



**NEW ORLEANS**  
BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

ANSWERING GOD'S CALL

**HISTORY OF CHRISTIANITY:  
EARLY & MEDIEVAL – HIST 5200  
INTERNET – SUMMER 2017  
JAMES ROBERTS  
jameskristieroberts@gmail.com**

### **Seminary Mission Statement**

The mission of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary is to equip leaders to fulfill the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries.

### **Purpose of the Course**

The purpose of this course is to provide quality theological education for students in the discipline of theological and historical studies. The core value focus of the course will emphasize mission focus. The course will specifically address the competencies of Christian theological heritage, disciple making, servant leadership and spiritual and character formation.

### **Core Value Focus and Curriculum Competencies Addressed**

The core value focus of the course will emphasize this semester is **characteristic excellence**. We want everything we do to be characterized by offering the utmost of our abilities and resources as a testimony to the glory of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The course will specifically address the following curriculum competencies:

Theological and Historical Heritage – comprehensive overview of Christianity's formation and development up to the time of the Reformation

Disciple Making – use the people from our past to model Christ-like behavior

Servant Leadership – use the people from our past to model servant leadership

Spiritual and Character Formation – model Christian character in relating to those in the Christian family with whom we disagree

Biblical Exposition – demonstrate the biblical foundation for evangelical Christianity

Worship Leadership – examine the variety of worship styles and practices used by Christians

### **Course Description**

This course provides a general historical survey of the Christian movement from its inception through the medieval period. A brief introduction to historical method and historiography is followed by the study of significant ideas, individuals, movements, and institutions in the rise and development of Christianity prior to the Protestant Reformation.

### **Student Learning Outcomes**

In order to understand and interpret Christian theological heritage and Baptist polity for the church, the student, by the end of the course, should:

1. Be able to apply their knowledge and understanding of the formation and development of the Christian movement from its inception through the medieval period to the process of

- interpreting Christian theological heritage and Baptist polity for the church.
2. Value the ideas, individuals, movements, and institutions in the rise and development of Christianity prior to the Protestant Reformation.
  3. Be able, with the help of resources, to accomplish the following:
    - Practice the historical method and historiography in order to interpret Christian theological heritage for the local church.
    - Place individuals, movements, and ideas within their proper historical context.

## Required Texts

There are two (2) required books for this class. The texts describe and interpret the people, events, and concepts that have been important throughout Christianity's history. The documents book provides representative and influential confessions of faith important to our heritage. These books compliment one another as tools for understanding our Christian heritage.

Justo González, *The Story of Christianity: The Early Church to the Dawn of the Reformation*, vol. 1, rev. ed. New York: HarperOne, 2010. ISBN: 978-0061855887

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

There will be additional required reading from primary sources that are available on the Internet.

### Recommended Texts:

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

Leith, John H., ed. *Creeds of the Churches: A Reader in Christian Doctrine from the Bible to the Present*. 3d ed. Atlanta: John Knox Press, 1982. [Also helpful]. ISBN: 978-0804205269

Maier, Paul L. *Eusebius: The Church History*. Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Academic, 2007. ISBN: 978-0825433078

Stevenson, J. and Frend, W. H. C., eds. *Creeds, Councils and Controversies: Documents Illustrating the History of the Church, AD 337-461*. 3<sup>rd</sup> revised ed. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2012. ISBN: 978-0801039706

All texts are available through the New Orleans LifeWay Christian Store: (800) 570-0250.

There will be additional required reading from primary sources that are available on the Internet.

## Requirements

- A. Tests:** There will be six (6) tests, each worth 25 points, given throughout the semester. The lowest test grade will be dropped. Each test will last 20 minutes and be timed. Exams should be taken without notes in front of you. Please study for the test, then take it "open memory." You are on the honor system.

Tests will be available throughout the course and must be completed before 11.59 pm (Central Standard Time) on the date below. Tests can be taken any time prior to the due date. All test dates are **Fridays**.

