



**HIST 5300 HISTORY OF CHRISTIANITY
EARLY-MEDIEVAL
WEEKEND HYBRID
FALL 2023**

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I hope that you are as excited about the study of church history as I am! If not, I hope that my enthusiasm will affect you positively. One of the reasons I love teaching is the opportunity to relate to students. Please feel free to contact me by email or phone or to come by my office. I want to help you in any way I can. **Call me if you have a problem or a question. Do not wait until it is too late for me to help!** This syllabus is subject to minor, necessary or beneficial changes during the semester.

I. Mission Statement

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and Leavell College prepare servants to walk with Christ, proclaim His truth, and fulfill His mission.

II. 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.

III. Student Learning Outcomes:

- The student demonstrates an understanding of significant individuals, movements, institutions, and theological concepts in the history of Christianity.
- The student demonstrates an ability to apply principles learned from the study of the history of Christianity to church and ministry today.
- The student demonstrates an ability to communicate understanding and application of principles learned from the study of the history of Christianity.

IV. Required Texts:

There are two required textbooks for this class:

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

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

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

VII. Requirements:

- A. *Two-Day On-Campus Conference*: The heart of this hybrid course is a two-day conference scheduled for October 20-21, 2023. The schedule for this conference is appended to this syllabus, but more information will be added as it becomes available. The four topics are: What Happened to the Apostles, Early Christian Martyr Stories, The Rise of Islam & Understanding Our Catholic Neighbors. Guest speakers will participate in the conferences, bringing a variety of expertise to the classroom. The conferences are designed to provide a unique learning experience for History of Christianity students. **Attendance is mandatory.** Because of the nature of the intensive, students who miss any portion of the class may receive a grade of "F" for the course.

Reflection Paper: Each student will submit a two-page Reflection Paper on one or more of the topics covered during the conference. **The Reflection Paper is due on October 30 & is worth up to 25 points.**

- B. *Unit Tests*: There will be six (6) tests, each worth 25 points, given throughout the semester. Bonus questions for extra points are built into each test. The lowest test grade will be dropped. Tests will be available throughout the course and must be completed by midnight on the last day of the unit. Each test will last 25 minutes and be timed. Tests 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. The final day by which each Unit Test must be completed is as follows:

Unit 1 Test: August 28
Unit 2 Test: September 11
Unit 3 Test: September 25
Unit 4 Test: October 23
Unit 5 Test: November 6
Unit 6 Test: December 4

- C. *Assigned Reading*: Students are expected to read the assigned pages listed for each week. A Reading Report is due on the Monday following each week's assignment based on the percentage completed (in 20% increments) of that unit's assigned reading. Each report is worth up to 2 ½ points.

An additional 5-point bonus will be awarded to students who have completed **all** the assigned reading by **December 4**. This allows you to catch up on reading you have missed during the semester. You will have an opportunity to report your bonus reading online.

- D. *1st Book Review*: Each student will read and review Brian Shelton, *Quest for the Historical Apostles: Tracing Their Lives and Legacies* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2018).

The Book Review should be between six to eight double-spaced typewritten pages in length and contain:

- (1) a bibliographical entry at the top of the first text page of the review;
- (2) a **brief** biographical sketch of the author;
- (3) a summary of the contents of the entire book;
- (4) an evaluation of the impact of this book on the student's personal life and ministry.

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. **1st Book Review is due on September 18.**

- E. *2nd Book Review*: Each student will read and review Bryan Litfin, *Early Christian Martyr Stories: An Evangelical Introduction with New Translations* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2014).

See above for instructions about this Book Review, which is **due on November 13.**

VI. Writing Assistance

NOBTS Writing Center: Students have access to *Write Stuff, the NOBTS Writing Center*. Information about the Writing Center and the process for submitting papers can be found at <http://www.nobts.edu/writing>. The writing center staff will review the paper and work with the student as necessary to improve it before the final paper is submitted. Working with the writing center should help you in all of your academic writing, as well as help you produce an excellent biography for this course.

NOBTS Style Guide: A copy of the approved NOBTS Style Guide can be found in the course Canvas shell, or can be located online at the Writing Center's page on the seminary website at: https://www.nobts.edu/_resources/pdf/writing/StyleGuide.pdf

Turn-it-in: Canvas offers a service known as "Turn-It-In." In the Canvas Module, you will find this service. Follow the instructions there to submit a draft of your paper for review.

A paper submitted through this service will be compared to other papers in the database and checked for the percentage of copying from other sources. Your work will not be used for any purpose other than preventing plagiarism in the Seminary and other participating institutions. Ownership of the intellectual property contained in your written work will not be transferred to any third party.

Your paper will be assessed for the amount of material copied from other sources and returned to you. The highlighted passages do not indicate plagiarism necessarily, but they point out the percentage of your paper that can be found in other sources. You need to be sure that you properly quote and cite such passages, and you may need to put more of your paper in your own words.

You will find that your footnotes and bibliographical entries are highlighted. That should be expected, since the papers in the database also cite the same sources that you use.

VII. Submission of Assignments

1. The Unit Tests & Reading Reports will be conducted on Canvas.
2. You will submit the Book Reviews on Canvas.
3. 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.

VIII. Penalties:

Weekend Hybrid Class Attendance: Students are expected to attend and participate in the class sessions. Because of the nature of the intensive, students who miss any portion of the weekend class meeting may receive a grade of “F” for the course.

