CHURCH HISTORY I

LTR 5131 Spring 2013
Dr. Mickler
mm@uts.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course covers the history of Christianity from its origins until the outbreak of the Protestant Reformation in 1517. Emphasis is on the leading personalities, events, trends of thought, and institutions which shaped the church's development during the early and medieval periods. Topics covered include the Jewish and Greco-Roman background, the apostolic church, persecution under the Roman empire, early heresies and ecumenical councils, the papacy, monasticism, the Christianization of Western Europe, Islam, medieval scholasticism and spirituality, the crusades, papal decline, and the beginning of reform movements. The course is ecumenical in orientation and designed to aide students in relating to representatives from the numerous and diverse Christian traditions. Theological insights are applied as they relate to this history.

OBJECTIVES

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

1. Identify the leading figures, events and trends of thought which shaped Christianity until the Protestant Reformation.
2. Understand internal and external challenges early and medieval Christianity faced and the ways in which they responded to those challenges.
3. Demonstrate a critical awareness of differing perspectives and approaches toward specific topics in church history.
4. Relate the course content to their faith and ministry.

REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATION

1. Class participation (10%)
2. Midterm (30%)
3. Final (30%)
4. Two reflection papers (30%)

Students are expected to attend and to be engaged in all class sessions. Unexcused absences or persistent tardiness will result in a lower final grade. The midterm and final exams will include material covered in the required readings and lectures. During the term, students are required to submit two 5 pg. reflection papers. The instructor will provide guidelines for both assignments. Grades for the course will not be changed nor incompletes granted unless there are extenuating personal circumstances which made completion of course requirements impossible. Additional work submitted to improve grades after completion of the course will not be accepted.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Plagiarism is a form of dishonesty that occurs when a student passes off someone else's work as their own. This can range from failing to cite an author for ideas incorporated into a student's

paper, to cutting and pasting paragraphs from different websites, to handing in a paper downloaded from the Internet. This includes buying or submitting a paper written by a third party. All are considered forms of "plagiarism" and a violation of the Seminary's academic integrity policy. The instructor has the option of having the student repeat or fail the assignment. In cases of serious or repeated violations, the instructor has the option of having the student fail the course or of reporting the student to the Vice President of Academic Affairs for disciplinary action. Possible disciplinary actions include probation, suspension or withdrawal.

REQUIRED TEXT

Gonzalez, Justo. *The Story of Christianity: The Early Church to the Present Day*. 2 vols. San Francisco: Harper, 1984, 85. The two volumes are reprinted in a single volume by Hendrickson Publishers, 1999. All assigned Gonzalez readings for this course are from vol. 1. ISBN-13:978-156563227 $44.99 at Amazon.com

RECOMMENDED TEXTS

Cantor, N. *Medieval History*. 2nd ed. NY: Macmillan, 1969.
Chadwick, H. *The Early Church*. NY: Penguin, 1967.
Frend, W. *The Rise of Christianity*. Phila.: Fortress, 1984.
Latourette, K. *A History of Christianity*. vol. 1. NY: Harper, 1953
_____. *A History of the Expansion of Christianity*. vol. 1. NY: Harper, 1937.
Moffett. S.H. *A History of Christianity in Asia. v*ol. 1. SF: Harper, 1992.
Walker, W. *A History of the Christian Church*. 4th ed. NY: Scribner's, 1985

OUTLINE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

1/31 **Course Introduction**

Greco-Roman Background
Req: Gonzalez 13-17;
Rec: Walker 5-19; Latourette (a) 3-10; (b) 1-13;

2/7 **Jewish Background**
Req: Gonzalez 7-13;
Rec: Chadwick 9-12; Walker 13-22

Jesus and Judaism
Rec: Frend 54-83; Walker 20-22;

2/14 **The Apostolic Church**
Req: Gonzalez 18-27
Rec: *Acts of the Apostles*; Chadwick 12-23; Walker 23-31

The Post-Apostolic Church
Rec: Frend 119-60;

2/21 **Conflict with Greco-Roman Culture**
Req: Gonzalez 31-57
Rec: Chadwick 23-31; Walker 50-56

Struggle with Heresy
Req: Gonzalez 58-62
Rec: Chadwick 33-41; Walker 61-70

2/28 **The Early Catholic Tradition**
Req: Gonzalez 62-81
Rec: Chadwick 80-83, 90-113; Walker 71-83, 98-117

Later Persecutions and the Problem of the Lapsed
Req: Gonzalez 82-90, 102-106, 151-57
Rec: Chadwick 116-24; Walker 94-97, 122-25

3/7 **The Constantinian Revolution**
Req: Gonzalez 113-26
Rec: Chadwick 125-29; Latourette (b) 162-69; Walker 129-31

Nicean Orthodoxy
Req: Gonzalez 158-67, 173-80
Rec: Chadwick 129-51; Walker 131-47

3/14 **Church Fathers in Tension with the Imperial Ideal**
Req: Gonzalez 189-219
Rec: Cantor 69-101; Chadwick 186-91, 213-36; Walker 195-211

Reflection Paper #1 Due
Group discussion/reports

3/21 **Midterm Review Session**

Midterm Exam

2/28 **SPRING BREAK**

4/4 **Germanic Invasions and the Rise of the Papacy**
Req: Gonzalez 217-19, 242-48
Rec: Cantor 20-27, 105-36, 171-75; Chadwick 237-57; Walker 147-53, 212-17
The Emergence of Monasticism
Req: Gonzalez 136-47, 238-42
Rec: Cantor 161-71; Chadwick 174-83; Walker 153-58

