



HIST 5300 HISTORY OF CHRISTIANITY  
EARLY-MEDIEVAL  
Theological and Historical Division  
INTERNET  
SPRING 2022

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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. **DO NOT MESSAGE ME THROUGH BLACKBOARD.** 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 three 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).

Mark A. Noll, *Turning Points: Decisive Moments in the History of Christianity*. 3d ed. (Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker Academic, 2012).

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

## VII. Requirements:

- A. *Tests*: There will be six (6) tests, each worth 25 points, given throughout the semester. 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 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. The final day by which unit requirements must be completed is as follows:

**Unit 1: February 14**

**Unit 2: February 28**

**Unit 3: March 21**

**Unit 4: April 4**

**Unit 5: April 18**

**Unit 6: May 2**

- 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 **May 2**. This allows you to catch up on reading you have missed during the semester.
- C. *Movie Review*: Each student will watch a movie, based on the period of the early church and write a historical review. The movie is *Quo Vadis* (1951), starring Robert Taylor, Deborah Kerr, and Peter Ustinov. This movie might be available at your neighborhood video store, or you can purchase it inexpensively through ebay.com or amazon.com. Or, if you subscribe to Netflix, it is available through that service. Also, it is available in the NOBTS library. **Secure this movie in a timely manner to insure that you can submit this assignment on time.**

In the review, include evaluations of its historical accuracy and value, including any discrepancies that you notice. This assignment is informal and intended to be a fun way for you to learn. You may use first person. The review should be 3-4 pages, single-spaced, and is worth 30 points. The movie review is due **February 21**.

- D. *Major Research Paper*: Each student will conduct research and prepare a paper on a significant person, movement, event or place in Christian history. Submit the paper to me under Assignments and post it on the Discussion Board so that your fellow students will have access to your research and writing. **Due March 28.**

The Research Paper will be ten to twelve pages long (not including cover sheet or bibliography; no table of contents is necessary) and should reflect scholarly research. You should discuss the historical context and influence of your subject in church history and conclude with a summary statement about the contributions and lasting consequences of your subject to history. It will be written according to standard guidelines (Turabian; Times New Roman 12 pt. font; double-spaced; standard margins; footnotes, etc.) and include a bibliography of at least ten resources (Textbooks, reference books, and the Internet are allowed, but you must consult a minimum of six bibliographies, monographs, and/or church histories as well).

*Application point:* After writing a conclusion to your research paper, each student will add at least one application point learned from the subject of the research paper, whether it is a person or a topic. This application point might be a sermon illustration, an application to your ministry, or a lesson learned for your personal life.

The Biography/Research Paper will be evaluated as follows:

1. Grammar and style: Spelling, sentence and paragraph development; punctuation; and conformity to the 6<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup> edition of Turabian. (20 points)
2. Clarity and Coherence: Balance; thoroughness; organization; logical development; overall sense of the paper. (20 points)
3. Research: Bibliography; type and variety of sources (primary, secondary, monographs, journal articles, websites, etc.); most bibliographic entries should be accompanied by footnote citations. (20 points)
4. Historical Awareness and Insight: Factual accuracy; awareness of historical connections (continuity/discontinuity, cause/effect, contrasts/comparisons); sensitivity to historical context; awareness of the historical impact of a person. (20 points)
5. Analysis and Evaluation: Going beyond the mere reporting of facts to include explanation, interpretation, analysis of material; evaluation of strengths and weakness of a person; demonstration that you have thought about the material that you have researched. Give strong and insightful introduction and conclusion. Include at least one application point. (20 points)

Suggested subjects are:

- |                         |                        |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| • Ignatius              | • Boniface (Wynfrith)  |
| • Justin Martyr         | • Charlemagne          |
| • Irenaeus              | • Anselm of Bec        |
| • Tertullian            | • Thomas Becket        |
| • Clement of Alexandria | • Peter Abelard        |
| • Origen                | • Bernard of Clairvaux |
| • Cyprian               | • Peter Lombard        |
| • Athanasius            | • Leo IX               |
| • Arius                 | • Gregory VII          |
| • Constantine           | • Urban II             |
| • Basil the Great       | • Alexander III        |
| • Macrina               | • Hildegard of Bingen  |
| • Jerome                | • Innocent III         |
| • John Chrysostom       | • Francis of Assisi    |
| • Augustine             | • Dominic de Guzman    |
| • Pelagius              | • Catherine of Siena   |
| • Patrick of Ireland    | • Thomas Aquinas       |
| • Benedict of Nursia    | • Boniface VIII        |
| • Gregory I the Great   | • John Wycliffe        |
| • Mohammed              | • Jon Huss             |
- 
- The Interaction of Greek Philosophy & Early Christian Thought
  - The Jewish Revolt (including the destruction of Jerusalem & Masada)
  - The Impact of Persecution & Martyrdom on the Expansion of the Early Church
  - Early Christian Suffering & the Development of Superstitious Practices
  - Voluntary Martyrdom in the Early Church
  - Gnosticism & Its Contemporary Expressions
  - Montanism & Its Later Expressions

- Monarchianism & Its Later Expressions
- The Canonization of the New Testament
- The Use of Creeds & Apostolic Succession in Establishing Christian Orthodoxy
- Worship in the Early Church & What We Can Learn from It
- The Constantinian Symbiosis & Its Impact on the Church
- The Christology of the Council of Chalcedon
- The Development of the Worship of Mary in the Early Church
- Augustine vs. Pelagius
- Augustine & the Just War Theory
- The Development of the Roman Papacy
- The Advance of Islam from 632 to 1095
- The Benedictine Rule & Its Impact on the Medieval Church
- The Great Missionary Monks through the Early Middle Ages
- The Rise & Impact of Feudalism on the Feudal Church
- The Rise & Impact of the Cluniac Reform
- The Causes, Events & Effects of the First Crusade
- The Rise & Fall of the Legendary Knights Templar
- Two Papal Crises: The Avignon Papacy & the Great Papal Schism
- The Contributions & Corruption of the Renaissance Popes
- The Inquisition
- Four Theories of the Atonement: Ransom, Satisfaction, Moral, & Penal Substitution
- A Comparison of Anselm's Ontological Argument & Aquinas' Cosmological Argument for the Existence of God
- An Evangelical Assessment of Roman Catholic Sacramentalism
- The Impact of the Northern Renaissance on the Reformers

You may choose a subject not on this list for your biography, but you must have prior approval from the professor. Send me your top three choices by email. DUPLICATIONS ARE NOT ALLOWED. First come; first served.

*Safe Assignment:* Blackboard offers a service known as "SafeAssignment." If you click on "Assignments" on the left menu, you will be directed to "Major Research Paper – First Draft." 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.

By the way, you probably 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.

*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>.

- E. *Book Review*: Each student will write a book review of Mark Noll, *Turning Points*. The 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) at least a three-page summary of the contents of the entire book, with a view to the significant individuals, movements, institutions, and doctrines in the history of Christianity;
  - (4) a discussion of general principles learned from the history of Christianity;
  - (5) an evaluation of the impact of this book and the study of Christian history 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. **Final Version is due on April 11.**

Each student will write a first draft of the Book Review of Mark Noll, *Turning Points*. **This first draft will be submitted to *Write Stuff, the NOBTS Writing Center*. Students must also upload a copy of the writing center receipt or the returned, corrected paper to Blackboard in the Assignments section.** 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 research paper for this course. There is no specific due date for this part of the assignment, but you must submit the draft to the Writing Center in time for you to receive it back again and make corrections to the Final Version. **Six points will be deducted from your grade if you do not show proof that you submitted your First Draft to the Writing Center.**

**Embedded Assignment: This assignment is an embedded assignment that will be completed by all students for all sections of this course. The rubric for evaluating this assignment is attached to this syllabus. Please complete the assignment with this rubric in mind.**

- G. *Discussion Board*: Each student will participate in the Discussion Board in each 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.

