

# **BCHI5500 HISTORY OF CHRISTIANITY**

Baptist College Partnership Program

May 25-29, 2015

## ***PROFESSORS AND CONTACT INFORMATION***

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## **CLASS SCHEDULE**

Days	Times
Monday	2:00-5:00 PM
Tuesday-Friday	8:30-11:30 AM

## **RESEARCH TIME**

**Each student will be required to do research and preparation every evening for a presentation to the class on the following day.**

## **I. SEMINARY 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.

## **II. CORE VALUE FOCUS and CURRICULUM COMPETENCIES**

The core value focus of the course will emphasize Spiritual Vitality. The course will specifically address the competencies of Christian theological heritage, disciple making, servant leadership and spiritual and character formation.

## **III. SEMINAR DESCRIPTION**

The purpose of the seminar is to augment the student's knowledge of areas addressed in the courses HIST5200 History of Christianity: Early and Medieval and HIST 5201 History of Christianity: Reformation and Modern. The seminar provides students opportunity to review the content of these courses through textbook readings and to research and discuss assigned topics related to the history of Christianity. Seminar prerequisites are the completion with a grade of "B" or better of at least two college courses in the history of Christianity, and the approval of the Director of the Baptist College Partnership Program for admission to the seminar.

## IV. SEMINAR OBJECTIVES

*Students successfully completing the seminar will demonstrate*

- **appreciation of the nature and values of the historical study of Christianity;**
- **understanding of the dynamic and developmental nature of history and of the interpenetration of Christianity and its cultural settings;**
- **general knowledge of major issues and developments in the history of Christianity;**
- **perception of the rich panorama of persons, events, beliefs and practices in the Christian story**
- **awareness of the decisive moments or critical turning points in Christian history;**
- **appreciation of the practical values of historical study – how the story of Christianity provides resources for understanding one’s Christian identity, denominational heritage, and ministerial priorities;**
- **capacity to do competent research and to communicate historical knowledge clearly and concisely in oral reports and written projects.**

## V. SEMINAR REQUIREMENTS

- **TEXTBOOK REVIEWS**

The following required texts should be purchased. All texts are available through the New Orleans LifeWay Christian Store: (800) 570-0250. An additional source is Christian Book Distributors ([www.christianbook.com](http://www.christianbook.com)) which has an inexpensive hardback 2-in-1 volume of our text.

Henry Bettenson and Chris Maunder (eds.), *Documents of the Christian Church*, Fourth Edition (New York: Oxford University Press, 2011).

Justo L. Gonzalez, *The Story of Christianity*, Vol. 1 – *The Early Church to the Dawn of the Reformation*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition (San Francisco: HarperOne Publishers, 2010).

Justo L. Gonzalez, *The Story of Christianity*, Vol, 2 – *The Reformation to the Present Day*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition (San Francisco: HarperOne Publishers, 2010).

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

Recommended Texts:

Evans, Christopher H. *Histories of American Christianity: An Introduction*. d. Atlanta: Baylor University Press, 2013.

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.

Maier, Paul L. *Eusebius: The Church History*. Kregel, 2007.

A **written review** of the two Gonzalez books and the Noll book should be prepared prior to the first seminar session and is due on the first day of the seminar, **May 25**. Each review should be five (5) to eight (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 brief summary (two to three 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 biases, and (8) concluding evaluation.

- **ORAL REPORTS**

Students will present oral reports on assigned topics during class times on Tuesday-Friday. PowerPoint or other visual aids are allowed but not required. The reports should represent careful reading and solid research. A written summary of each report should be made available to the professors and seminar members on the day of presentation. The summary should include a list of sources consulted.

Students will be expected to conduct research and preparation during the times outside of class meetings.