**Unit 1 – June 9**

**Unit 2 - June 16**

**Unit 3 – June 23**

**Unit 4 - July 7**

**Unit 5 – July 14**

**Unit 6 – July 21**

**B. Assigned Reading:** Students are expected to read the assigned pages listed for each unit. A report is due on the last day of each unit on the percentage completed (in 20% increments) of that unit's assigned reading. Each report is worth up to 5 points. Reading Reports are found at the end of each unit's assignments under Course Documents. An additional 5 point bonus will be awarded to students who have completed **all** the assigned reading by the time of the Unit 6 Exam. This allows you to catch up on reading you have missed during the semester.

**C. Book Review:** Each student will write a review of either a biography of someone from the Early or Medieval Church, or a history of a movement during this time period. The book must be approved by the professor. Email the professor the title and author of the book you wish to review by **June 7**. Book review assignments will be posted in Course Information later that week. Books must be for an adult audience (not children) and be at least 150 pages in length.

The review will be written as though for an academic magazine or journal. It should:

- (1) a bibliographical entry at the top of the first text page of the review,
- (2) a brief biographical sketch of the author (one paragraph at most),
- (3) a brief summary (one to two pages) of the contents of the book,
- (4) a statement of the author's purpose and the extent to which the purpose was realized,
- (5) a description of the author's writing style and biases,
- (6) 2-3 significant insights, strengths, and/or weaknesses, and
- (7) concluding evaluation.

All quotations and direct references to sections in the book should be indicated by page numbers within parentheses. Citations or paraphrases from other sources should be noted and documented using either footnotes or endnotes. Reviews should be 4-6 pages in length, double-spaced. The review is worth 30 points. Post your review in the "Discussion Board" area of Blackboard. **Due June 28.**

**C. Biography:** You will research and write a biography on a significant person in Christian history. The biography will be 8 to 12 pages long and should reflect scholarly research. You should delineate between historical fact and legend (although limited legendary material is welcome) and discuss the historical context and influence of your subject in church history. It will be written according to standard guidelines (Turabian; Times New Roman 12 pt. font; double-spaced; standard margins, etc.) and include a bibliography of at least six resources (textbooks, reference books, and the Internet are allowed, but you must consult a minimum of three biographies and/or church histories as well).

Suggested subjects are:

Ignatius  
Justin Martyr  
Irenaeus  
Tertullian  
Clement of Alexandria  
Origen  
Cyprian  
Athanasius  
Arius  
Constantine  
Basil the Great  
Macrina  
Jerome  
John Chrysostom

Augustine  
Pelagius  
Patrick  
Benedict of Nursia  
Gregory I the Great  
Mohammed  
Boniface (Wynfrith)  
Charlemagne  
Anselm of Bec  
Thomas Becket  
Peter Abelard  
Bernard of Clairvaux  
Peter Lombard

Leo IX  
Gregory VII  
Urban II  
Alexander III  
Hildegard of Bingen  
Innocent III  
Francis of Assisi  
Dominic de Guzman  
Catherine of Siena  
Thomas Aquinas  
Boniface VIII  
John Wycliffe  
John Huss

You may choose a subject not on this list for your biography, but you must have prior approval from the professor. **Due July 17.**

## Penalties

- A. Tests:** Unit tests must be completed by midnight (Central Time) of the date of the unit completion. Exams may be taken prior to that date, but will not be available after the due date.
- B. Papers:** A late paper will be assessed an initial **10 point penalty**. For each calendar day after the due date an **additional 10 point penalty** will be assessed. Failure to post a public copy of your paper on Blackboard will result in a **5 point penalty**. Failure to post your paper in a .pdf format will result in a **5 point penalty**.
- C. Plagiarism:** A high standard of personal integrity is expected of all students at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. Copying another person's work, submitting downloaded material without proper references, submitting material without properly citing the source, and committing other such forms of dishonesty are strictly forbidden. Although anything cited in three sources is considered public domain, we require that all sources be cited. Any infraction may result in failing the assignment and the course. Any infraction will be reported to the Dean of Students for further action. **See the Graduate Catalog for more information on the Definition of Plagiarism and Consequences for Violations of**

