

HT502-60 (Online) Reformation & Modern Church History

Spring, 2010

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3 Credits

Prerequisite: HT500, Early & Medieval Church History, or permission

Core Course

Letter grade only

Description

This course is the second 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 the Reformation to the present.

Objectives

Course Objectives: By participating fully in this class, students will:

1. Be able to tell the story of Christianity from the 16th through the 20th 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 Christian character by bringing their own faith into conversation with Christians of past centuries.
5. Develop an eager curiosity for further study of Church history.

Curricular Objectives: This course will work toward accomplishment of the following goals of the curriculum:

- *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.*

Requirements/Evaluation

Participation in weekly discussions and other learning tasks (Objectives 1-5. 20%).

One 3-5 page essay comparing two of the Reformation-era readings on an issue of historical importance (Objectives 2, 3, 4, & 5. 15%).

One 4-6 page annotated bibliography analyzing the work of modern scholars on the author of one of our primary sources from the modern period (Objectives 2, 3, 4 & 5. 15%).

Mid-term and final exams (Objectives 1, 2, & 3. 25% each; 50% total).

Tentative Bibliography

Required

Survey texts

- Gonzalez, Justo L. *Church History: An Essential Guide*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1996.
-----, *The Story of Christianity, Vol. 1, The Early Church to the Dawn of the Reformation*.
San Francisco: HarperSanFrancisco, 1984.
-----, *The Story of Christianity, Vol. 2, The Reformation to the Present Day*. San
Francisco: HarperSanFrancisco, 1985.

Primary source texts

- Calvin, John. *Institutes of the Christian Religion* (1536). Translated and edited by Ford
Lewis Battles. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co. and the H.H.
Meeter Center for Calvin Studies, 1986. **(Excerpts likely on e-reserve)**
- Locke, John. *The Reasonableness of Christianity*. Stanford: Stanford University Press,
1958.
- Luther, Martin. *Martin Luther: Selections from His Writings*. Edited by John
Dillenberger. New York: Anchor Books, 1961.
- Machen, J. Gresham. *Christianity and Liberalism*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans
Publishing Co., 1923.
- McPherson, Aimee Semple. *The Story of My Life*. Waco: Word Books, 1973. **(Excerpts
likely on e-reserve)**
- Schroeder, H.J., trans. *The Canons and Decrees of the Council of Trent*. Rockford: Tan
Books, 1978, or online at <http://history.hanover.edu/texts/trent.html> . **(Excerpts
likely on e-reserve)**
- Sheldon, Charles, *In His Steps*. Grand Rapids: Fleming H. Revell, 1994.
- Wesley, Susanna. *Susanna Wesley: The Complete Writings*. New York: Oxford
University Press, 1997. **(Excerpts likely on e-reserve)**
- Williams, George Hunstan, ed., *Spiritual and Anabaptist Writers*, Library of Christian
Classics. Philadelphia: The Westminster Press, 1957.

Recommended

- Cross, F.L., and E. A. Livingstone. *The Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church*, third
ed. revised. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005.
- Hammond staff, *Hammond Historical World Atlas*. Union, NJ: Hammond World Atlas
Corp., 2000.
- Lorayne, Harry, and Jerry Lucas. *The Memory Book*. New York: Ballantine Books,
2000.
- Oden, Amy, ed. *In Her Words: Women's Writings in the History of Christian Thought*.
Nashville: Abingdon, 1994.
- Strunk, William, Jr. and E.B. White. *Elements of Style*, 4th Edition. Boston: Longman
Publishing, 1999.
- Truss, Lynn. *Eats, Shoots and Leaves: The Zero Tolerance Approach to Punctuation*.
New York: Penguin Books, 2004.
- Turabian, Kate L. *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*,
seventh edition. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2007.