledge** of the persons, places, dates, events, and movements that shaped the history of the Christian Church.
 - 4) 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.
 - 5) To understand the development of Christian doctrine with respect to scripture and tradition and to learn to discern between form and content.
 - 6) To appreciate the **importance of primary sources** and the nature and **effects of historical interpretation**.
 - 7) To view the present in the light of the prior beliefs and actions of the Christian community.
 - 8) To evaluate one's Christian vocation in the light of the historical and theological currents of the Christian tradition.
 - 9) To gain insight into the nature and practice of Christian ministry.
 - 10) To grasp **the global aspects of the Christian movement** and acquire insight into the multi-ethnic and cross-cultural nature of ministry.
 - 11) To participate in the task of developing capable and effective Christian leadership for the contemporary church, which will maintain its faithfulness to its vital heritage.

B. Specific Learning Goals

- 1) To identify the **key historical periods** of the pre-Reformation church.
- 2) To demonstrate an understanding of the **major heresies** that confronted the early Christian community, especially in terms of their departure from scripture.
- 3) To grasp the importance of the early **ecumenical councils**.
- 4) To clarify the meaning of **heresy, error, and schism** with applications to Christian ministry today.
- 5) To survey the essential components of **early Christian music and worship** in the light of their relevance to the contemporary church.
- 6) To explain the developments in church polity, which gave rise to the **monarchical episcopacy** and ultimately the **medieval ecclesiastical hierarchy**.
- 7) To distinguish the Apostolic Fathers, the Apologists, and major Church Fathers in terms of their key representatives and theological tasks.
- 8) To reflect critically on the issues of **church and state relations** during the early and medieval centuries.
- 9) To articulate **the monastic vision** and its impact on Christianity.
- 10) To explore the interplay between church and culture as leading theologians developed their theologies, with a view to current applications in Christian ministry, and also including an examination of the rise of **non-Western traditions** of Christianity in their historical development.
- 11) To gain a basic understanding of **Eastern Orthodoxy**.
- 12) To explain **the nature of Islam** and its challenge to Christianity.
- 13) To acquire an understanding of the **types of scholasticism**.
- 14) To trace the evolution of the papacy.
- 15) To describe the late medieval movements of protest and understand the rise of the Renaissance and Humanism that ran parallel to the waning of the Middle Ages.
- 16) To situate **the Wesleyan tradition** in the broader streams of Church History.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATION

All written work must be submitted **on time**. Late papers will be applied an automatic graduated grade deduction and will receive no written comments. **Inclusive languages** are encouraged for class discussions and **required** for all written work.

1. A Reading Report

An email reading report, which indicates that you have completed all of the required reading, is due on August 22nd (**by 11:55 p.m. EST**), **the last day of the semester**, in the *appropriate assignment link*. Failure to read all of the assignments will result in grade reduction. For example, if you leave out one hundred pages from the Irvin and Sunquist text, then instead of receiving an “A-” you will receive a “B+.” If you leave out more material, then the grade will fall even lower.

Additional Reading Sources are available on our **Virtual Campus Classroom**.

Bernard McGinn, *The Growth of Mysticism*, 149-57 (Crossroads, 1998)

2. A Historical/Theological Autobiography (5%)

Write a one-page personal theological history (500 words, a personal inventory in the church/movement context), reflecting your own journey around Christian communities (traditions, churches, mission organizations, para-church movements and so on). What might be one or two central theological themes that have given you interests, questions, and challenges in your life, study, and ministry? You are to post your autobiography to the appropriate forum by **11:55 p.m. EST on Monday (June 9th)**.

3. Class Participation (30%)

Class participation and completion of the assigned tasks (readings) will count as **30% of your grade**. I pose a key question (or questions) in each module (3%). You should consider this query in light of your readings and experience and attempt to respond to it in **the appropriate forum on a weekly basis**. I am looking for theological reflection, the ability to think globally, and the capacity both to see the larger picture of church history and to make appropriate connections. Be creative, feel free in your deliberations and do have fun. A suitable response might be composed of a paragraph or two of about 200 words per question. Try not to be too wordy. I look for quality of thought and reflection not quantity of words. You must post your response by **11:55 p.m. EST on Thursdays**.