4/11 **Christological Conflicts**
Req: Gonzalez 251-62
Rec: Chadwick 192-212; Walker 162-83

The Rise and Spread of Islam
Req: Gonzalez 248-50
Rec: Cantor 146-50; Moffett 273-84

4/18 **The First Europe and Holy Roman Empire**
Req: Gonzalez 266-72
Rec: Cantor 185-201; Walker 226-30; 235-42

Dark Ages and Movements of Renewal
Req: Gonzalez 272-82
Rec: Cantor 203-23, 227-45, Walker 243-71

4/25 **The Papal Monarchy**
Req: Gonzalez 282-91, 307-10
Rec: Cantor 271-304; Walker 266-79

Medieval Scholasticism
Req: Gonzalez 311-19
Rec: Cantor 401-20; Walker 322-48

5/2 **Medieval Spirituality**
Req: Gonzalez 277-82, 301-07
Rec: Cantor 401-20, 455-59; Walker 291-322

The Crusades
Req: Gonzalez 292-300
Rec: Walker 282-90

5/9 **Reflection Paper #2 Due**
Group discussion/reports

Papal Decline
Req: Gonzalez , 329-41, 356-68, 370-74
Rec: Gonzalez 324-29; Walker 348-76, 392-99, 405-15

5/16 **In Quest of Reformation**
Req: Gonzalez 342-53
Rec: Walker 377-91

Final Exam Study Session

5/22 **Final Exam**

SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY

GENERAL HISTORIES

Chidester, D. *Christianity: A Global History*. Harper, 2001.
Dowley, T. *Eerdman's Handbook to the History of Christianity*. 1977
Eusebius. *Ecclesiastical History*. 2 vols. Cambridge, MA: Harvard, 1992.
Ferguson, E. *Church History: From Christ to Pre-Reformation*. Zondervan, 2005.
Hastings, A. *A World History of Christianity*. Eerdmans, 2000
Irvin, D. and S. Sunquist. *History of the World Christian Movement: Earliest Christianity to 1453*. Orbis, 2001
Johnson, Paul. *A History of Christianity*. Touchstone, 2005.
MacCulloch, D. *Christianity: The First Three Thousand Years*. Viking Penguin 2010.
McManners, J., ed. *The Oxford History of Christianity*. Oxford: Press, 1990
Noll, M. *Turning Points: Decisive Moments in the History of Christianity*. Baker, 2000.
Nystrom, B. *The History of Christianity: An Introduction*. McGraw-Hill, 2003.
Shelley, B. *Church History in Plain Language*. Nelson, 1996.
Spickhard, P., K. Cragg., and G. Carlson. *A Global History of Christians*. Baker, 2001.

MONOGRAPHS

Barnett, P. *Jesus and the Rise of Christianity: A History of New Testament Times*. Intervarsity, 2002
_____. *The Birth of Christianity: The First Twenty Years (After Jesus)*. Eerdman's, 2005
Cochrane, *Christianity and Classical Culture*. Oxford: Press, 1940
Crossan, J. *The Birth of Christianity*. Harper, 1999.
Ehrman, B. *Lost Christianities*. Oxford, 2005.
Ferguson, E. *Backgrounds of Early Christianity*. Eerdmans 2003.
Horsley, R. and J. Hanson. *Bandits, Prophets, and Messiahs*. Trinity, 1999.
Leeuwen, A. *Christianity in World History*. NY: Scribner's, 1964.
Meeks, W. *The First Urban Christians*. Yale: Press, 2003
Morris, Colin. *The Papal Monarchy*. Oxford, 1989.
Neill, S. *A History of Christian Missions*. Penguin, 1966.
Pagels, E. *The Gnostic Gospels*. 1979.
Rubenstein, R. *When Jesus Became God*. Harcourt, 1999.
Stark. *The Rise of Christianity*. Princeton: University Press, 1996.
Ware, T. *The Orthodox Church*. Penguin, 1974.
White, Michael. *From Jesus to Christianity*. Harper, 2004.

READERS/SOURCEBOOKS/WEB SITES

Barry, C. *Readings in Church History*. NY: Newman, 1960
Bettenson, H. *Documents of the Christian Church*. London: Oxford, 1963.
Christian Classics Ethereal Library. www.ccel.org
Cross, F. and E. Livingston. *The Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church*. 1983.
Early Christian Writings. www.earlychristianwritings.com
The Fathers of the Church. www.newadvent.org/fathers
The Hall of Church History. www.spurgeon.org/~phil/hall.htm
Kee, H. *The Origins of Christianity: Sources and Documents*. Prentice-Hall, 1973.

Kerr, H. *Readings in Christian Thought*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon, 1990.
Manschreck, C. *A History of Christianity in the World*. Prentice-Hall, 1985.
Petry, R. *A History of Christianity: Readings in the History of the Early and Medieval Church*. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice-Hall, 1962.
Placher, W. *Readings in the History of Christian Theology*. Vol. 1. John Knox Press, 1988.

MAPS/CHARTS

Hannah, J. *Charts of Ancient and Medieval Church History*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2001
Littell, F. *The Macmillan Atlas History of Christianity*. NY: Macmillan, 1976.

PERIODICALS

Christian History and Biography. 1990-
Church History. 1889-
Fides et Historia (Conference on Faith and History). 1973/74-97.
Journal of Early Christian Studies. 1933-
Journal of Ecclesiastical History. 1950-