

CH 5051: History of Christianity I

Trinity Evangelical Divinity School
Mark Chapman, Ph.D.
Mobile: 651-336-7838
E-mail: mbchapman@tiu.edu

Fall Semester 2018
Thursday, 6:30 – 9:15 pm
Eastbrook Church Extension Site
Milwaukee
4 Graduate Credits

Course Description

This course explores the development of Christianity from its inception in the first century to the close of the Reformation era in the sixteenth century. Through a sympathetic engagement with primary and secondary historical sources, students will acquire a general understanding of the patristic period; the ecumenical councils; the emergence of medieval polity, philosophy and theology; the cultural synthesis of the high middle ages; the Renaissance in Italy and northern Europe; and the Protestant and Catholic Reformations.

Learning Objectives

1. That students acquire a mastery of the general development of Christian thought and institutions from Christianity's inception through the Reformation, and some of the individuals and political, social, and cultural trends and events that influenced that development.
2. That students will gain understanding of the lives, theological perspectives, and impact of a wide array of Christians in the history of the church.
3. That students gain a greater understanding of the historical location and religious contributions of their own faith tradition within this larger story.
4. That students recognize and appreciate distinctive contributions provided by Christian men and women from faith traditions other than their own, and develop a sympathetic understanding of history and the historical and theological contexts out of which such varied traditions came about.
5. That students apply knowledge and insights from a survey of the Christian Church over the centuries in their own theological development, to deepen their love for God and further the health and growth of the Church today through their faithful work in ministry.

Required Texts (Additional required and optional readings for the course will be posted online.)

Bettenson, Henry and Chris Maunder, eds. *Documents of the Christian Church*. 4th Ed. New York: Oxford University Press, 2011. [ISBN: 978-0199568987]

Dowley, Tim, ed. *Introduction to the History of Christianity*. 3rd Ed. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2018. [ISBN: 978-1506445960]

*George, Timothy. *The Theology of the Reformers*, Revised edition. Nashville, Tenn.: B & H Academic, 2013. [ISBN: 978-0805401950]

*Luther, Martin. "The Freedom of a Christian." *The Annotated Luther Study Edition*, ed. Timothy Wengert. Minneapolis, Minn.: Fortress Press, 2016. [ISBN: 978-1506413518]

Noll, Mark A. *Turning Points: Decisive Moments in the History of Christianity*. 3rd Ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2012. [ISBN: 978-0801039966]

* Please wait to purchase these texts until after class begins as there may be changes.

Course Requirements/Grading Criteria

Class Attendance: Students are expected to be on time and attend every class throughout the entire course period. Material presented in class is considered to be of the highest priority and class sessions are limited. Class absences may result in course grade reductions.

In the case of extreme emergency or unforeseen circumstances (family emergencies, death, etc.) the student should contact the instructor and secure the necessary permission to miss time in a class and make up the missed class time and assignments. Vacations, ministry responsibilities and travel plans are not considered emergencies and such requests will be denied. As the schedule for the Extension courses is set ahead of time, students should plan ahead to be sure they will be able to make it to all class sessions before they register. If the emergency necessitates a longer absence the student should contact the Dean of Students to request an extension of time, or in rare instances a withdrawal from the class without penalty.

Exams (50%): There will be two exams over the course of the semester. Each will cover all material since the previous exam. The final exam may also include questions involving broad themes or ideas from over the course of the semester. More details on exams will be provided as each exam approaches.

Response Papers (30%): Reading, interpreting, and responding to primary sources is the historian's main task. The surveys we use as textbooks for history classes are the syntheses of historians' interaction with primary sources of various kinds.

In order to gain greater understanding of the historian's task and of the great minds and issues that have shaped Christianity's history, you will write three short (2-3 pg.) papers interacting with various assigned source readings.

Each paper should contain at least:

- One paragraph identifying the issue addressed in the primary source
- One paragraph stating the author's thesis (main idea) and summarizing the content or argument of the essay
- One paragraph stating your evaluation of the argument and view of the relevance of this issue or the author's ideas on this issue to contemporary discussions or practices of Christians today.

These papers will be graded on the adequacy of your understanding the author's ideas, the clarity of your discussion, the interpretation you make of the relevancy of the discussion, and the quality of your writing (grammar, proofreading, organization of thought, etc.). Conciseness is considered a virtue in your essays. I will not read past a third page, and two page papers are preferred!

Note: Unless instructed differently by your professor, response papers are due the same date as the reading upon which they are based is due.

