



**HIST 5301 History of Christianity:  
Reformation & Modern**  
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary  
Division of Theological and Historical Studies  
Fall 2023 – Internet

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This course begins on **August 14, 2023**, and, by that date, students should have access to Canvas, where they will find information and instructions about the course. Prior to that time, students should purchase the texts and be ready to participate in the course. The reading schedule is included in this syllabus so that, once students have secured the textbooks, they can begin reading their assignments.

### **Mission Statement**

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

### **Course Description**

This course provides a general historical survey of the Christian movement from the Protestant Reformation to the present. Attention is given to significant ideas, individuals, movements, and institutions in the development of Christianity during the Reformation and modern periods.

### **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.

### **Textbooks**

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 complement one another as tools for understanding our Christian heritage.

Justo González, *The Story of Christianity*, vol. 2, *The Reformation to the Present Day*, rev. ed. New York: HarperOne, 2010. ISBN: 978-0061855894

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.

#### Strongly Recommended Texts:

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. ISBN: 978-0804205269

Finke, Roger and Rodney Stark. *The Churching of America, 1776-2005: Winners and Losers in Our Religious Economy*. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 2005.]

### Course Requirements

**A. Tests:** There will be six (6) tests, each worth 25 points, given throughout the semester. The lowest test grade will be dropped. The exam will last 20 minutes and be timed, but will not close if you go over time. 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 can be taken early, but must be completed **before 11.59 pm (Central Time)** on the date below. All test dates are **Mondays, unless noted**.

**Unit 1 - September 5 -- Tuesday**

**Unit 2 - September 18**

**Unit 3 - October 9**

**Unit 4 - October 23**

**Unit 5 - November 6**

**Unit 6 - December 4**

**B. Assigned Reading:** Students are expected to read the assigned pages listed for each day. The percentage of each unit’s assigned reading that was completed will be reported (in 20% increments) on that unit’s test. Each report will be worth 5 points. An additional **5 point bonus** will be awarded at the time of the final exam to students who have completed **all** the assigned reading for the course by the time of the final.

**C. Application Points:** Each student will at least one Application Point for four of the six units. You will consider the lessons that you learn during each unit and compose an application point – a sermon illustration, an application to your ministry, or a lesson learned for your personal life. Responses to other students are encouraged, but not required.

After studying all assigned reading, lecture material, and bonus features in each unit, open the discussion question forum and create your own thread. Your thread should be 150-300 words. Based on your study of each unit, provide the class with **ONE** of the following:

- 1) A sermon illustration or teaching point that you learned from this period of church history. How could you use specific stories or examples from this unit in your preaching/teaching?
- 2) An insight learned from this period that you plan to apply in your ministry, now or in the future. How can events from this unit teach us to serve better?
- 3) An experience from this period that is inspiring to your personal devotion to Christ. How has studying this unit impacted your personal Christian life?

Each Application Point is worth 15 points. The schedule for Application Points is as follows:

**Unit 1 Application: August 28**

**Unit 2 Application: September 11**

**Unit 3** No Application – Work on Book Review

**Unit 4 Application: October 16**

**Unit 5** No Application – Work on Book Review

**Unit 6 Application: November 13**

- I **D. Book Review of a Biography:** Each student will read and review a biography of a subject located within the parameters of the Reformation and modern eras of the church. Suggested subjects are listed below, and suggested biographies are included in the Selected Bibliography. Other books are allowed with the permission of the professor. Reviews are worth **60 points**.

The Book Review should be between **6-8 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 person's life and ministry on Christianity and 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. **Book Review of the Biography is due on September 25.**

- I **E. Book Review of a Movement or Event:** Each student will read and review a book written about a movement or event located within the parameters of the Reformation and modern eras of the church. Suggested books are included in the Selected Bibliography. Other books are allowed with the permission of the professor. Reviews are worth **60 points**.

See above for instructions about this Book Review of a Movement or Event. **Due on October 30.**

## Help for Writing Papers at “The Write Stuff”

NOBTS maintains a Writing Center designed to improve English writing at the graduate level. Students can receive writing guides, tips, and valuable information to help in becoming a better writer. 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>

## Penalties

*Late Assignments:* A late assignment will be assessed an initial **10 point penalty**. Each calendar day after the due date an **additional 10 point penalty** will be assessed.

## Plagiarism on Written Assignments

NOBTS has a no tolerance policy for plagiarism. Plagiarism in certain cases may result in expulsion from the seminary. See the NOBTS Student Handbook for definition, penalties, and policies associated with plagiarism.

