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CH 501 Church History I

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is an introduction to the development of the Christian church 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 contemporary Christian ministry. Major primary texts and interpretive studies will be read and reflected.

COURSE OBJECTIVES (Adopted from the Area of Church History, ATS)

Upon completion of the course, students will be able to do all of the following:

1. Generally
   a. To feel and appreciate the Christian Tradition so the student understands that our generation lives on the growing edge of a vast Christian heritage.
   b. 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.
   c. To acquire basic factual knowledge of the persons, places, dates, events, and movements that shaped the history of the Christian Church.
   d. 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.
   e. To understand the development of Christian doctrine with respect to scripture and tradition and to learn to discern between form and content.
   f. To appreciate the importance of primary sources and the nature and effects of historical interpretation.
   g. To view the present in the light of the prior beliefs and actions of the Christian community.
   h. To evaluate one’s Christian vocation in the light of the historical and theological currents of the Christian tradition.
   i. To gain insight into the nature and practice of Christian ministry.
   j. To grasp the global aspects of Christian movement and acquire insight into the multi-ethnic and cross-cultural nature of ministry.
   k. 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.

2. Specifically
   a. To identify the key historical periods of the pre-Reformation church.
   b. To demonstrate an understanding of the major heresies that confronted the early Christian community, especially in terms of their departure from scripture.
   c. To grasp the importance of the early ecumenical councils.
d. To clarify the meaning of heresy, error, and schism with applications to Christian ministry today.

e. To survey the essential components of early Christian music and worship in the light of their relevance to the contemporary church.

f. To explain the developments in church polity, which gave rise to the monarchical episcopacy and ultimately the medieval ecclesiastical hierarchy.

g. To distinguish the Apostolic Fathers, the Apologists, and major Church Fathers in terms of their key representatives and theological tasks.

h. To reflect critically on the issues of church and state relations during the early and medieval centuries.

i. To articulate the monastic vision and its impact on Christianity.

j. 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.

k. To gain a basic understanding of Eastern Orthodoxy.

l. To explain the nature of Islam and its challenge to Christianity.

m. To acquire an understanding of the types of scholasticism.

n. To trace the evolution of the papacy.

o. 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.

p. To situate the Wesleyan tradition in the broader streams of Church History.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATION

1. Class Attendance and Reading Assignment (15%)
Complete the assigned reading from the required texts and primary sources prior to each class session (see “the Class Schedule and Outline”) and turn it in at the beginning of each class. See Handout 1 (“How to Read Academic Texts Critically”).

2. A Historical/Theological Biography (5%)
Write a 2-3 page theological history (a personal inventory in the ecclesiological and/or Christian movement context), reflecting your own journey around Christian communities (churches, traditions, 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 (history as well as contemporary relevance)?
Due: Sep 9

3. Three Discussion Papers from Reading Assignment (15%)
From the assigned primary source readings, write a one-page paper (approximately 500-600 words, typed, single-spaced with a standard 12-point font like Times New Roman and one inch margins) on each text for the class discussions. It should demonstrate your clear understanding of the text's major themes. This paper should be submitted at the end of each class. Each paper is worth 5 points.
Discussion 1 (Sep 11): Perpetua, “The Martyrdom of Perpetua and Felicitas” (on reserve).
Discussion 3 (Nov 20): Thomas a Kempis, The Imitation of Christ, 27-89 (on reserve)
4. One Reflection Paper (15%)

Choosing from the primary source listings, you are required to write one Reflection Paper. It should be written in 5-6 page length (typed, double-spaced, one-inch margins with footnotes/endnotes/in-text notes and bibliography) with historical/textual and/or critical theological analysis (see Handout 2).

Due: Nov 18 (15%)

5. Two Take-Home Exams (50%)

Take-home exams are to be answered in essay form (typed, double-spaced, one-inch margin with footnotes/endnotes/in-text notes and bibliography). Detail guides will be stated with exam questions.

Due: Oct 16 (mid-term), Dec 9 (final)

LET’S DO 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 in the case of an extremely difficult situation.
- 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 2001-03 Catalog, 28:

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

REQUIRED BOOKS

- Roger E. Olson, The Story of Christian Theology (InterVarsity Press, 1999)
COLLATERAL

- John D. Hannah, *Charts of Ancient and Medieval Church History* (Zondervan, 2001)

**Primary Sources for Class Discussion and Reflection Papers** are available at the reference desk in library for you to reproduce on your own.

