

HIST 5200 HISTORY OF CHRISTIANITY: EARLY AND MEDIEVAL

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Division of Theological and Historical Studies

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FALL SEMESTER 2015

12:30-1:20 PM Tuesday & Thursday

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of NOBTS is to equip leaders to fulfill the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries.

CORE VALUE FOCUS

Doctrinal Integrity, Spiritual Vitality, Mission Focus— *Mission Focus* is the core value focus for NOBTS this year. The course supports this emphasis by providing foundational information about the origins and character of the Christian mission, its various expressions in early and medieval Christianity, the amazing vitality and courage demonstrated by faithful Christians confronted by formidable social and political opposition to the Christian movement, and the Church's capacity to encourage and sustain commitment to the Christian mission in the world.

CURRICULUM COMEPETENCIES ADDRESSED

Christian Theological Heritage and Mission Focus

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course and its companion HIST5301 History of Christianity: Reformation and Modern provide a general historical survey of the Christian movement and are foundational courses in the graduate curriculum. HIST 5200 surveys the development of Christianity from its inception through the medieval period. A brief introduction to historical method and historiography is followed by study of significant ideas, individuals, institutions, and crises in the story of Christianity prior to the Protestant Reformation.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students successfully completing the course will demonstrate:

- appreciation of the nature and values of the historical study of Christianity;
- perception of the dynamic and developmental nature of history and of the interpretation of Christianity and its cultural settings;
- introductory knowledge of early and medieval Christianity;
- awareness of the rich panorama of persons, events, beliefs, and practices in early and medieval Christianity;
- appreciation of the practical values of historical study—how the story of early and medieval Christianity provides resources for understanding and evaluating one's Christian identity, denominational heritage, and ministerial priorities;
- capacity to *communicate* historical knowledge clearly and concisely in written review and examinations.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Texts. The textbook for the course is Justo L. Gonzalez, *The Story of Christianity* (Vol. 1 – *The Early Church to the Dawn of the Reformation*. Revised and Updated. Second Edition; New York, NY: HarperCollins, 2010). The supplementary text is Mark A. Noll, *Turning Points: Decisive Moments in the History of Christianity* (Third edition; Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2012). The documents reading source is Henry Bettenson and Chris Maunder (eds.), *Documents of the Christian Church* (Fourth edition; New York: Oxford University Press, 2011). Students should read the assigned material in preparation for class lecture and discussions. The following pages should be read by the end of the semester – Gonzalez xiii–xvi, 1-491; Noll 1-150; Bettenson and Maunder

1-193. **A statement indicating the completion of the reading requirement will be submitted by each student at the time of the final examination.**

Book Review. Each student shall write and submit a critical review of a book selected from the course bibliography. Please indicate your selection to the instructor before proceeding with this assignment. The review should be ten to twelve double-spaced typewritten pages in length and contain: (1) a biographical entry at the top of the first page of the review, (2) a brief biographical sketch of the author, (3) a brief summary (three or four 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 statement regarding the book's uniqueness, (6) a description of the author's style (7) a description of the author's perspective and biases, and (8) concluding evaluation.

The book review is due on Thursday, October 22, 2015.

Class Attendance. Students are expected to attend class regularly and participate in class discussions. According to Seminary regulations, the maximum number of absences without failure for a two hour course is six classroom hours. Please read the information in the current graduate catalog regarding absences, late arrivals, and early departures.

Examinations. Two examinations are scheduled for the semester. The midsemester exam consists of questions on lecture and text material of early Christianity (G: 1-262, N: 1-105, B&M: 1-92). The final examination is based on lecture and reading material on medieval Christianity (G: 263-491, N: 107-150, B&M: 93-193).

COURSE GRADING

The semester grade will be calculated as follows:

• Midsemester Exam.....	25%	A: 93-100
• Final Exam.....	35%	B: 85-92
• Book Review.....	25%	C: 77-84
• Reading Assignment/ Class Participation.....	15%	D: 70-76 F: 69 or below

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Asbridge, Thomas. *The First Crusade*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004.

Saint Augustine. *Confessions*. Translated by Albert Outler. Revised by Mark Vessey. New York: Barnes & Noble, 2007.

Brown, Peter. *The Rise of Western Christendom: Triumph and Diversity AD 200-1000*. Cambridge, MA: Blackwell, 1995.

Cahill, Thomas. *How the Irish Saved Civilization*. New York: Anchor, 1995.

Evans, G.R. ed. *The Medieval Theologians*. Malden, MA and Oxford: Blackwell, 2001.

Filoramo, Giovanni. *A History of Gnosticism*. Translated by Anthony Alcock. Oxford: Basil Blackwell, 1990.

Gamble, Harry Y. *Books and Readers in the Early Church*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1995.

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Grant, Michael. *Constantine the Great: The Man and His Times*. New York: Scribner's, 1994.

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- Green, Michael. *Evangelism in the Early Church*. Revised Edition. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2003.
- Hinson, E. Glenn. *The Early Church: Origins to the Dawn of the Middle Ages*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 1996.
- Kelly, John N.D. *Golden Mouth: The Story of John Chrysostom – Ascetic, Preacher, Bishop*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1995.
- _____. *Jerome*. Grand Rapids, MI: Hendrickson, 1999.
- Kelly, Joseph F. *The World of the Early Christians*. Collegeville, MN: The Liturgical Press, 1997.
- Lane Fox, Robin. *Pagans and Christians*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1989.
- McKechnie, Paul. *The First Christian Centuries: Perspectives on the Early Church*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2001.
- MacMullen, Ramsay. *Christianizing the Roman Empire (AD 100-400)*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1984.
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- Oberman, Heiko. *The Harvest of Medieval Theology*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2000.
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- Wilken, Robert L. *The Christians as the Romans Saw Them*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1984.
- _____. *The Spirit of Early Christian Thought*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 2003.
- Williams, D.H. *Retrieving the Tradition and Renewing Evangelicalism: A Primer for Suspicious Protestants*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1999.