## Evaluation of Grade

The student’s grade will be computed as follows:

	<u>Possible Points</u>	<u>Grading Scale</u>
Reading:	30 pts.	A = 312-335 pts.
Unit Exams (5 x 25):	125 pts.	B = 285-311 pts.
Application Points:	60 pts.	C = 258-284 pts.
Book Review 1:	60 pts.	D = 234-257 pts.
Book Review 2:	<u>60 pts.</u>	F = 233 - ↓ pts.
	335 pts.	

## Attendance Policy – Online Class

Students are expected to engage regularly with course content through the learning management system and other course delivery methods. Students who fail to participate consistently in course activities may receive a grade of “F” for the course.

## Technical Assistance

For assistance regarding technology, consult ITC (504-816-8180) or the following websites:

1. [Selfserve@nobts.edu](mailto:Selfserve@nobts.edu) - Email for technical questions/support requests with the [Selfserve.nobts.edu](http://Selfserve.nobts.edu) site (Access to online registration, financial account, online transcript, etc.)
2. [Canvas@nobts.edu](mailto:Canvas@nobts.edu) - Email for technical questions/support requests to this email.
3. [ITCSupport@nobts.edu](mailto:ITCSupport@nobts.edu) - Email for general technical questions/support requests.
4. [www.NOBTS.edu/itc/](http://www.NOBTS.edu/itc/) - General NOBTS technical help information is provided on this website.

## 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 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.

## HISTORY OF CHRISTIANITY: REFORMATION and MODERN READING SCHEDULE

**G** = Justo Gonzalez, *The Story of Christianity*, vol. 2.

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

**O** = Available on Canvas

Date	Subject	Reading
Aug 14	Background to the Reformation Martin Luther's Life and Witness	<b>G:</b> Chapters 1-3 <b>B:</b> Ninety-five Theses Leipzig Disputation Diet of Worms
Aug 21	Luther's Theology Ulrich Zwingli and Swiss Reformed	<b>G:</b> Chapter 4, 5 <b>B:</b> Two Treatises Short Catechism, The Confession of Augsburg
Aug 28	<b>Application Point - Unit 1</b> Anabaptists	<b>G:</b> Chapter 6 <b>O:</b> Schleithem Confession
Sep 5	<b>Exam and Reading Report – Unit 1</b> John Calvin and Geneva	<b>G:</b> Chapter 7 <b>B:</b> Institutes of the Christian Religion
Sep 11	<b>Application Point - Unit 2</b> English Reformation & Dissent	<b>G:</b> Chapter 8, 18 <b>B:</b> Supremacy Act 1534 Supremacy Act 1559 Act of Uniformity Westminster Confession of Faith The Clarendon Code
Sep 18	<b>Exam and Reading Report – Unit 2</b> Reformation in Scotland Catholic Reformation & Orthodoxy	<b>G:</b> Chapter 12, 19 <b>B:</b> The Jesuits The Council of Trent The Tridentine Profession Jansenism The Gallican Declaration
Sep 25	<b>Book Review- Biography</b> God's Election & Human Free Will Wars of Religion	<b>G:</b> Chapters 9-11, 13-17, 20-21 <b>B:</b> Arminianism

Peace of Augsburg  
Edict of Nantes  
Peace of Westphalia

**Oct 3-5            F A L L            B R E A K**

Oct 9    **Exam and Reading Report – Unit 3**  
Age of Enlightenment

**G:** Chapter 22  
**B:** Deistic Controversy

Oct 16    **Application Point - Unit 4**  
Pietism  
John Wesley and the Methodists

**G:** Chapters 23-24  
**O:** John Wesley's Conversion

Oct 23    **Exam and Reading Report – Unit 4**  
Christianity in Early America  
First Great Awakening

**G:** Chapter 25  
**O:** Jonathan Edwards' *Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God*

Oct 30    **Book Review- Movement/Event**  
Religious Liberty  
2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Great Awakenings  
New Religions  
Global Expansion

**G:** Chapters 26-27, 33, 37-38

Nov 6    **Exam and Reading Report – Unit 5**  
Modern European Christianity

**G:** Chapters 28, 30, 31, 35  
**B:** Resistance in Nazi Germany

Nov 13    **Application Point - Unit 6**  
African American Christianity

**G:** Chapter 36

**Nov. 20-23            T H A N K S G I V I N G            B R E A K**

Nov 27    Modern American Christianity

**G:** Chapters 32-34  
**B:** Immaculate Conception  
The Syllabus of Errors  
The Second Vatican Council  
**O:** Billy Graham, New York Crusade, 1957 (optional)  
**O:** Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "I Have a Dream"

Dec 4    **Exam and Reading Report – Unit 6**

## BOOK REVIEW BIBLIOGRAPHY

### Biographies

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## **Movement or Event**

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