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CH 502 Church History II

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CHURCH HISTORY II

William Kostlevy, Instructor

Summer 2000

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I. Purpose: The purpose of the course is to provide an introduction to the History of the Christian Church from the sixteenth century (the Reformation era) to the present. Emphasis will be placed on the central historical figures, movements and theological debates that have shaped the Christian church in the last four centuries. The importance of primary sources and the nature and effects of historical interpretation will be emphasized. Attention will be given to the contemporary relevance of the key historical debates in modern church history. Students will be encouraged to reflect upon their Christian vocation in the light of historical and theological currents of the Christian tradition.

II. Objectives:

1. Identify the major historical movements and figures in modern church history.
2. Examine the issues that led to the Protestant Reformation and the various routes to reform pursued by the Roman Catholics, Lutherans, Reformed, Anabaptists, Anglicans and Quakers.
3. Understand the central issues in Protestant Orthodoxy and the Enlightenment.
4. Evaluate the major renewal movements in modern church history: including Puritanism, Pietism, Methodism, the first and second great awakenings, the Holiness Movement, Evangelicalism and Pentecostalism.
5. Reflect upon church and state relations and the interaction of church and culture in the light of the thought of leading theologians since the Reformation.
6. Explore the global spread of Christianity and emerging new religious movements.
7. Be able to articulate your own understanding of the key issues in church history with growing confidence.

III. Welcome and Available Support.

Welcome to ExL and Church History II. I look forward to my opportunity to explore Church History with you and urge you to contact me at any time when your level of anxiety exceeds the comfort zone. For hardware or software support contact Jeremy Lucas [exl_support@asburyseminary.edu]; Hannah Kirsch is our ExL librarian [hannah_kirsch@asburyseminary.edu]; and Kevin Osborn [exl_counselor@asburyseminary.edu] and Zoe Payne [exlcoord@asburyseminary.edu] assist with all other ExL support issues.

IV. Course Assignments and Requirements

We will have two open book exams (a mid-term and a final) based on readings and lectures; regular class discussion; and a ten to fifteen page research paper. The foundation for our class consists in mastering the assigned reading and lectures. To enhance classroom discussions, a question will be posted in the "discussion center" and you will be asked to respond (limited to 100 words) to the question and each other. This interaction will occur during the second week of our two-week modules. Feel free to disagree and challenge each other. All I ask is that we respect each other and remember that we do not all come from identical Christian traditions. If for some rare reason, you are unable to take part in a discussion, please let me know in advance. The research paper will consist in a description and evaluation of one of the major Christian traditions active during the era of the Reformation: such as Catholicism, Orthodoxy, Lutheranism, the Reformed tradition, Anglicanism, the Baptist tradition, Society of Friends or the Unitarian tradition. The paper should follow one of the standard manuals of style, such as the *Chicago Manual of Style* (Kate Turabian's simplified version) or Carole Slade, *Form and Style: Research Papers, Reports, Theses*.

V. Grading

60% of your grade will be based on the tests; 30% on the paper; and 10% on class discussion.

VI. Required Texts

Justo Gonzalez, *The Story of Christianity, Vol. 2.* (1985).

Roland H. Bainton and Jaroslav Pelikan, *The Reformation of the Sixteenth Century* (1985).

Henry Bettenson, *Documents of the Christian Church* (1963).

Anthony Dunnavant, ed. *Poverty and Ecclesiology: Nineteenth-Century Evangelicals in the Light of Liberation Theology* (1992). (Available from the instructor).

VII. Course Outline and Assigned Readings

Module 1. Weeks 1-2. The Reformation

- A. Watch video introduction to the course. The video will be sent to you. Read Gonzalez, 1-59 and Bainton and Pelikan, Bettenson, 182-216. Select one of the traditions above to be the focus of your reading and the subject of your research paper.
- B. Assignment. Introduce yourself to the class. (See my profile as an example.) On Monday of week two, join in the class discussion. After reading Bainton and Pelikan, identify the Reformation tradition above that will be the focus of your reading and the subject of your paper. Please registrar your choice with me.

Module 2. Weeks 3-4. Calvin, the Reformation in England and the Counter Reformation

- A. Read Gonzalez, 61-125, Bettenson, 217-244, 258-281 and begin reading a general introduction to the tradition you have selected. I will help you with your choice.
- C. Assignment. Class discussion.

Module 3. Weeks 5-6 The Puritans and Protestant Orthodoxy

- A. Read Gonzalez, 128-183, Bettenson, 244-252.
- B. Assignments. Class discussion. Conclude reading the general introduction to your tradition. First exam. The Exam will be due at the end of week 6.

Module 4. Weeks 7-8 Rationalism, Pietism and the Emergence of Christianity in America

- A. Read Gonzalez, 185-231, Bettenson, 311-315. Read a significant biography of a prominent figure in your tradition. I will help you with your choice.
- B. Assignment. Class discussion

Module 5. Weeks 9-10 Established Christianity in the Nineteenth Century

- A. Read Gonzalez, 234-323, Bettenson, 315-327.
- B. Assignment. Class discussion. Begin work on final paper. Feel free to consult with the instructor concerning bibliographic suggestions.

Module 6. Weeks 11-12 Christian Dissenters in the Nineteenth Century Christianity

- A. Read Dunnavant, ed.
- B. Assignment. Class discussion. Continue work on final paper.

Module 7. Weeks 13-14 Twentieth Century Christianity

- A. Read Gonzalez, 326-399, Bettenson, 327-334.
- B. Your paper is due the Friday before finals week. The open book final exam is due by the end of finals week.