Reading Report (10%): At the time of the final examination, students will be asked to report the percentage of required course readings that they have read (*not* skimmed!) during the semester. Students will receive a numerical grade, based on the percentage read. (E.g. a student who reads 75% of required material will receive 7.5 out of a potential 10 points = 'C' grade.)

Class Participation (10%): The active participation of students with the material, the professor, and classmates is essential to a productive and stimulating class. Lack of participation affects the learning environment for the entire class. *NOTE: Always bring your assigned readings/textbooks to class.

Extra Credit: Students can earn up to 1% of extra credit if they memorize the Nicene Creed and write it out correctly on the first exam. The Nicene Creed can be found in Bettenson, *Documents*, 27-28.

Evaluation Scale:

A	Excellent	93%-100%
A-		90%-92.9%
B+		87%-89.9%
B	Good	83%-86.9%
B-		80%-82.9%
C+		77%-79.9%
C	Satisfactory	73%-76.9%
C-		70%-72.9%
D+		67%-69.9%
D		63%-66.9%
D-	Minimum Passing	60%-62.9%
F	Failure	00-59.9%

Grading:

Exams	50%
Response Papers	30%
Reading Report	10%
Class Participation	10%
Total	100%

The grade for an assignment that meets the basic requirements for good (above average) academic work is a B. More specifically there is nothing “wrong” with an assignment that receives a grade in the “B” range. To receive a grade in the “A” range, an assignment must be superior in some aspect such as research or insight, though not necessarily greater than the suggested length.

Academic Integrity and Plagiarism

Academic dishonesty of any kind will not be tolerated. This applies to cheating, plagiarism and intentional misrepresentation of the truth. Students should be advised that normally in cases of academic dishonesty or plagiarism the penalty shall be a “0” for the assignment and an “F” for the course. For the full policy, please see the *TEDS/TGS Student Guide*.

Course Schedule

All readings are to be *completed* by the date listed. Readings beyond the first class will be updated on a future draft of the syllabus. *** *Readings may be added or removed from the syllabus as deemed necessary by the instructor. Be attentive to announcements regarding readings and other syllabus changes in class, online, or via email.*

8/30 – Course Introduction, The Early Church

Course Requirements. Class introductions

Why Study Church History?

Christianity’s Beginnings

Dowley 1-27; Noll 1-37; Bettenson 1-4, 66-67; Complete any Moodle items online

9/6 – The Apostolic Age, Persecution and Expansion, The Church Fathers

Early Christian Beliefs

Dowley 29-89; Bettenson 5-16, 72-82; Complete any Moodle items online

9/13 – Christ and Constantine

Establishing the New Testament Canon, Outsiders Become Insiders, the Challenge of Arianism
Dowley 90-125; Noll 39-57; Bettenson 17-21; other readings TBD; Complete any Moodle items online

9/20 – Nicaea and the Early Ecumenical Councils and Creeds

The Councils of Constantinople and Chalcedon
Dowley 125-150; Noll 59-76; other readings TBD; Complete any Moodle items online

9/27 – Augustine and His Legacy

Donatism, Pelagianism, the Fall of Rome
Dowley 151-168; other readings TBD; Complete any Moodle items online

10/4 – Monasticism and the Church in the Early Middle Ages

Dowley 169-205; Noll 77-119; other readings TBD; Complete any Moodle items online

10/11 – Scholasticism in the High Middle Ages

The Eastern Church, the Great Schism, The Papacy, the Crusades
Dowley 207-257; Noll 121-143; other readings TBD; Complete any Moodle items online
Midterm Exam

10/18 – The Catholic Church at Its Summit

Thomas Aquinas, the Orthodox Church in the East
Dowley 258-284; other readings TBD; Complete any Moodle items online

10/25 – The Waning of the Middle Ages?

Dowley 285-306; other readings TBD; Complete any Moodle items online

11/1 – Conciliarism, Humanism, and Calls for Reform

Papal Problems, the Renaissance
Dowley 307-317; other readings TBD; Complete any Moodle items online

11/8 – Martin Luther and the Reformation

Dowley 317-331; Noll 143-166; other readings TBD; Complete any Moodle items online

11/15 – John Calvin and Reformed Protestantism

Dowley 332-338; other readings TBD; Complete any Moodle items online

11/22 – NO CLASS – Thanksgiving Break

11/29 – The Swiss and English Reformations and the Birth of Anabaptism

The Spread of a Vernacular Bible, the Puritans
Dowley 332-360; other readings TBD; Complete any Moodle items online

12/6 – The Catholic Reformation and Protestant Confessionalization

Dowley 361-388; other readings TBD; Complete any Moodle items online

12/13 – Closing Comments and Catch-Up Day, Final Exam

Readings TBD; Complete any Moodle items online