



**HIST 5300 HISTORY OF CHRISTIANITY
EARLY-MEDIEVAL
CLASSROOM / FLEX
SPRING 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 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).

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 13

Unit 2: February 27

Unit 3: March 20

Unit 4: April 3

Unit 5: April 17

Unit 6: May 1

- 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.

An additional 5 point bonus will be awarded to students who have completed **all** the assigned reading by **May 1**. 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.

- C. *1ST Book Review of a Biography*: Each student will read and review a biography of a subject located within the parameters of the early church and medieval era of the church. Suggested biographies are included in the Selected Bibliography. Other books are allowed with the permission of the professor.

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 person's life and ministry 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. **Book Review of the Biography is due on March 6.**

- D. *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 early church and medieval era of the church. Suggested books are included in the Selected Bibliography. Other books are allowed with the permission of the professor.

See above for instructions. The instructions for the Biography apply to this **Book Review of a Movement or Event, which is due on April 10.**

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.

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.

VII. Submission of Assignments

1. The Unit Exams and Reading Reports will be conducted on Canvas.
2. You will submit the Book Reviews under Assignments 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. Attendance

Traditional and NOLA2U Classes: Students are expected to attend and participate in the class sessions. Any student missing more than nine hours may receive an automatic grade of "F" for the course. Three tardies will count as one absence.

IX. Penalties:

Unit Exams & Reading Reports: Unit Exams and Reading Reports must be submitted by the date of the unit completion. **After the deadline, Unit Exams and Reading Reports will NOT be re-opened.** One unit exam 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.**

X. Possible Points & Grading Scale:

<u>Possible Points</u>		<u>Grading Scale</u>
Reading:	30 pts.	A = 255-275 pts.
Tests (5 x 25):	125 pts.	B = 230-254 pts.
1 st Book Review:	60 pts.	C = 210-229 pts.
2 nd Book Review:	60 pts.	D = 165-209 pts.
	<hr/>	F = 164 - 0 pts.
	275 pts.	

XI. NOLA2U FLEX

If you are taking this course as a NOLA2U Flex student, please note the following attendance policies:

1. You are required to be in class either through viewing the lectures live or viewing the recorded lectures on Canvas. When you view the recorded lecture, you will be considered present for that class. Regardless of if you watch the class live or recorded, you are only allowed to miss the amount of class time specified in the NOBTS attendance policy as stated in this syllabus.
2. You will be asked to certify that you have been present for the live session or have viewed the recorded session. This certification will be done through a Key Word announced by the professor. Flex students will send the Key Word to my Flex Assistant, Cole McQuitty – email address: colemcq@gmail.com.
3. All video lectures are available for 7 days after the video is posted. If you are unable to view the video within that time frame, you will be considered absent for that class session.
4. Technical issues will not be considered a valid reason for missing a lecture.

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	Jan 17		G: Introduction & chapters 2-4
Week 2	Jan 23	Context of Early Church	G: Chapters 5-6 B: Tacitus, <i>Annales</i> 15.44; Correspondence of Pliny and Trajan I: Ignatius, Letter to the Romans http://www.ccel.org/ccel/schaff/anf01.v.v.html
Week 3	Jan 30	Persecution & Martyrdom	G: Chapters 10 & 12 B: <i>Martyrdom of Polycarp</i> I: <i>Passion of Perpetua and Felicitas</i> https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/source/perpetua.asp
Week 4	Feb 6	Persecution & Martyrdom	G: Chapters 7-9 & 11 I: Tertullian, <i>Apology</i> (Chapters 2, 20) http://www.earlychristianwritings.com/text/ter tullian01.html B: Cyprian, <i>On the Unity of the Church</i>
Week 5	Feb 13	Heresy & Canon	Unit One Assignments B: The Apostle's Creed; Muratorian Canon I: Athanasius, Paschal Epistle http://www.ccel.org/ccel/schaff/npnf204.xxv.iii.iii.xxv.html
Week 6	Feb 20	Church & State Council of Nicea	G: Chapters 13-18 B: Heresies concerning the Person of Christ B: Creed of Nicea and Nicene Creed; Athanasius, <i>On the Incarnation</i>
Week 7	Feb 27	Councils 2-4 Nicene & Post-Nicene Leaders	Unit Two Assignments G: Chapters 19-23 B: Eutychianism
Week 8	Mar 6	Augustine Early Church Worship	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
SPRING BREAK	Mar 13-17		

