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CH 501 Church History I

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Welcome to our class! I am delighted to be joining with you in our learning venture. Let me take a moment to introduce myself to you and to begin laying some plans for our work together. 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.

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 and videotapes. Questions will be short answer in nature, to be answered in a paragraph (correct grammar) of 50-150 words (max), unless otherwise indicated. (200)
- Participation (15)

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:

<table>
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<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exam 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam 2</td>
<td>50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reading Report</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>220</td>
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</table>

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.

Irvin, Dale, and Sunquist, Scott, eds., History of the World Christian Movement (Earliest Christianity to 1453), (Orbis, 2001). (abbreviated 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, and before viewing the videotape for that week. Then, after the videotape and our discussion, reread the same material (an in-depth reading!) before proceeding to the next assignment.

Module One

(2/8)
The Fullness of Time: The First Hundred Years

• HWCM, 1-46

Module Two

(2/15)
Early Christian Expansion Amid Opposition

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

Module Three

(2/22)
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

Module Four

(3/1)
Pastoral Care, Worship, and Church Life in the Apostolic Church

- Bettenson, pp. 62-77 (through Cyprian)
- HWCM, 137-153.
- Review

**Module Five**

(3/8)
**EXAM 1**
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)

**Module Six**

(3/15)
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

**Module Seven**

(3/22)
Augustine and the End of an Era
- Kerr 6
- Bettenson, I, 6
- HWCM, 231-234, Gonzalez, 207-219

**Module Eight**

(3/29)
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
- Review

**Module Ten**

(4/12) **EXAM 2**

**Module Eleven**

(4/19)
New Challenges in the East and the Making of Western Christendom
- Bettenson, 97-117
- HWCM, 257-283, 323-353; Gonzalez, 266-272
Module Twelve

(4/26)
Christianity in the Aftermath of Islam and Scholastic Theology

- Bettenson, 104 (“c”), 111 (“a”), 128-132
- HWCM, 289-304, 360-422, 423-439, Gonzalez, 311-323, 342-365
- Kerr, 9, 10, 14, 15

Module Thirteen

(5/3)
The Decline of the West and New Christian Horizons

- HWCM 305-322, 440-475, 476-504
- Bettenson, 137-151, 135-136, 173-179
- Kerr, 17-19
- REVIEW

Module Fourteen

(5/10)
Final Exam Week

Bibliography

I. EARLY CHURCH

A. Documents
7. Wright, F. A., Fathers of the Church, (Latin fathers only, 1929)

B. Theological Interpretations
4. __________, The Fathers of the Latin Church, (1964)
10. Morgan, James, *The Importance of Tertullian in the Development of Christian Dogma*, (1928)
12. Turner, M. C. *The Patristic Doctrine of Redemption*, (1952)

II. THE MEDIEVAL CHURCH

A. **Documents**


B. **Theological Interpretations**

3. *________*, *The Philosophy of Thomas Aquinas*, (1929)

III. THE CHURCH FROM THE TIME OF THE REFORMATION

A. **Documents: Arranged by Subjects**

8. Thompson, B., ed., *Liturgy of the Western Church*, (1965)

B. Theological Interpretations: Arranged by Subjects
2. Dannenfeldt, Karl H., The Church of Renaissance and Reformation: Decline and Reform From 1300 to 1600, (1970) BR280 D33
3. Gerrish, B. A., Grace and Reason: A Study in the Theology of Martin Luther, BR333.2 G4
4. Hillerbrand, Hans Joachim, Christendom Divided: the Protestant Reformation BR305.2 H49
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 Burem, Paul, Christ in our Place: The Substitutionary Character of Calvin’s Doctrine of Reconciliation, (1957) BT198 V3
12. Wendel, F., Calvin, (1963) BX9418 W3833
14. Oyer, John S., Lutheran Reformers Against Anabaptist: Luther, Melanchthon, and Menius, and the Anabaptists of Central Germany, (1964) BX4931.2 O9
26. Barth, Karl, Protestant Thought from Rousseau to Ritschl, (1959) BT30 G3 B313
27. Cassirere, E., The Philosophy of the Enlightenment, (1951)
30. Livingston, James, Modern Christian Thought: From the Enlightenment to Vatican II, (1971) BT28 L55
31. Mackintosh, H. R., Types of Modern Theology: Schleiermacher to Barth, (1937) BT28 M25
32. Randall, J. H., Jr., The Making of the Modern Mind, (1940) CB57 R32
33. Stace, W. T., Religion and the Modern Mind, (1953)
35. Gillies, John, Historical Collections of Accounts of Revival, (1981) BV3770 G54
40. Kung, H., The Changing Church, (1965)
ENCYCLOPEDIAS

The Catholic Encyclopedia
The Dictionary of Christian Biography
The Schaff-Herzog Encyclopedia of Religious Knowledge
The Encyclopedia of Religion and Ethics

PERIODICALS

Church History       Harvard Theological Review
Journal of Religion  Mennonite Quarterly Review

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Bainton, R. W., Bibliography of the Continental Reformation,  (1935)
Pauck, W., “Historiography of the German Reformation,” Church History, IX,  (1940) 305-40