- Rowan Greer, ed., *Origen* (The Classics of Western Spirituality)
- Robert C. Gregg, ed., *Athanasius* (CWS)
- C.S.M.V., ed., *St. Athanasius, On the Incarnation* (intro. by C. S. Lewis)
- Edward R. Hardy, ed., *Christology of the Later Fathers* (LCC)
- Eugene R. Fairweather, ed., *A Scholastic Miscellany* (LCC)
- Thomas a Kempis, *The Imitation of Christ* (Penguin Classics)

**References**

- Henry Bettenson, ed., *Documents of the Christian Church*
- E. Ferguson, ed., *Encyclopedia of Early Christianity*
- Trevor A. Hart, ed., *The Dictionary of Historical Theology*
- Ken Parry and als, eds., *The Blackwell Dictionary of Eastern Christianity*

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

- Justo L. Gonzalez, *The Story of Christianity*
- Williston Walker, *A History of the Christian Church*
- Adrian Hastings, ed., *A World History of Christianity*
- Howard Kee and als, ed., *Christianity: A Social and Cultural History*
- W. H. C. Frend, *The Rise of Christianity* (covers years to 600)
- Henry Chadwick, *The Early Church*
- Richard Southern, *Western Society and the Church in the Middle Ages*
- Marcia L. Colish, *Medieval Foundations of the Western Intellectual Tradition 400-1400*
- Steven Ozment, *The Age of Reform 1250-1550*
- Bede, *The Ecclesiastical History of the English People*
- Samuel Moffet, *A History of Christianity in Asia*
- J. N. D. Kelly, *Early Christian Doctrine*
- Jaroslav Pelikan, *The Emergence of the Catholic Tradition (100-600); The Spirit of Eastern Christendom (600-1700); The Growth of Medieval Theology (600-1300)*
- Angelo Di Berardino and Basil Studer, eds., *History of Theology*
- Alister E. McGrath, *Historical Theology*
CLASS SCHEDULE/OUTLINE

Sept 2  Introduction and Overview
Why Study Church History?
Methodological Considerations on Church History and Historical Theology?

Reading: History, 1-10
Assignment Due: Sept 9 (2-3 page Personal Historical/Theological Autobiography)

Sept 4  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: History, 11-46; Story, 13-23; The Book of Acts
Primary Sources:
*Justin Martyr, “Dialogue with Trypho,” Ehrman, 18-24

Primary Sources for Reflection Paper Options:

Sept 9  Diversity and Unity in the Spread of the Christian Movement
Diverse Perspectives
Continuity of the apostolic tradition: Authority
Early Christian Worship and Daily Life
Asceticism, Prophecy, and Household of God
Women’s Role in the Early Christian Movement

Reading: History, 47-69, 140-53; Story, 25-135
Primary Sources:
*“The Didache (Teaching of the Twelve),” Ehrman, 385-87, 346-47, 323-25

Primary Sources for Reflection Paper Options:
*“The Didascalia,” Ehrman, 333-39, 356-60
*“The Odes of Solomon,” trans. James H. Charlesworth
(http://www.misericordia.edu/users/davies/thomas/odes.htm)

Sept 11  Conflicts with the State and Culture (Greco-Roman/Pagan Culture)
Persecution and Martyrdom
The Question of the Lapsed and the Ecclesiology (Cyprian/Novatian)

Reading: History, 69-71, 82-85, 92-97, 137-40; Story, 25-135 (same as before)
Primary Sources:

Discussion 1:
Perpetua, “The Martyrdom of Perpetua and Felicitas,” Ehrman, 42-50

Primary Sources for Reflection Paper Options:
*“The Acts of Thecla,” Ehrman, 278-84
*Cyprian, “Unity of the Catholic Church,” Greenslade, 119-42 (on reserve)
Sept 16  Challenges to Christianity and Christianity's Response
          Gnosticism; Marcionism; Manichaeism
          Development of Apology
          Reading: History, 71-82, 86-91, 99-136; Story, 25-135 (same as before)
          Primary Sources:
          *Tertullian, “Apology,” Ehrman, 75-82, 349-52
          Primary Sources for Reflection Paper Options:
          *Justin, “First Apology,” Ehrman, 57-65, 347-49
          *Origen, “Against Celsus,” Ehrman, 82-93

Sept 18  The Ancient Catholic Church and the Teachers of the Church
          Irenaeus of Lyons
          Clement of Alexandria
          Origen of Alexandria
          Tertullian of Carthage
          Canon, Creed, and “Apostolic”
          Reading: History, 71-82, 86-91, 99-136; Story, 25-135 (same as before)
          Primary Sources:
          *“The Muratorian Canon,” Ehrman, 311-312
          *Hippolytus, “The Apostolic Tradition,” Ehrman, 353-56
          Primary Sources for Reflection Paper Options:
          *Irenaeus of Lyons, “Against Heresies,” Ehrman, 196-211, 313
          *Origen, “On First Principles,” Ehrman, 413-29 or Greer, 171-216 (on reserve)
          *Origen, “Song of Songs,” Greer, 217-44 (on reserve)

Sept 23  The Imperial Church and Official Theology
          The Donatist/Catholic controversy
          Reading: History, 155-72

Sept 25  The Arian-Nicene controversy and the Ancient Christian Orthodoxy
          Arius and Arianism
          The Council of Nicaea (325)
          Athanasius and the Cappadocians
          Reading: History, 173-83; The Nicene Creed; Story, 137-96
          Primary Sources for Reflection Paper Options:
          *Gregory of Nazianzus, “The Theological Orations,” Hardy, 160-93 (on reserve)