Week 9	Mar 20	Overview of Medieval Church Western & Eastern Church	Unit Three Assignments G: Chapters 27-28 B: Rule of Benedict
Week 10	Mar 27	Rise of Islam Medieval Politics	G: Chapter 29 I: Excerpt from Qur'an 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.
Week 11	Apr 3	Monastic Reform Papacy through Gregory VII	Unit Four Assignments G: Chapter 30
Week 12	Apr 10	Crusades	2nd Book Review G: Chapter 31
Week 13	Apr 17	Papacy: Zenith to Decline Monastic Developments	Unit Five Assignments G: Chapters 32-33 B: Pope & Imperial Elections; Bull "Clericis Laicos"; Bull "Unam Sanctam" B: Rule of Francis of Assisi
Week 14	Apr 24	Scholasticism Renaissance & Humanism	G: Chapter 35 B: Anselm, The Ontological Argument from <i>Proslogion</i> ; <i>Cur Deus Homo?</i> B: Thomas Aquinas, <i>Summa Theologica</i> 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
Week 15	May 1	Dawn of the Reformation	Unit Six Assignments G: Chapter 34
Finals Week	May 4-11		

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Early Church & Medieval Era Biographies

Barnard, Leslie W. *Justin Martyr: his life and thought.*

Robert Grant, *Irenaeus of Lyons.*

Barnes, Timothy David. *Tertullian: A Historical and Literary Study.*

Osborn, Eric. *Tertullian: First Theologian of the West.*

Henri Couzel, *Origen*

Peter Hinchliff, *Cyprian of Carthage*

Lynn Hough, *Athanasius the Hero*

Weinandy, Thomas G. *Athanasius and his legacy.*

Williams, Rowan. *Arius : heresy and tradition.*

Leithart, Peter J. *Defending Constantine.*

Jones, Marvin. *Basil of Caesarea: His Life and Impact.*

Kelly, J. N. D. *Jerome : his life, writings, and controversies.*

Kelly, J. N. D. *Golden mouth : the story of John Chrysostom--ascetic, preacher, bishop.*

Neil McLynn, *Ambrose of Milan*

Peter Brown, *Augustine of Hippo.*

Bonner, Gerald. *St. Augustine of Hippo : life and controversies.*

Hanson, R. P. C. *Saint Patrick : his origins and career.*

Evans, G. R. *Anselm.*

Gilson, Etienne. *Heloise and Abelard.*

Evans, G. R. *Bernard of Clairvaux.*

Colish, Marcia L. *Peter Lombard.*

Maddocks, Fiona. *Hildegard of Bingen : the woman of her age.*

Flanagan, Sabina. *Hildegard of Bingen, 1098-1179 : a visionary life.*

Thompson, Augustine. *Francis of Assisi : a new biography.*

Curtayne, Alice. *Saint Catherine of Siena.*

O'Meara, Thomas F. *Thomas Aquinas theologian*.

Geisler, Norman L. *Thomas Aquinas : an evangelical appraisal*.

Parker, G. H. W. *The Morning Star*.

Spinka, Matthew. *John Hus : a biography*.

Schaff, David S. *John Huss : his life, teachings and death, after five hundred years*.

Early Church & Medieval Era Movements & Events Resources

Cohick, Lynn H. and Amy Brown Hughes. *Christian Women in the Patristic World: Their Influence, Authority, and Legacy in the Second through Fifth Centuries*.

Hartog, Paul, ed. *The Contemporary Church and the Early Church: Case Studies in Ressourcement*.

Litfin, Bryan M. *After Acts: Exploring the Lives and Legends of the Apostles*.

Shelton, W. Brian. *Quest for the Historical Apostles: Tracing Their Lives and Legacies*.

Litfin, Bryan M. *Early Christian Martyr Stories: An Evangelical Introduction with New Translations*.

Butler, Rex D. *The New Prophecy and "New Visions": Evidence of Montanism in "The Passion of Perpetua and Felicitas"*.

Metzger, Bruce M. *The Canon of the New Testament*.

Hartog, Paul, ed. *Orthodoxy and Heresy in Early Christian Contexts: Reconsidering the Bauer Thesis*.

Trevett, Christine. *Montanism: Gender, Authority, and the New Prophecy*.

McGrath, Alister. *Heresy: A History of Defending the Truth*.

Köstenberger, Andreas J. and Michael J. Kruger. *The Heresy of Orthodoxy*.

Whilhite, David E. *The Gospel According to Heretics*.

Jenkins, Philip. *The Lost History of Christianity*.

Litfin, Bryan. *Getting to Know the Church Fathers: An Evangelical Introduction*.

Oden, Thomas C. *How Africa Shaped the Christian Mind: Rediscovering the African Seedbed of Western Christianity*.

Wilken, Robert L. *The Spirit of Early Christian Thought: Seeking the Face of God*.

Hurtado, Larry W. *Destroyer of the Gods: Early Christian Distinctiveness in the Roman World*.

McGowan, Andrew B. *Ancient Christian Worship*.

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

Braswell, George W. Jr. *Islam: Its Prophet, Peoples, Politics, and Power*

Riley-Smith, Jonathan. *The Crusades: A History*.

Stark, Rodney. *God's Battalions: The Case for the Crusades*.

Ware, Timothy. *The Orthodox Church*.

Cross, Richard. *The medieval Christian philosophers: an introduction*.

Oberman, Heiko A. *The Dawn of the Reformation: Essays in Late Medieval and Early Reformation Thought*.