**Plagiarism.** For writing help, go to [www.nobts.edu/writing/default.html](http://www.nobts.edu/writing/default.html).

## Submission of Assignments

- A. Unit Tests and Reading Reports:** Unit tests and reading reports must be completed by midnight (Central Standard Time) of the date of the unit completion. Exams may be taken prior to that date, but will not be available after the due date.
- B. Book Review** should be posted as an attached file (not added in the text box) in the Assignment area.
- C. Discussion Threads** will be conducted on Blackboard. Go to the Discussion Board to add your threads. Click on a thread to respond to it.
- D. Biographies** should be **posted twice**. First, submit it through SafeAssign in the Assignments area. You can check how well you have cited your research by first submitting a draft to SafeAssign. Secondly, submit your paper in the appropriate area in Discussion Board. Attach your paper by clicking on the Browse button and finding the copy of your paper. Remember to click Submit or the paper will not post properly. This allows the rest of the class to read your paper and learn from your research. I want you all to be able to benefit from the others' research and writing. Your paper **must** be posted a .pdf document. [WordPerfect can save a document in .pdf and you can download a program from the [Software Downloads to be used in NOBTS Blackboard Courses](#) link that will work for MS Word documents (MS Works is not acceptable)]. Posting your paper in .pdf format preserves your margins and spacing. Failure to post your paper in a .pdf format will result in a **5 point penalty**.

Please do not send your assignments to me as email attachments unless I request you to do so or unless there is a compelling reason. You may send me an email announcing that you have submitted an assignment, but, if you follow the correct procedures, I will find it. I enjoy hearing from my students, but my Inbox fills up pretty quickly with attachments, and then I have to shift them over to the proper location.

## Possible Points & Grading Scale

	<u>Possible Points</u>	<u>Grading Scale</u>
Reading:	30 pts.	A = 307-330 pts.
Tests (5 x 25):	125 pts.	B = 282-306 pts.
Book Review:	30 pts.	C = 254-281 pts.
Discussions:	45 pts.	D = 231-253 pts.
<u>Biography:</u>	100 pts.	F = 230- ↓ pts.
Total Points:	330 pts.	

## Emergency Plan

In case of hurricane or any other emergency, go to the seminary web site for information: [www.nobts.edu](http://www.nobts.edu). The administration will communicate information that relates to the seminary: the nature of the emergency, instructions for responses, evacuation, contingency plans, duration of the emergency, and plans to return to campus and/or resume the schedule.

In addition, check Blackboard for instructions related to this class. Because this class is available on Blackboard, there should be minimal disruption unless the emergency affects electrical power and connection to the Internet.

In any emergency, communication is important, and our best means of staying connected is through the seminary's web site and Blackboard.

## HISTORY OF CHRISTIANITY: EARLY and MEDIEVAL READING SCHEDULE

**G** = Justo Gonzalez, *The Story of Christianity*, vol. 1.

**B** = Henry Bettenson, *Documents of the Christian Church*

**I** = Some primary sources will be accessed via Internet. The web addresses are listed in the Reading Schedule for Primary Sources file under Course Information.

**NOTE:** Please note that the subjects do not always coincide exactly with the lecture notes. However, the reading assigned will generally cover the same subjects, but in a different order.

Unit	Subject	Reading
[1]	Approaches to History	
	Greco-Roman World Context	<b>G:</b> Introduction, chapters 2-4
	Growth During Persecution	<b>G:</b> Chapters 5-6, 10, 12 <b>B:</b> 1-2, 3-5 (Tacitus, <i>Annales</i> 15.44; Correspondence of Pliny and Trajan) <b>I:</b> <i>Passion of Perpetua and Felicitas</i>
	Ante-Nicene Leaders & Literature	<b>G:</b> Chapters 7, 9 <b>B:</b> 9-13 ( <i>Martyrdom of Polycarp</i> ) <b>I:</b> Ignatius, Letter to the Romans
	Ante-Nicene Church Life	<b>G:</b> Chapter 11 <b>I:</b> Tertullian, <i>Apology</i> (Chapters 2, 50)
[2]	Heresies	<b>G:</b> Chapter 8
	Schismatic Groups & Canon	<b>G:</b> Chapter 16 <b>B:</b> 25-26, 31-32, 78-81 (The Apostle's Creed; Muratorian Canon; Cyprian, <i>On the Unity of the Church</i> ) <b>I:</b> Athanasius, Paschal Epistle
	Establishment of Christianity	<b>G:</b> Chapters 13-15
	Council of Nicea	<b>G:</b> Chapters 17-18 <b>B:</b> 27-28, 36-42 (Creed of Nicea and Nicene Creed; Athanasius, <i>On the Incarnation</i> ; Heresies concerning the Person of Christ)
[3]	Constantinople to Chalcedon	<b>G:</b> Chapters 19-20 <b>B:</b> 52-57 (Eutychianism and Response)
	Nicene & Post-Nicene Leaders	<b>G:</b> Chapters 21-23
	Augustine of Hippo	<b>G:</b> Chapter 24 <b>I:</b> Augustine, <i>Confessions</i> (Book 8)