After studying all assigned reading, lecture material, and bonus features in each unit, open the discussion board 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 graded Discussion Thread is worth 15 points. During Unit One, you also are asked to post an Introduction.

#### VIII. Submission of Assignments

1. The Unit Exams, Reading Reports, and Discussion Threads will be conducted on Blackboard. Unit Tests and Reading Reports are under Course Documents and under each respective unit. Go to the Discussion Board to add your Application Points.
2. You will submit the Major Research Paper under Assignments and on the Discussion Board. Attach your paper by clicking on the Browse button. The reasons for submitting your paper both ways are: 1) for ease in grading; and 2) to make it available to the other students. I want every student to be able to benefit from each other's research and writing.
3. You will submit your Book Review twice. First, under Assignments, post either a receipt from the Writing Center or the marked copy returned to you from the Writing Center. You need to submit your First Draft to the Writing Center, but your receipt will be accepted later.

Second, you will submit your corrected Final Version of the Book Review under Assignments.

4. 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.

#### IX. Penalties:

*Unit Exams & Reading Reports:* Unit Exams and Reading Reports must be submitted by the date of the unit completion. One unit exam grade will be dropped.

*Interactive Discussions:* Failure to participate adequately in the threaded discussions and to do so in a timely manner will affect the amount of points awarded.

*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.**

*Posting your Major Research Paper under Assignments and on the Discussion Board:* Failure to do so will result in a 5-point deduction.

*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.**

*First Draft of the Book Review:* Six points will be deducted if you do not show proof that you submitted your First Draft to the Writing Center.

X. Possible Points & Grading Scale:

<u>Possible Points</u>		<u>Grading Scale</u>
Reading:	30 pts.	A = 405-435 pts.
Tests (5 x 25):	125 pts.	B = 370-404 pts.
Movie Review:	30 pts.	C = 335-369 pts.
Research Paper:	100 pts.	D = 260-334 pts.
Book Review:	60 pts.	F = 259 - □ pts.
<u>Discussion Threads:</u>	<u>90 pts.</u>	
435 pts.		

XI. 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.)

**BlackboardHelpDesk@nobts.edu** - Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS Blackboard Learning Management System NOBTS.Blackboard.com.

**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.

XII. 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.

Also, 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.

## 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	Jan 18	Context of Early Church	<b>G:</b> Introduction & chapters 2-4
Week 2	Jan 24	Persecution & Martyrdom	<b>G:</b> Chapters 5-6  <b>B:</b> Tacitus, <i>Annales</i> 15.44; Correspondence of Pliny and Trajan  <b>I:</b> Ignatius, Letter to the Romans <a href="http://www.ccel.org/ccel/schaff/anf01.v.v.html">http://www.ccel.org/ccel/schaff/anf01.v.v.html</a>
Week 3	Jan 31	Persecution & Martyrdom	<b>G:</b> Chapters 10 & 12 <b>B:</b> <i>Martyrdom of Polycarp</i>  <b>I:</b> <i>Passion of Perpetua and Felicitas</i> <a href="https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/source/perpetua.asp">https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/source/perpetua.asp</a>
Week 4	Feb 7	Ante-Nicene Leaders & Church  Heresy & Orthodoxy	<b>G:</b> Chapters 7-9 & 11  <b>I:</b> Tertullian, <i>Apology</i> (Chapters 2, 20) <a href="http://www.earlychristianwritings.com/text/tertullian01.html">http://www.earlychristianwritings.com/text/tertullian01.html</a>  <b>B:</b> Cyprian, <i>On the Unity of the Church</i>
Week 5	Feb 14	Heresy & Canon	<b>Unit One Assignments</b> <b>B:</b> The Apostle's Creed; Muratorian Canon  <b>I:</b> Athanasius, Paschal Epistle <a href="http://www.ccel.org/ccel/schaff/npnf204.xxv.iii.iii.xxv.html">http://www.ccel.org/ccel/schaff/npnf204.xxv.iii.iii.xxv.html</a>
Week 6	Feb 21	Church & State  Council of Nicea	<b>Movie Review</b> <b>G:</b> Chapters 13-18  <b>B:</b> Heresies concerning the Person of Christ  <b>B:</b> Creed of Nicea and Nicene Creed; Athanasius, <i>On the Incarnation</i>
Week 7	Feb 28	Councils 2-4  Nicene & Post-Nicene Leaders	<b>Unit Two Assignments</b> <b>G:</b> Chapters 19-23  <b>B:</b> Eutychianism



