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CH 501 Church History I

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Church History I

CH 501 (3 Hours)

Kenneth J. Collins, Professor

I. 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, movements, and theological issues, with attention given to their importance for Christian ministry today. Major primary texts and interpretive studies will be read.

II. Learning Goals:

A. General 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.
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 evolution of Christian doctrine 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 of Christian ministry.
10. 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 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.
3. To grasp the importance of the early ecumenical councils.
4. To clarify the meaning of heresy, error, and schism.
5. To survey the essential components of early Christian music and worship.
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 problems and possibilities of church and state relations during the early 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.
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 that ran parallel to the waning of the Middle Ages.

III. Texts:

Bettenson, Henry. *Documents of the Christian Church*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1967. (Second Edition)

Gonzalez, Justo L. *The Story of Christianity*, Vol. 1. San Francisco: Harper/Collins Publishers, 1984.

Kerr, Hugh T. ed. *Readings in Christian Thought*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1989.

Walton, Robert C. *Chronological and Background Charts of Church History*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan Publishing House, 1986.

IV. Topical Outline:

Period I *The First One Hundred Years*

- A. The Fullness of Time
- B. The Jewish Context
- C. The Greek Cultural Setting
- D. The New Testament Church

Period II *Development of the Church to the Early Middle Ages*

- A. The Struggle of the Old Catholic Church (100-313)
- B. The Supremacy of the Old Catholic Church (313-590)

Period III *The Middle Ages Through the Renaissance*

- A. The Rise of Latin-Teutonic Christianity (590-800)
- B. Tensions in Church and State Relations (800-1054)
- C. The Supremacy of the Papacy (1054-1305)
- D. Attempts at Reform (1305-1517)

V. Reading and Exam Schedule:

	Gonzalez	Kerr	Bettenson	Date
Test # 1	1-111	1-50	1-43	Oct. 3rd
Test # 2	112-221	51-97	42-115	Nov. 14th
Test # 3	222-411	98-134	116-181	Exams

VI. Course Procedures:

A. Three examinations will be given during the semester (see chart above). These exams will not only include the designated reading material but also the class lectures. Please note that the exams will be heavily weighted towards the reading. The exams will constitute 75% of the grade.

B. In light of (A) it is imperative that students attend class on a regular basis. Absenteeism (missing more than 2 classes) will result in grade reduction.

C. Class participation, attendance, and completion of the assigned readings will count as 25% of the grade.

D. A reading report which indicates that students have completed all of the readings is due on the day of the final exam.

E. Students may receive extra credit (in the amount of one letter grade) if they write a fifteen to twenty page research paper on a topic to be discussed with the professor. *This paper is not required.*

VII. Bibliography

General Histories of Christianity

Baker, Robert A. *A Summary of Christian History*. Nashville: Tennessee: Broadman and Holman Publishers, 1994.

Cairns, Earle E. *Christianity Through the Centuries*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan Publishing Corp., 1981.

Johnson, Paul. *A History of Christianity*. New York: Atheneum Publishers, 1976.

Marty, Martin E. *A Short History of Christianity*. Cleveland: World Publishing Co./Meridan Books, 1959.

Walker, Williston. *A History of the Christian Church*, 4th ed. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1985.

Histories of Theology

Cunliffe-Jones, Hubert and Drewery, Benjamin eds., *A History of Christian Doctrine*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1980.

Pelikan, Jaroslav. *Jesus Through the Centuries*. New York: Harper and Row, 1985.

Placher, William. *A History of Christian Theology*. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1983.

Urban, Linwood. *A Short History of Christian Thought*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1986.

THE EARLY CHURCH

Chadwick, Henry. *The Early Church*. Baltimore: Penguin Books, 1967.

Pelikan, Jaroslav. *The Emergence of the Catholic Tradition*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1971.

Apologists

Bray, Gerald. *Holiness and the Will of God*. Atlanta: John Knox Press, 1979. [On Tertullian]

Chadwick, Henry. *Early Christian Thought and the Classical Tradition*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1966.

Cochrane, Charles N. *Christianity and Classical Culture*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1944.

Ferguson, John. *Clement of Alexandria*. Boston: Twayne Publishers, 1974.

The Trinity and Christology

Fortman, Edmund J. *The Triune God*. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1972.

Grillmeier, Aloys *Christ in Christian Tradition*. tr. by John Bowden. Atlanta: John Knox Press, 1975.

Kelly, J.N.D. *Early Christian Doctrine*. New York: Harper and Row, 1978.

Payne, Robert. *The Holy Fire*. Crestwood, New York: St. Vladimir's Seminary Press, 1980. Biographies of the Church Fathers.

Young, Frances. *From Nicaea to Chalcedon*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1983.

THE EASTERN CHURCH

Magoulias, Harry L. *Byzantine Christianity*. Detroit: Wayne State University Press, 1982.

Meyendorff, John. *Byzantine Theology*. Bronx, New York: Fordham University Press, 1974.

Pelikan, Jaroslav. *The Spirit of Eastern Christendom*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1974.

Schmemmann, Alexander. *The Historical Road of Eastern Orthodoxy*. New York: Holt, Rinehart, and Winston, 1963.

Augustine

Brown, Peter. *Augustine of Hippo*. Berkeley, California: University of California Press, 1967.

Smith, Thomas Warren. *Augustine*. Atlanta: John Knox Press, 1980.

THE MIDDLE AGES

General Surveys

Copleston, Frederick C. *A History of Medieval Philosophy*. New York: Harper and Row, 1972.

Knowles, David. *The Evolution of Medieval Thought*. New York: Helicon Press, 1962.

Pelikan, Jaroslav. *The Growth of Medieval Theology*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1978.

Russell, Jeffrey Burton. *A History of Medieval Christianity*. New York: Thomas Y. Crowell, 1968.

Southern, R.W. *Western Society and the Church in the Middle Ages*. Baltimore: Penguin Books, 1965.

The Early Middle Ages

Brown, Peter. *The Cult of the Saints*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1981.

Leclercq, John. *The Love of Learning and the Desire for God*. tr. by Catharine Misrahi. Bronx, New York: Fordham University Press, 1985. [The Monastic Tradition]

MacDonald, A.J. *Berengar and the Reform of Sacramental Doctrine*. Merrick, New York: Richwood Publishing Co., 1977.

Marenbon, John. *Early Medieval Philosophy*. Boston: Routledge and Kegan, 1983.

The High Middle Ages

Copleston, Frederick. *Aquinas*. Penguin Books, 1956.

Gilson, Etienne. *Reason and Revelation in the Middle Ages*. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1938.

Tierney, Brian. *The Crisis of Church and State 1050-1300*. Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey: Prentice Hall, 1964.

Weinberg, Julius. *A Short History of Medieval Philosophy*. Princeton, New Jersey: Princeton University Press, 1964.

The Later Middle Ages

Leff, Gordon. *The Dissolution of the Medieval Outlook*. New York: Harper and Row, 1976.

Oakley, *The Western Church in the Later Middle Ages*. Ithaca, New York: Cornell University Press, 1979

Oberman, Heiko A. *Forerunners of the Reformation*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1981.

Oxment, Steven. *The Age of Reform 1250-1550*. New Haven, Conn.: Yale University Press, 1980.