		<b>B:</b> 57-68 (Augustine vs. Pelagius)
	Post-Nicene Church Life	<b>G:</b> Chapters 25-26
[4]	Overview of Medieval Christianity	
	Western Church to Charlemagne	<b>G:</b> Chapter 27 <b>B:</b> 127-41 (Rule of Benedict)
	Eastern [Orthodox] Church	<b>G:</b> Chapter 28
	Rise of Islam	
	Holy Roman Empire & Feudalism	<b>G:</b> Chapter 29
[5]	Monastic Reform	<b>G:</b> Chapter 30
	Papacy through Urban II	
	Crusades	<b>G:</b> Chapter 31
	Waning of Papal Supremacy	<b>G:</b> Chapter 33 <b>B:</b> 123-7 (Innocent III & Boniface VIII)
[6]	Mendicant Orders	<b>G:</b> Chapter 32 <b>B:</b> 141-46 (Rule of Francis of Assisi)
	Scholasticism	<b>B:</b> 151-66 (Anselm, <i>The Ontological Argument from Proslogion; Cur Deus Homo?</i> ; Thomas Aquinas, <i>Summa Theologica</i> )
	Roman Catholic Sacraments	
	Stirring of Reform	<b>G:</b> Chapter 34 <b>B:</b> 191-8 (John Wycliffe & the Lollards)
	Renaissance and Humanism	<b>G:</b> Chapter 35-37 <b>I:</b> Thomas à Kempis, <i>The Imitation of Christ</i> (Book 1, Chapter 1)

**READING SCHEDULE  
PRIMARY SOURCES ON THE INTERNET**

**UNIT ONE**

Ignatius, Letter to the Romans

**Error! Hyperlink reference not valid.**



## **UNIT TWO**

Tertullian, Apology (Chapters 2, 50)

<http://www.earlychristianwritings.com/text/tertullian01.html>

Passion of Perpetua and Felicitas

**Error! Hyperlink reference not valid.**

Athanasius, Paschal Epistle

**Error! Hyperlink reference not valid.**

## **UNIT THREE**

Augustine, Confessions (Book 8)

**Error! Hyperlink reference not valid.**

## **UNIT FIVE**

<http://www.hti.umich.edu/cgi/k/koran/koran-idx?type=DIV0&byte=1320>

You are responsible only to read verses 2.105-140, which include what the Qur'an says about Christians.

## **UNIT SIX**

Thomas à Kempis, The Imitation of Christ (Book 1, Chapter 1)

<http://www.leaderu.com/cyber/books/imitation/imb1c01-10.html#RTFToC13>

## Early – Medieval Beginning Bibliography

### General Church History

Baker, Robert A. and John M. Landers. *A Summary of Christian History*. 3d ed. Nashville: Broadman & Holman Academic, 2005.

Davidson, Ivor. *The Birth of the Church: From Jesus to Constantine, AD 30-312*. 2004.

\_\_\_\_\_. *A Public Faith: From Constantine to the Medieval World, AD 312-600*. 2005.

Heinze, Rudolph. *Reform and Conflict: From the Medieval World to the Wars of Religion, AD 1350-1648*. 2005.

Pearse, Meic. *The Age of Reason: From the Wars of Religion to the French Revolution, 1570-1789*. 2006.

Brown, Harold O. J. *Heresies: Heresy and Orthodoxy in the History of the Church*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1998.