4. Six Discussion Papers from Primary Source Reading for Group Discussions (30%)

You are required to read the assigned primary source text and prepare a one or two page position paper on each text for the class discussions (approximately 600-800 words, **single spaced**, with a standard 12-point font like Times New Roman and **one inch margins**). The discussion paper should focus on the evidence, which the text provides for understanding ancient Christian beliefs, practices and attitudes.

First, post your papers to the appropriate assignment link and post them for group discussion in the appropriate forum (by **11:55 p.m. EST** on the following assigned **Tuesdays: June 10; June 17; July 1; July 15; August 12; August 19**). Read the papers of other members of your group, and make constructive comments in about 50-100 words and post your comments during the same week. I will provide links to online resources within our Virtual Campus classroom.

4 papers (**DP1**, DP2 or DP3, DP4 or 5, **DP6**) will be graded (each paper is worth 6 point: **6 x 4=24**) and 2 papers will be pass/fail (each is worth 3 point: **3 x 2=6**).

Discussion 1 (June 10): Hattaway & als., *Back to Jerusalem*.

Discussion 2 (June 17): Perpetua, "The Martyrdom of Perpetua and Felicitas".

Discussion 3 (July 1): Athanasius, *The Incarnation of the Word of God*.

Discussion 4 (July 15): Benedict, *The Rule of Benedict*.

Discussion 5 (Aug 12): Anselm, *Why God Became Human*.

Discussion 6 (Aug 19): Thomas À Kempis, *Imitation of Christ*.

A Brief Guideline for discussion papers

(You can find example papers in the Virtual Campus classroom)

- 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 throughout your paper.

5. Final Exam (35%)

The Final Exam is to be answered in essay form. Detail guides will be given with exam questions. **Due by 11:55 p.m. EST on August 26.**

LET'S DO IT THIS WAY

- **Inclusive language** is encouraged for class discussions and **required** for all written work.
- All written work must be turned in **on time**. Late papers will be marked down one full letter grade unless you get permission for extension.
- Papers are to be accompanied by **footnotes/endnotes/in-text** notes and **bibliographies** appropriately (see **Handout 3**). If you have any questions about writing style, consult Kate L. **Turabian's** *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses and Dissertations*, 6th ed. (Chicago, 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 Seminary *2007-08 Catalog*, Grading & Evaluation:

A (4.0) Exceptional work: surpassing or outstanding achievement of course objectives

B (3.0) **Good work: strong, significant achievement of course objectives**

- C** (2.0) Acceptable work: basic, essential achievement of course objectives
D (1.0) Marginal work: inadequate, minimal achievement of course objectives
F (0) Unacceptable work: failure to achieve course objectives
cf. Incomplete Work

REQUIRED BOOKS

- Dale T. Irvin and Scott W. Sunquist, *History of the World Christian Movement, vol. 1: Earliest Christianity to 1453* (Orbis Books, 2001). BR145.3. I78 2001
- Roger E. Olson, *The Story of Christian Theology* (InterVarsity Press, 1999). BT21.2.O57 1999
- 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). BR1288. H37 2003
- Thomas C. Oden, *How Africa Shaped the Christian Mind: Rediscovering the African Seedbed of Western Christianity* (Downers Grove, IL: IVP Books, 2007).
- St. Benedict, *The Rule of St. Benedict* (The Liturgical Press, 1982). BX3004. A2 1998

COLLATERAL

- John D. Hannah, *Charts of Ancient and Medieval Church History* (Zondervan, 2001). BR149. H33 2001
- Samuel Hugh Moffett, *A History of Christianity in Asia, Volume I: Beginnings to 1500* (Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 1998).
- Justo L. Gonzalez, *The Changing Shape of Church History* (Chalice Press, 2002). BR138. G66 2002

One of Jenkins' trilogy:

- Philip Jenkins, *The Next Christendom: The Coming of Global Christianity* (Oxford University Press, 2002). BR121. 3. J46 2002
- _____, *The New Faces of Christianity: Believing the Bible in the Global South* (Oxford University Press, 2006).
- _____, *God's Continent: Christianity, Islam, and Europe's Religious Crisis* (Oxford University Press, 2007).