- **RESEARCH PAPER**

Following the seminar each student will submit a research paper on a topic chosen in consultation with the professor. The paper must be 14 to 20 double-spaced typewritten pages in length and should demonstrate the student's ability to think clearly and critically, engage in responsible research, dialogue objectively with differing viewpoints, reach defensible conclusions, and write in an acceptable style. Kate L. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations* (6<sup>th</sup> edition) is the authority for matters pertaining to form and style. Use footnotes, and include a bibliography of at least ten sources. **The paper is due on June 26.**

## **VI. SEMINAR GRADING**

Grading is on a pass/fail basis, with pre-assignments, seminar assignments, and the post-assignment each counting one-third of the total grade. Seminar attendance is part of the seminar assignment grade.

## **VII. SEMINAR SCHEDULE AND ORAL REPORT TOPICS**

### Monday – Introduction to the Course

- **Syllabus Overview**
- **Selection of student topics for the week**
- **Dating Christian History**
- **Historical Methodology**
- **Selected Lectures**

### Tuesday - Early Christianity

- **Context – Greek, Roman, & Hebrew**
- **Persecution**
- **Apostolic Fathers**
- **Apologists**
- **Second century crises (Gnosticism, Marcionism, Montanism)**
- **Development of the New Testament canon**

- **How Christianity became Catholic**
- **Christianity and the Roman Government**
- **Turning points in early Christianity**
- **The Constantinian era**
- **Monarchianism and the Logos Christology**
- **Alexandrian theology**
- **North African writers**
- **Antiochian school**
- **Early councils**
- **Augustine's *City of God***
- **The Pelagian controversy**
- **Christianity and the fall of the Roman Empire**

#### Wednesday – Medieval Christianity

- **How Catholicism became Roman**
- **Feudalism and the Church**
- **Turning points in medieval Christianity**
- **Highlights of papal history**
- **Papocracy**
- **The Crusades**
- **The Holy Roman Empire**
- **Schism and heresy**
- **Sacramental theology**
- **Scholasticism**
- **Mysticism**
- **Monasticism**
- **Eastern Churches**

#### Thursday – Reformation Christianity

- **Pre-Reformation Reformers**
- **Renaissance and Reformation**
- **Renaissance papacy**
- **Magisterial Reformation (Luther, Zwingli, Calvin)**
- **Radical Reformers (Anabaptists, Spiritualists, Evangelical Rationalists)**
- **Catholic Renewal**
- **Anglican Reformation**
- **Catholic [Counter] Reformation**
- **Council of Trent**
- **Turning points in Reformation Christianity**
- **Major accents in Protestant Theology**

#### Friday – Modern Christianity

- **Characteristics of the modern period**
- **Impact of the Enlightenment**
- **Protestant Scholasticism**
- **Pietism (Spener, Franke)**
- **Evangelical Revival (England)**

- **The Great Awakening (America)**
- **Romanticism and Religion (Schleiermacher)**
- **The Roman Catholic Church and the modern world**
- **Vatican I**
- **Christianity in Victorian England**
- **Christianity in nineteenth century America**
- **Protestant missionary advance**
- **Christianity and modern science**
- **Christianity and social reform**
- **Turning points in modern Christianity**
- **Eastern Christianity**
- **Liberal theology**
- **Fundamentalism**
- **Neo-orthodoxy**
- **Roman Catholic Christianity: Vatican II**
- **The German Church struggle**
- **Christianity since World War II**
- **Quest for unity**
- **Radical theologies**
- **Resurgence of conservatism: the new evangelicalism**
- **The church and political action**
- **Women in ministry**
- **Rise and spread of Pentecostalism**
- **Globalization of Christianity**
- **Survival of Christianity under Communist regimes**

**REMINDER:** Before the first meeting of the seminar on **Monday, May 25, 2015**, you should

- **Read and prepare critical reviews of the two Gonzalez texts and the Noll text.**
- **From the list above indicate the historical topics you know least about.**
- **Prepare a short list of possible topics for your research paper.**

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

### General Church History

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Davidson, Ivor. *The Birth of the Church: From Jesus to Constantine, AD 30-312*. 2004.

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## Early Church

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