Unit Tests & Reading Reports: Unit Tests and Reading Reports must be submitted by the date of the unit completion. After the deadline, Unit Tests and Reading Reports will NOT be re-opened. One unit test grade will be dropped.

Tardiness: A late written assignment will be assessed a **10 percent penalty if it is submitted after the deadline and a 20 percent penalty after five days. After one week past the deadline, the penalties become very severe.**

Plagiarism: **New Orleans Baptist Seminary maintains high academic standards and is not tolerant of plagiarism. If you copy another author’s work and present it as your own, you will be caught, and the penalty could be failure on that assignment or the course or expulsion from the Seminary.**

IX. Possible Points & Grading Scale:

<u>Possible Points</u>		<u>Grading Scale</u>
Reading:	30 pts.	A = 275-300 pts.
Tests (5 x 25):	125 pts.	B = 255-274 pts.
1 st Book Review:	60 pts.	C = 230-254 pts.
2 nd Book Review:	60 pts.	D = 180-229 pts.
Reflection Paper	<u>25 pts.</u>	F = 179 - 0 pts.
	300 pts.	

X. Need technical assistance? Contact the ITC today!

Selfserve@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the Selfserve.nobts.edu site (Access to online registration, financial account, online transcript, etc.)

CanvasHelpDesk@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests to this email.

ITCSupport@nobts.edu - Email for general technical questions/support requests.

504.816.8180 - Call for any technical questions/support requests.

www.NOBTS.edu/itc/ - General NOBTS technical help information is provided on this website.

XI. Emergency Plan

In case of hurricane or any other emergency, go to the seminary web site for information: 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.

Also, check Canvas for instructions related to this class. Because this class is available on Canvas, 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 Canvas.

COURSE SCHEDULE

- [G] Gonzalez, Justo L. *The Story of Christianity*.
 [B] Bettenson, Henry and Chris Maunder. *Documents of the Christian Church*.
 [I] Some primary sources will be accessed via Internet.

Week	Week Starting	Topic	Assignments Due
Week 1	Aug 14	Context of Early Church	G: Introduction & chapters 2-4
Week 2	Aug 21	Persecution & Martyrdom Ante-Nicene Leaders & Church	Reading Report #1 G: Chapters 5-7, 9-12 B: <i>Martyrdom of Polycarp</i> I: Tertullian, <i>Apology</i> (Chapters 2, 20) http://www.earlychristianwritings.com/text/ter tullian01.html I: <i>Passion of Perpetua and Felicitas</i> https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/source/perpetua.asp
Week 3	Aug 28	Heresy & Orthodoxy	Reading Report #2 Unit 1 Test G: Chapter 8 B: The Apostle's Creed; Muratorian Canon I: Athanasius, Paschal Epistle http://www.ccel.org/ccel/schaff/npnf204.xxv.iii.iii.xxv.html
Week 4	Sep 4 <i>Labor Day</i>	Church & State Council of Nicea	Reading Report #3 (due Sep 5) G: Chapters 13-18 B: Heresies concerning the Person of Christ B: Creed of Nicea
Week 5	Sep 11	Councils 2-4 Nicene & Post-Nicene Leaders	Reading Report #4 Unit 2 Test G: Chapters 19-23; pp. 295-301 B: Nicene Creed; Athanasius, <i>On the Incarnation</i> ; Eutychianism
Week 6	Sep 18	Augustine Early Church Worship	Reading Report #5 1st Book Review G: Chapters 24-26 I: Augustine, <i>Confessions</i> (Book 8) http://www.ccel.org/ccel/augustine/confessions.xi.html B: Augustine vs. Pelagius
Week 7	Sep 25	Overview of Medieval Church Western Church	Reading Report #6 Unit 3 Test G: pp. 263-288 B: Rule of Benedict

FALL BREAK	Oct 2-6		
Week 8	Oct 9	Eastern Church Rise of Islam	Reading Report #7 G: pp. 289-294; 302-314
Week 9	Oct 16	Medieval Politics	Reading Report #8 G: Chapter 29
Weekend Hybrid Meeting	Oct 20-21		
Week 10	Oct 23	Monastic Reform Papacy through Gregory VII	Reading Report #9 Unit 4 Test G: Chapter 30
Week 11	Oct 30	Crusades Papacy: Zenith to Decline	Reading Report #10 Hybrid Weekend Reflection Paper G: Chapter 31; pp. 363-368; 380-410 B: Pope & Imperial Elections; Bull "Clericis Laicos"; Bull "Unam Sanctam"
Week 12	Nov 6	Monastic Developments Scholasticism	Reading Report #11 Unit 5 Test G: pp. 357-362; 369-379 B: Rule of Francis of Assisi
Week 13	Nov 13	Sacraments Renaissance	Reading Report #12 2nd Book Review G: Chapters 32-33; 35 I: Thomas à Kempis, <i>The Imitation of Christ</i> (Book 1, Chapter 1) http://www.leaderu.com/cyber/books/imitation/imb1c01-10.html#RTFToC13
THANKS GIVING	Nov 20-24		
Week 14	Nov 27	Dawn of the Reformation	Reading Report #13 G: pp. 411-432
Finals Week	Dec 4		Unit 6 Test Bonus Reading Report