

Instructor: Gary Neal Hansen

3 credits; letter grade only. Prerequisites: None

Core Requirement for M.Div. and senior 3/3 students. Other undergraduates by permission.

Course Description

This course is the first half of the required two-semester survey of the history of Christianity. Its objective is to familiarize students with the history and teachings of the Christian Church from early in the second century to the beginning of the sixteenth century.

Objectives

By participating fully in this class, students will:

1. Be able to tell the story of Christianity from the second through the fifteenth centuries.
2. Be able to identify and discuss the development of major theological and ethical teachings, practices, debates, and leaders of the church in these centuries.
3. Be able to read, discuss, and critically analyze historical and theological texts.
4. Grow in character and gain wisdom for ministry by bringing their faith into conversation with Christians of past centuries, recognizing the diversity of Christian traditions and the distinctive features of their own.
5. Develop an eager curiosity for further study of Church history.

M.Div. Curricular Goals Fulfilled by This Course

- *Nurture habits and disciplines of study*, prayer, and reflection that increase their love of God and neighbor and shape their personal and professional lives.
- Be formed by, live in, and minister out of Scripture and *the historical and theological tradition of the Church*.
- Interpret the Christian Scriptures through faithful exegesis and *in light of the Christian tradition*.
- Educate and equip individuals and congregations to live and minister joyfully and faithfully as part of their own denomination *and the ecumenical church*.

Course Requirements

1. Conscientious attendance, reading, and participation in discussions.
2. Two short essays, each on a theme from one of the assigned primary source readings.
3. Mid-term and final exams.

Readings will be assigned from the following:

Brown, Raphael, trans., *The Little Flowers of St. Francis*.

Chadwick, Henry, trans. and intro., *Saint Augustine: Confessions*.

Davies, Brian and G. R. Evans, eds., *Anselm of Canterbury: The Major Works*.

Fathers of the English Dominican Province, trans., *St. Thomas Aquinas: Summa Theologica* (accessed on the internet).

Fry, Timothy, ed., *The Rule of St. Benedict*.

Greer Rowan A., trans., *Origen: An Exhortation to Martyrdom, Prayer, and Selected Works*.

Gonzalez, Justo L., *The Story of Christianity, Vol. 1, The Early Church to the Dawn of the Reformation*

_____, *Church History: An Essential Guide*.

Oden, Amy, ed., *In Her Words*.

Noble, Thomas F. X. and Thomas Head, *Soldiers of Christ*.

A Religious of the CSMV, trans., *St. Athanasius: On the Incarnation*.

Spearing, A.C., translator, *Julian of Norwich: Revelations of Divine Love*.

Williams, Frederick and Lionel Wickham, trans., *Gregory of Nazianzus: On God and Christ*.