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# CH 501 Church History I

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## Church History 501

ATS, Fall Semester 2002  
8:00-9:15 am, Wednesday, Friday  
Office (E105): 859-858-2046

Professor: Meesaeng Lee Choi  
Meesaeng\_Choi@asburyseminary.edu  
Office Hours: Tue 1-2:30 pm, Fri 9:15-11:15 am

### Course Objectives (See Learning Goals!)

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 Assignments, Requirements, and Evaluation

#### 1. Class Attendance and Participation (10%)

#### 2. A Reading Report and Discussion from Reading Assignment (10%)

#### 3. A Historical/Theological Biography (5%)

Write a 2-3 page theological history (a personal inventory in the ecclesiological and/or 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 (history and contemporary relevance)?

Due: Sep 11

#### 4. Two Reflection Papers (35%)

Choosing from primary source listings, each student is required to write *two* Reflection Papers. Each paper should be written in 5-6 page length (typed and double-spaced) with historical/textual and/or critical theological analysis (see the handout 2).

Due: Sep 25 (15%), Nov 20 (20%)

#### 5. Two Take-Home Exams (40%)

Take-home exams are to be answered in essay form.

Due: Oct 23 (mid-term), Dec 13 (final)

### Let's do this way.

- Inclusive language is encouraged for class discussions and required for all written work.
- All written work (No. 4 and 5) 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 the 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*.

## Required Books

- Primary Text: Justo L. Gonzalez, *The Story of Christianity*, vol. 1  
Supplementary: Dale T. Irvin & Scott W. Sunquist, *History of the World Christian Movement* (Orbis Books, 2001)  
Primary Sources: Bart D. Ehrman, *After the New Testament: A Reader in Early Christianity* (Oxford University Press, 1999).  
St. Benedict, *The Rule of St. Benedict* (The Liturgical Press, 1982)

**Additional Reading for class discussion (\*) & Primary Sources for 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)  
S. L. Greenslade, *Early Latin Theology* (The Library of Christian Classics)  
Sebastian Brock, ed., *St. Ephrem: Hymns on Paradise* (St. Vladimir's Seminary Press, 1998)  
Catherine P. Roth, *St. John Chrysostom: On Wealth and Poverty* (SBS Press, 1999)  
Edward R. Hardy, ed., *Christology of the Later Fathers* (LCC)  
Eugene R. Fairweather, ed., *A Scholastic Miscellany* (LCC)  
A M. Fairweather, ed., *Aquinas on Nature and Grace* (LCC)  
Ellen L. Babinsky, ed., *Marguerite Porete: The Mirror of Simple Souls* (CWS)  
Thomas a Kempis, *The Imitation of Christ* (Penguin Classics)

## References

- Henry Bettenson, ed., *Documents of the Christian Church*  
E. L. Cross and E. A. Livingstone, eds., *Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church* (3<sup>rd</sup> ed.)  
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:**

- 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*

Syllabus

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**

**\* Must read for class discussion** (There might be some changes.)

**All the primary sources** (except too short ones) **can be your "Reflection Paper" options.**

### **Sept 4 Introduction and Overview**

**Methodological Considerations on Church History and Historical Theology**  
**Why Study Church History?**

Reading: Story, i-xviii; History, 1-10

**Assignment Due:** Sept 11 (2-3 page Personal Historical/Theological Biography)

### **Sept 6 The Emergence of Christian Movement**

**Judaism (Hellenism & Greco-Roman World)**

**Jesus Movement (The Jerusalem Church)**

**World Christian Movement (to the Gentiles)**

**The Mission by Paul and the Apostles**

**Women's Role in Early Christian Movement**

Reading: Story, 7-30; History, 11-46; The Book of Acts

Primary Sources:

\*Justin Martyr, "Dialogue with Trypho," Ehrman, 18-24, 106-115

### **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)**

**Apostolic Fathers**

**Development of Apology**

Reading: Story, 31-57, 82-90, 102-108; History, 69-85

Primary Sources:

\*Ignatius, "The Letter of Ignatius to the Romans," Ehrman, 28-30

\*Polycarp, "The Martyrdom of Polycarp," Ehrman, 30-35

\*Origen, "Against Celsus," Ehrman, 82-93

Perpetua, "The Martyrdom of Perpetua and Felicitas," Ehrman, 42-50

"The Acts of Thecla," Ehrman, 278-84

Justin, "First Apology," Ehrman, 57-65

Tertullian, "Apology," Ehrman, 75-82

Cyprian, "Unity of the Catholic Church," Greenslade, 119-42

### **Sept 13 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**

Reading: History, 47-68, 86-97, 137-53; Story, 91-101

Primary Sources:

\*"The Didache (Teaching of the Twelve)," Ehrman, 323-25, 346-47

\*"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 18 Second Century Challenges to Christianity and Christianity's Response**  
**Gnosticism; Marcionism; Manichaeism**  
**Canon, Creed, and "Apostolic"**

Reading: Story, 58-66; History, 99-118, 126-36

Primary Sources:

\*"The Muratorian Canon," Ehrman, 311-312

\*Irenaeus of Lyons, "Against Heresies," Ehrman, 196-211, 313

Tertullian, "On the Flesh of Christ," Ehrman, 218-24

**Sept 20 The Ancient Catholic Church and the Teachers of the Church**  
**Irenaeus of Lyons**  
**Clement of Alexandria**  
**Origen of Alexandria**  
**Tertullian of Carthage**

Reading: Story, 67-81; History, 118-26

Primary Sources:

\*Origen, "On First Principles," Ehrman, 413-29 or Greer, 171-216

\*Hippolytus, "The Apostolic Tradition," Ehrman, 353-56

Origen, "Song of Songs," Greer, 217-44

Reflection Paper Due: Sept 25

**Sept 25 The Imperial Church and Official Theology**  
**The Donatist/Catholic controversy**

Reading: Story, 111-35, 151-57; History, 155-72

**Sept 27 The Arian-Nicene controversy and the Ancient Christian Orthodoxy**  
**Arius and Arianism**  
**The Council of Nicaea (325)**  
**Athanasius**  
**The Cappadocians**

Reading: Story, 158-88; History, 173-83; The Nicene Creed

Primary Sources:

\*St. Athanasius, "On the Incarnation," C.S.M.V., ed., 25-96 or Hardy, 55-110

Gregory of Nazianzus, "The Theological Orations," Hardy, 160-93

**Oct 2 Rome and the Latin Church in the West**

**Ambrose of Milan**

**Jerome**

**Augustine of Hippo:**

*Confessions; De Doctrina Christiana; Pelagius; The City of God*

**Augustine and Medieval Christianity**

**Fall of Rome and the Rise of Medieval Christianity**

**Patrick (Ireland) and Clovis (Franks)**

Reading: Story, 189-93, 201-20, 231-38; History, 220-34, 236-39

Primary Sources:

St. Augustine, "Confessions," Pine-Coffin, 133-205 (Book VII-IX)

**Oct 4 Christian Monasticism as Renewed Spirituality**

Early Monastic Movement (in Egypt)

Rise of Medieval Christianity

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

**Beginning of the Papacy**

Reading: Story, 136-50, 238-48; History, 234-36

Primary Sources:

\*St. Benedict, *The Rule of St. Benedict*

Athanasius, "The Life of Anthony," Gregg, 29-99

**Oct 9 Chalcedon and Christology: the Alexandrian/Antiochene perspectives**

Nestorius

Cyril of Alexandria

Pope Leo I

Reading: Story, 251-57; History, 184-94

**Oct 11 The Christian Movement in the East**

**Syrio-Persian Church (East Syrian), India, West Persian, Armenia**

**Christianity in Egypt and Ethiopia (African churches)**

Ready to watch movie? Let's review our class and evaluate yourselves.

Reading: History, 195-219

**Oct 16 The Fathers of the Eastern Church: John Chrysostom  
Eastern Orthodoxy**

Reading: Story, 194-200, 257-65; History, 240-55

Primary Sources:

St. Ephrem the Syrian, "Hymns on Paradise," Brock, 77-188

St. John Chrysostom, "On Wealth and Poverty," Roth, 19-78

**Oct 18 New Challenges and the Rise of Islam**

Reading: Story, 248-50; History, 256-88  
Take-Home Exam Due: Oct 23 (mid-term)

**Oct 23 Christian Movement in the World**  
**Africa and Spain**  
**India, Central Asia, and China**

Reading: History, 289-322

**Oct 25 TBA**

**Oct 30 The Making of Christendom in the West (Gregory the Great)**  
**Imperial Restoration and the Carolingian Theology (John the Scot)**

Reading: Story, 266-76; History, 323-42

**Nov 1 Renewal Movements**

**Monastic Reform: Cluanic Monasticism, Cistercian Reform**  
**Women's Monasticism and Visionary Authority**  
**Papal Reform**  
**The Papacy and the Empire (Church and State)**

Reading: Story, 277-91; History, 343-53

**Nov 6 The Crusades**  
**Christian Expansion**

Reading: Story, 292-300; History, 395-405, 372-81

**Nov 8 Spiritual Renewal (13<sup>th</sup> century)**

**Peter Waldo**  
**Mendican Orders: Franciscans, Dominicans**  
**The Beguines**  
**Apocalyptic Movement of Joachim of Fiore**

Reading: Story, 301-11; History, 406-22

Primary Sources:

Marguerite Porete, "The Mirror of Simple Souls," Babinsky, 79-106, 189-222

**Nov 13 & Nov 15**

**Intellectual Renewal: Scholastic Theology and Universities**  
**Forerunners: Anselm (11<sup>th</sup> C), Abelard (12<sup>th</sup> C.)**  
**Peter Lombard's *Sentences***  
**Aristotle and the Averroists**  
**Albert the Great and Thomas Aquinas**



Reading: Story, 311-23; History, 423-39

Primary Sources:

\*St. Anselm, "Why God Became Man," Eugene Fairweather, 100-183

Aquinas, "On Nature and Grace," A. Fairweather, 164-204

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reflection Paper Due: Nov 20**

**Nov 20 The Papacy and the Collapse**

Reading: Story, 324-41

**Nov 22 Christianity in the Eastern Empire  
Byzantium**

Reading: History, 354-71, 383-94, 440-49, 492-504

**READING WEEK BREAK**

**Dec 4 The Age of Reform  
Conciliar Movement  
Mystical Alternative  
Independent Movement**

Reading: Story, 342-61; History, 476-91

Primary Sources:

\*Thomas a Kempis, *The Imitation of Christ*, 27-89

**Dec 6 The Revival of Classical Learning  
Renaissance  
Humanism**

Reading: Story, 362-75

**Dec 11 Colonial Christianity  
Spain  
Portugese**

Reading: Story, 377-412

**Take-Home Exam Due: Dec 13 (final)**

**Dec 13 Christianity in Asia and Africa**

Reading: History, 450-75, 492-504

## Learning Goals

(Adopted from the Area of Church History, Asbury Theological Seminary)

### 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 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 centuries.

## Syllabus

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.