



## **HIST5200 History of Christianity: Early-Medieval**

**New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary**  
**Division of Theological and Historical Studies**  
**Fall 2016**

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### **Mission Statement**

The mission of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary is to equip leaders to fulfill the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries.

### **Core Value Focus**

The seminary has five core values.

- 1. Doctrinal Integrity:** Knowing that the Bible is the Word of God, we believe it, teach it, proclaim it, and submit to it. This course addresses Doctrinal Integrity specifically by preparing students to grow in understanding and interpreting of the Bible.
- 2. Spiritual Vitality:** We are a worshiping community emphasizing both personal spirituality and gathering together as a Seminary family for the praise and adoration of God and instruction in His Word. Spiritual Vitality is addressed by reminding students that a dynamic relationship with God is vital for effective ministry.
- 3. Mission Focus:** We are not here merely to get an education or to give one. We are here to change the world by fulfilling the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries. This course addresses Mission Focus by helping students understand the biblical foundations for fulfilling the Great Commission and the Great Commandments.
- 4. Characteristic Excellence:** What we do, we do to the utmost of our abilities and resources as a testimony to the glory of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Characteristic Excellence is addressed by preparing students to excel in their ability to interpret Scripture, which is foundational to effective ministry.
- 5. Servant Leadership:** We follow the model of Jesus and exert leadership and influence through the nurture and encouragement of those around us. Servant Leadership is modeled by classroom deportment.

The core value focus for this academic year is: *Characteristic Excellence*.

### **Curriculum Competencies**

NOBTS faculty members realize that all ministers need to develop specific competencies if they are going to have an effective ministry. To increase the likelihood of NOBTS graduates having an effective ministry, the faculty developed a competency-based curriculum after identifying seven essential competencies necessary for effective ministry. All graduates are expected to have at least a minimum level of competency in all of the following areas:

- 1. Biblical Exposition:** to interpret and communicate the Bible accurately.
- 2. Christian Theological Heritage:** To understand and interpret Christian theological heritage and Baptist polity for the church.
- 3. Disciple Making:** To stimulate church health through mobilizing the church for missions, evangelism, discipleship, and church growth.

4. **Interpersonal Skills:** To perform pastoral care effectively, with skills in communication and conflict management.
5. **Servant Leadership:** To serve churches effectively through team ministry.
6. **Spiritual and Character Formation:** To provide moral leadership by modeling and mentoring Christian character and devotion.
7. **Worship Leadership:** To facilitate worship effectively.

The curriculum competency addressed in this course is: *Christian Theological Heritage*.

### **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**

- 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.

### **Course Teaching Methodology**

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. This course is delivered as an on-campus, classroom course.

### **Textbooks**

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).

### **Course Requirements**

**Texts.** 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 27, 2016\*\***

**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).

### Evaluation of Grade

The student's grade will be computed 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

### 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. [BlackboardHelpDesk@nobts.edu](mailto:BlackboardHelpDesk@nobts.edu) - Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS Blackboard Learning Management System [NOBTS.Blackboard.com](http://NOBTS.Blackboard.com).
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.

### 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.

### 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.

### Course Schedule

• Midsemester Exam.....	25%	Due: TBD by professor
• Final Exam.....	35%	Due: TBD by professor
• Book Review.....	25%	Due: October 27, 2016
• Reading Assignment/ Class Participation.....	15%	Due: at time of final exam

## **Selected Bibliography**

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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.

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Williams, D.H. *Retrieving the Tradition and Renewing Evangelicalism: A Primer for Suspicious Protestants*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1999.