Week 8	Mar 7	Augustine  Early Church Worship	<b>G:</b> Chapters 24-26  <b>I:</b> Augustine, <i>Confessions</i> (Book 8) <a href="http://www.ccel.org/ccel/augustine/confessions.xi.html">http://www.ccel.org/ccel/augustine/confessions.xi.html</a>  <b>B:</b> Augustine vs. Pelagius
<b>SPRING BREAK</b>	<b>Mar 14-18</b>		
Week 9	Mar 21	Overview of Medieval Church  Western & Eastern Church	<b>Unit Three Assignments</b> <b>G:</b> Chapters 27-28  <b>B:</b> Rule of Benedict
Week 10	Mar 28	Rise of Islam  Medieval Politics	<b>Research Paper</b> <b>G:</b> Chapter 29  <b>I:</b> Excerpt from Qur'an <a href="http://www.hti.umich.edu/cgi/k/koran/koran-idx?type=DIV0&amp;byte=1320">http://www.hti.umich.edu/cgi/k/koran/koran-idx?type=DIV0&amp;byte=1320</a> You are responsible only to read verses 2.105-140, which include what the Qur'an says about Christians.
Week 11	Apr 4	Monastic Reform  Papacy through Gregory VII	<b>Unit Four Assignments</b> <b>G:</b> Chapter 30
Week 12	Apr 11	Crusades	<b>Book Review</b> <b>G:</b> Chapter 31
Week 13	Apr 18	Papacy: Zenith to Decline  Monastic Developments	<b>Unit Five Assignments</b> <b>G:</b> Chapters 32-33  <b>B:</b> Pope & Imperial Elections; Bull "Clericis Laicos"; Bull "Unam Sanctam"  <b>B:</b> Rule of Francis of Assisi
Week 14	Apr 25	Scholasticism  Renaissance & Humanism	<b>G:</b> Chapter 35  <b>B:</b> Anselm, The Ontological Argument from <i>Proslogion</i> ; <i>Cur Deus Homo?</i>  <b>B:</b> Thomas Aquinas, <i>Summa Theologica</i>  <b>I:</b> Thomas à Kempis, <i>The Imitation of Christ</i> (Book 1, Chapter 1) <a href="http://www.leaderu.com/cyber/books/imitation/imb1c01-10.html#RTFToC13">http://www.leaderu.com/cyber/books/imitation/imb1c01-10.html#RTFToC13</a>
Week 15	May 2	Dawn of the Reformation	<b>Unit Six Assignments</b> <b>G:</b> Chapter 34
<b>Finals Week</b>	<b>May 5-12</b>		

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

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**Embedded Assignment Assessment Rubric for  
HIST5300 History of Christianity: Early-Medieval**

Semester \_\_\_\_\_

Section \_\_\_\_\_

DOMAIN	LEVEL	INADEQUATE (0 PTS)	BASIC (1 PT)	COMPETENT (2 PTS)	GOOD (3 PTS)	EXCELLENT (4 PTS)
UNDERSTANDING	Able to <b>Understand</b> significant individuals, movements, institutions, and theological concepts in the history of Christianity					
APPLICATION	Able to <b>apply</b> principles learned from the study of the history of Christianity to church and ministry today					
COMMUNICATION	Able to <b>communicate</b> understanding and application of principles learned from the study of the history of Christianity					