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CH 501 Church History I

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CHURCH HISTORY I

William Kostlevy, Instructor

Spring 2003

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Office hours: Tuesday and Thursday 1:30-3:00

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- I. Purpose: This course is an introduction to the development of Christianity from the Apostolic period to the Reformation. Emphasis is placed on the central historical figures and theological issues, with attention given to their importance for Christian ministry today. The importance of primary sources and the nature and effects of historical interpretation will be emphasized. 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 early church history.
 2. Acquire basic factual knowledge of the persons, places, events, and movements that shaped the history of the Church.
 3. To understand the evolution of Christian doctrine and to learn to discern between form and content.
 4. To view the present in the light of the prior beliefs and actions of the Christian community.
 5. 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 I. 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 Andy Adams
[exl_support@asburyseminary.edu];

For administrative support contact Kevin Osborn [exl_director@asburyseminary.edu] or Amy Jo Adams [ExL_coach@asburyseminary.edu].

For general library assistance contact Hannah Kirsch
[Hannah_Kirsch@asburyseminary.edu]. All requests for books, journal articles should be emailed to Ms Kirsch. She is also available for general reference service and information on using the various online databases available to ExL students.

To request material from the B. L. Fisher Library begin by searching the library's online catalog (WebPac) or one of the online databases available on the ExL Virtual Library webpage. Then send an email to Ms Kirsch citing the sources that you would like to

request. Please allow 5-10 business days for requests for all requests to be filled. You will be billed the cost of photocopies (5 cents a page) and the cost of shipping. The cost of express mail service varies. Faxes cost \$1.50 for the first page and 25 cents for each additional page but be aware of the fact that it may take up to two days to process.

IV. Course Assignments and Requirements

We will have three open book exams based on readings and lectures; regular class discussion; and a three to five page critical book review. 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 inter-action 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. I will circulate a style sheet with information on the book review. Your book will be chosen in consultation with the instructor.

V. Grading

75% of your grade will be based on the tests; 15% on the book review and 10% on class discussion.

VI. Required Texts

Dale T. Irvin and Scott W. Sunquist, *History of the World Christian Movement, Vol.1.* (2001).

Karen Louise Jolly, *Tradition and Diversity: Christianity in a World Context to 1500,* (1997).

William R. Cook and Ronald B. Herzman *The Medieval World View,* (1983).

Timothy Ware, *The Orthodox Church* (1993).

VII. Course Outline and Assigned Readings

Module 1. February 10-22. The Early Christian Movement

- A. Watch video introduction to the course. The video will be sent to you. Read Irvin and Sunquist, 1-97, Jolly, 1-26, Cook, 1-49.
- B. Assignment. Introduce yourself to the class. (See my profile as an example.) On February 17, join in the class discussion.

Module 2. February 24-March 8. Church Tradition Takes Shape

- A. Read Irvin, 99-183, Jolly, 27-98, Cook, 50-78.

C. Assignment. Class discussion begins March 3.

Module 3. March 10-22 The Heritage of the Middle Ages

A. Read Irvin, 184-255, Jolly, 99-212, Cook, 79-112.

B. Assignments. No Class discussion. **Exam** will be due March 14.

Module 4. March 24 to April 5 Islam and Spread of Christianity in the West and North

A. Read Irvin, 257-381. Jolly, 213-302, Cook, 115-222.

B. Assignment. Reading week, no class discussion.

Module 5. April 7-19 The Spirit of Order and Prophecy

A. Read Irvin, 383-439, Jolly, 303-456, Cook, 225-319.

B. Assignment. Class discussion begins April 14. **Test due April 21.**

Module 6. April-21-May 3 Byzantium, Orthodoxy and the East

A. Read Irvin, 440-475, 492-506, Jolly, 457-474, 505-509, Ware (all).

B. Assignment. Class discussion begins April 28. Continue work on book review.

Module 7. May 5-17 Western Christianity on the Eve of the Reformation

A. Read Irvin, 476-491, Jolly, 477-505. **Book Review due May 9.**

B. The open book final exam is due by the end of finals week.

Final Exam Week. May 19-22