References

- E. L. Cross and E. A. Livingstone, eds., *Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church* (3rd ed.). Ref. BR95. O8 1997
- E. Ferguson, ed., *Encyclopedia of Early Christianity*. Ref. BR162.2 E53 1997
- Trevor A. Hart, ed., *The Dictionary of Historical Theology*. Ref. BT21.2. D53 2000
- Ken Parry and als, eds., *The Blackwell Dictionary of Eastern Christianity* . Ref. BX100.7. B53 2000

The followings are the list of other general introductions to Church History from various perspectives as well as History of Theology. They are in libraries:

- Henry Bettenson, ed., *Documents of the Christian Church*. BR141. B4 1963
- Justo L. Gonzalez, *The Story of Christianity, vol. 1*. BR142. G66 1984
- Williston Walker, ed., *A History of the Christian Church*. BR145. W34 1930
- Adrian Hastings, ed., *A World History of Christianity*. BR145.2. H37 1999

- Howard Kee and als, ed., *Christianity: A Social and Cultural History*. BR150. K43
- W. H. C. Frend, *The Rise of Christianity* (covers years to 600). BR162.2 F733
- Henry Chadwick, *The Early Church*. BR165 C48
- Richard Southern, *Western Society and the Church in the Middle Ages*. BR252. S6
- Marcia L. Colish, *Medieval Foundations of the Western Intellectual Tradition 400-1400*. CB351. C54 1997
- Steven Ozment, *The Age of Reform 1250-1550*. BR270. O9
- Bede, *The Ecclesiastical History of the English People*. BR746. B5 1994
- J. N. D. Kelly, *Early Christian Doctrine*. BT25 K4 1998
- Jaroslav Pelikan, *The Christian Tradition: A History of the Development of Doctrine*, vol. 1: *The Emergence of the Catholic Tradition (100-600)*; vol. 2: *The Spirit of Eastern Christendom (600-1700)*; vol. 3: *The Growth of Medieval Theology (600-1300)*. BT25. P43 v.1-v.3
- Angelo Di Berardino and Basil Studer, eds., *History of Theology*. BT21.2 S7713
- Alister E. McGrath, *Historical Theology: An Introduction to the History of Christian Thought*. BT21.2. M17 1998

Course Schedule (MODULE Listings) and Reading (Subject to modification.)

Remember that these are just outlines and the modules themselves will spell out the procedures in detail.

Module One (June 8 – June 14)

Introduction and Overview

The Emergence of Christian Movement

Judaism (Hellenism & Greco-Roman World)

Jesus Movement (The Jerusalem Church)

World Christian Movement (to the Gentiles): Unity and Diversity

Reading from: Irvin & Sunquist, 1-46; Olson, 13-23; *The Book of Acts*

Discussion 1: Paul Hattaway & als., *Back to Jerusalem* (by June 10th 11:55 p.m. EST)

Module Two (June 15 – June 21)

Diversity and Unity in the Spread of the Christian Movement

In Syria and Mesopotamia

In Greece and Asia Minor

In Western Mediterranean

In Alexandria and Egypt

Mission to India

Early Christian Worship

Conflicts with the State and Culture (Greco-Roman/Pagan Culture)

Persecution and Martyrdom

The Question of the Lapsed and the Ecclesiology (Cyprian/Novatian)

Apostolic Fathers

Defense and Apology

Reading from Irvin & Sunquist, 47-97; Olson, 25-27, 40-67, 113-23; Oden, 117-25

Discussion 2: Perpetua, “The Martyrdom of Perpetua and Felicitas” (by June 17th 11:55 p.m. EST)

Module Three (June 22 – June 28)

Challenges to Christianity and Christianity's Response

Gnosticism; Marcionism; Manichaeism

Development of Apology

Canon, Creed, and “Apostolic”

The Ancient Catholic Church and Its Teachers

Irenaeus of Lyons

Clement of Alexandria

Origen of Alexandria

Tertullian of Carthage

Hyppolytus

Reading from Irvin & Sunquist, 99-153; Olson, 28-39, 68-112, 124-35; Oden, 9-32

Module Four (June 29 – July 5)

The Imperial Church

Constantine and Official Theology

The Donatist/Catholic controversy

The Trinitarian controversy and the Ancient Christian Orthodoxy

Arius and Arianism

The Council of Nicaea (325)

Athanasius and the Cappadocians

Reading from Irvin & Sunquist, 155-83; The Nicene Creed; Olson, 137-96; Oden, 33-77

Discussion 3: Athanasius, *The Incarnation of the Word of God* (by July 1st 11:55 p.m. EST).