Sept 30  Chalcedon and Christology
          The Alexandrian/Antiochene perspectives
          The Council of Chalcedon
          Reading: History, 184-94; Story, 197-249
          Video Review 1
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<tr>
<th>Oct 2</th>
<th>The Christian Movement in the East</th>
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<td>Syrio-Persian Church (East Syrian)</td>
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<td>India</td>
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<td>West Persian Church</td>
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<td>Armenia</td>
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<td>Christianity in Africa: Egyptian and Ethiopian Churches</td>
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<td>Reading: <em>History</em>, 195-219</td>
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<td>Primary Sources for Reflection Paper Options:</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>*St. Ephrem the Syrian, “Hymns on Paradise,” Brock, 77-188</td>
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<th>Oct 7</th>
<th>Rome and the Latin Church in the West</th>
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<td>Ambrose of Milan</td>
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<td>Jerome</td>
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<td>Augustine of Hippo:</td>
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<td><em>Confessions; De Doctrina Christiana; Pelagius; The City of God</em></td>
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<td>Augustine and Medieval Christianity</td>
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<td>Reading: <em>History</em>, 220-34; <em>Story</em>, 251-89</td>
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<td>Primary Sources for Reflection Paper Options:</td>
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<td></td>
<td>St. Augustine, “Confessions,” Pine-Coffin, 133-205 (Book VII-IX)</td>
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<th>Oct 9</th>
<th>Christian Monasticism as Renewed Spirituality</th>
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<td>Early Monastic Movement (in Egypt)</td>
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<td>Rise of Medieval Christianity</td>
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<td>Benedictine Monasticism (in the West): Benedict of Nursia (480-540)</td>
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<td>Fall of Rome and the Rise of Medieval Christianity</td>
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<td>Patrick (Ireland) and Clovis (Franks)</td>
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<td>Beginning of the Papacy</td>
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<td>Reading: <em>History</em>, 234-39</td>
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<td>Discussion 2:</td>
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<td></td>
<td><em>St. Benedict, The Rule of St. Benedict</em></td>
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<td>Primary Sources for Reflection Paper Options:</td>
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<td></td>
<td>*Athanasius, “The Life of Anthony,” Gregg, 29-99</td>
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<td><strong>Take-Home Exam Due:</strong> Oct 16 (mid-term)</td>
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<th>Oct 14</th>
<th>The Eastern Roman Church and Eastern Orthodoxy</th>
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<td>John Chrysostom</td>
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<td>The Filioque Controversy</td>
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<td>Reading: <em>History</em>, 240-55, 354-71; <em>Story</em>, 292-310</td>
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<td>Primary Sources for Reflection Paper Options:</td>
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<th>Oct 16</th>
<th>New Challenges and the Rise of Islam</th>
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<td>Reading: <em>History</em>, 256-88</td>
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Additional Reading: Moffet, *A History of Christianity in Asia*, vol. 1, 272-84, 324-73 (on reserve)

Oct 21 Christian Movement in Africa and Spain
   Egypt, Nubia, and Ethiopia
   Spain
Reading: *History*, 289-304
Additional Reading: *A History of Christianity in Africa*, 13-44 (on reserve)

Oct 23 Christian Movement in Asia
   India
   Central Asia
   China
Reading: *History*, 305-22
Additional Reading: *A History of Christianity in Asia*, vol. 1, 216-71, 287-323 (on reserve)

Oct 28 The Making of Christendom in the West
   Gregory the Great
   Bede the Venerable
   Imperial Restoration and the Carolingian Theology
   John Scottus Eriugena
Reading: *History*, 323-42, 372-81

Oct 30 Reform or Renewal Movements
   Monastic Reform: Cluniac Monasticism, Cistercian Reform
   Women Monasticism and Visionary Authority
   Papal Reform
Reading: *History*, 343-53

Nov 4 The Papacy and the Empire (Church and State)
   The Crusades
   Christian Expansion
Reading: *History*, 383-405

Nov 6 Spiritual Renewal (13th century)
   Peter Waldo and Waldensians
   Mendicant Orders: Francis, Clare, Dominic
   Apocalyptic Movement of Joachim of Fiore
   The Beguines
Reading: *History*, 406-22

Primary Sources for Reflection Paper Options:
Nov 11 & Nov 13
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

Reading: History, 423-39; Story, 311-47

Primary Sources for Reflection Paper Options:
  *St. Anselm, “Why God Became Man,” E. R. Fairweather, 100-183 (on reserve)

Reflection Paper Due: Nov 18

Nov 18  The Great Schism (The Age of Unrest)
  Eastern Orthodoxy in Byzantium

Reading: History, 390-94, 440-49

Nov 20  The Age of Reform
  The Papacy and the Collapse
  Conciliar Movement
  Mystical Alternative
  Independent Movement: Hus, Wycliffe

Reading: History, 476-91; Story, 348-67

Discussion 3:
  *Thomas a Kempis, The Imitation of Christ, 27-89 (on reserve)

Nov 25 & 27  READING WEEK

Dec 2  The Revival of Classical Learning
  Renaissance
  Humanism

Reading: Story, 348-67

Video Review 2

Dec 4  Christian Expansion in Asia and Africa

Reading: History, 450-75, 492-504

Dec 9  Final Take-Home Exam Due (by 11:00 am)