*The Cambridge History of Christianity*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2005.

Cross, Frank and E. Livingstone. *Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church*. 3d ed. Oxford University Press, 2005.

Duffy, Eamon. *Saints and Sinners: A History of the Popes*. 2d ed. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2001.

Ferguson, Everett. *Church History*. 2 volumes. Zondervan, 2005-2006.

Gonzalez, Justo. *A History of Christian Thought*. 3 volumes.

Latourette, Kenneth Scott. *A History of Christianity*. 2 volumes.

Leith, John H., ed. *Creeds of the Churches: A Reader in Christian Doctrine From the Bible to the Present*. 3d ed. Louisville: John Knox Press, 1982.

*Library of Christian Classics*. Edited by John Baillie, John T. McNeill, and Henry P. Van Dusen. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1950s.

Neill, Stephen. *A History of Christian Missions*. 2d ed. Penguin, 1991.

Olson, Roger. *The Story of Christian Theology*. InterVarsity Press, 1999.

Pelikan, Jaroslav. *The Christian Tradition: A History of the Development of Doctrine*. 5 volumes. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1971-1989.

Walker, Williston, et al. *A History of the Christian Church*, 4<sup>th</sup> ed. Scribner's, 1985.

## Early Church

Brown, Peter. *The Rise of Western Christendom: Triumph and Diversity, AD 200-1000*. 2d ed. Blackwell, 2002.

Chadwick, Henry. *The Church in Ancient Society*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2002.

\_\_\_\_\_. *The Early Church*. Baltimore: Penguin Books, 1967.

Di Berardino, Angelo, ed. *Encyclopedia of the Early Church*. 2 volumes. Oxford University Press, 1992.

Drobner, Hubertus. *The Fathers of the Church*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 2005.

*Encyclopedia of Early Christianity*. Edited by Everett Ferguson, Michael P. McHugh, & Frederick W. Norris, eds. 2d ed. Garland, 1997.

Eusebius. *Ecclesiastical History*. Hendrickson Publishers Edition. Translated by C. F. Cruse. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 1998.

Frend, W. H. C. *The Rise of Christianity*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1986.

Holmes, Michael. *The Apostolic Fathers: Greek Texts and English Translations*. 3d ed. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2007.

\_\_\_\_\_. *The Apostolic Fathers in English*. 3d ed. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2006.

Jefford, Clayton. *Reading the Apostolic Fathers*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1996.

Kelly, Joseph Norman Davidson. *Early Christian Doctrines*. Revised ed. NY: HarperCollins, 1978. Reprint ed. Peabody, MA: Prince Press, 2004.

McKechnie, Paul. *The First Christian Centuries*. InterVarsity Press, 2002.

Wilken, Robert L. *The Spirit of Early Christian Thought: Seeking the Face of God*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2003.

## Medieval Christianity

Davidson, Ivor. *A Public Faith: From Constantine to the Medieval World, AD 312-600*. Oxford, England: Monarch Books, 2005.

Heinze, Rudolph. *Reform and Conflict: From the Medieval World to the Wars of Religion, AD 1350-1648*. 2005.

Brown, Peter. *The Rise of Western Christendom: Triumph and Diversity, AD 200-1000*. 2d ed. , 2002.

*Early Medieval Christianity, c. 600-c. 1100.* Edited by Thomas F.X. Noble & Julia M.H. Smith. History of Christianity. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2008.

Hussey, J. M. *The Orthodox Church in the Byzantine Empire.* Oxford: Oxford University Press,

Morris, Colin. *The Papal Monarchy: The Western Church from 1050 to 1250.* Oxford History of the Christian Church. New York: Oxford University Press, 1991.

Riley-Smith, Jonathan. *The Crusades: A History.* 2d ed. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2005.

\_\_\_\_\_. *The Oxford Illustrated History of the Crusades.* Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2002.

Southern, R. W. *Western Society and the Church in the Middle Ages.* Penguin, 1990.

*The Medieval Theologians.* Edited by G. R. Evans. Blackwell, 2004.

Ware, Timothy. *The Orthodox Church.* Rev. ed. Penguin, 1993.