Module Five (July 6 – July 12)

Chalcedon and Christology

The Alexandrian/Antiochene perspectives

The Council of Chalcedon

The Christian Movement in the East and in Africa

Syrio-Persian Church (East Syrian)

West Persian Church

India

Armenia

Egyptian and Ethiopian Churches

Reading from Irvin & Sunquist, 184-219; Olson, 197-249; Oden, 78-99

Module Six (July 13 – July 19)

Rome and the Latin Church in the West

Marcellina and Ambrose of Milan

Jerome

Monica and Augustine of Hippo: *Confessions*; *De Doctrina Christiana*; Pelagius; *The City of God*

Patrick (Ireland) and Clovis (Franks)

Christian Monasticism as Renewed Spirituality

Early Monastic Movement (in Egypt)

Benedictine Monasticism (in the West): Benedict of Nursia (480-540)

Fall of Rome and the Rise of Medieval Christianity

Beginning of the Papacy

Reading from Irvin & Sunquist, 220-39; Olson, 251-77

Discussion 4: St. Benedict, *The Rule of St. Benedict* (by July 15th 11:55 p.m. EST).

Module Seven (July 20 – July 26)

The Eastern Church

John Chrysostom

The Road to Eastern Orthodoxy

The Iconoclast Controversy

The *Filioque* Controversy

New Challenges and the Rise of Islam
Christian Movement in Africa, Spain, and Asia
 Egypt, Nubia, and Ethiopia
 Spain
 India, Central Asia, and China

Reading from Irvin & Sunquist, 240-322, 354-71; Olson, 290-310; Oden, 101-16, 126-42

Module Eight (July 27 – August 2)

The Making of Christendom in the West
 Gregory the Great
 Bede the Venerable
 Imperial Restoration and the Carolingian Theology
 John Scottus Eriugena
The Papacy and the Empire (Church and State)
 Investiture Controversy
 The Crusades and Christian Expansion

Reading from *Irvin & Sunquist*, 323-42, 372-405

Module Nine (August 3 – August 9)

Renewal or Reform Movements
 Monastic Reform: Cluniac Monasticism, Cistercian Reform
 Women Monasticism and Visionary Authority
 Papal Reform
Spiritual Renewal (12th-13th century)
 Peter Waldo and Waldensians
 Apocalyptic Movement of Joachim of Fiore
 Mendican Orders: Francis, Clare, Dominic
 The Beguines
 Margaret Porette

Reading from Irvin & Sunquist, 343-53, 406-22

Additional Reading: Bernard McGinn, *The Growth of Mysticism*, 149-57 (Virtual Campus classroom).

Module Ten (August 10 – August 16)

Intellectual Renewal: Scholastic Theology and Universities
 Forerunners: Anselm (11th C), Abelard (12th C)
 Peter Lombard's *Sentences*
 Aristotle and the Averroists
 Albert the Great and Thomas Aquinas
 Hildegard of Bingen

Reading from Irvin & Sunquist, 423-33, 435-39; Olson, 311-47

Discussion 5: St. Anselm, *Why God Became Human* (by August 12th 11:55 p.m. EST).

Module Eleven (August 17 – August 23)

The Great Schism (The Age of Unrest)

The Schism between the East and the West (1054)

Eastern Orthodoxy in Byzantium

The Western Schism (1378-1417)

Catherine of Siena

The Age of Reform: The Papacy and the Collapse

Conciliar Movement

Mystical Alternative

Independent Movement: Hus, Wycliffe, Savonarola

The Revival of Classical Learning

Renaissance

Humanism

Christian Expansion in Asia and Africa

Reading from Irvin & Sunquist, 390-94, 433-35, 440-504; Olson, 348-67

Discussion 6: *Thomas a Kempis, *The Imitation of Christ*, 27-89 (by August 19th 11:55 p.m. EST)

Final Exam (by 11:55 p.m. EST, on August 26th)