



**HIST5301 History of Christianity: Reformation-Modern**  
**New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary**  
**Division of Theological and Historical Studies**  
**Spring 2017**

**Dr. Daniel Holcomb**

**Senior Professor of Church History**

Office: Dodd 211

Phone: 504.282.4455 ext. 3258

Email: dholcomb@nobts.edu

**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**

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary has five core values: Doctrinal Integrity, Spiritual Vitality, Mission Focus, Characteristic Excellence, and Servant Leadership. These values shape both the context and manner in which all curricula are taught, with “doctrinal integrity” and “mission focus” especially highlighted in this course. The core value focus for the 2016-17 year is ***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.*”

**Curriculum Competencies**

All graduates of NOBTS are expected to have at least a minimum level of competency in each of the following areas: Biblical Exposition, Christian Theological Heritage, Disciple Making, Interpersonal Skills, Servant Leadership, Spiritual and Character Formation, and Worship Leadership. The curriculum competencies addressed in this course are: ***Christian Theological Heritage*** and ***Spiritual and Character Formation***.

**Course Description**

This course surveys the historical development of Christianity from the sixteenth century to the present. Attention is given to the causes, character, and consequences of the Protestant and Catholic Reformations and to the challenges and initiatives occasioned by the modern period.

**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.

### Embedded Assignment

This assignment will be used to assess how well students are meeting the standards set by the degree objectives and will be completed by all students for all sections of this course. **The embedded assignment is Book Review One.** Each student will write a book review of Mark Noll's, *Turning Points*. The review should be between six to eight double-spaced typewritten pages in length and contain:

- a *brief* biographical sketch of the author;
- a two to three page summary of the contents of the book, with a view to the significant individuals, movements, institutions, and doctrines in the history of Christianity;
- a discussion of principles learned from the history of Christianity in this book;
- an evaluation of the impact of this book and the study of Christian history on the student's 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.

**This assignment is an embedded assignment that will be completed by all students for all sections of this course. The rubric for grading this assignment is below. Please complete the assignment according to this rubric.**

### Embedded Assignment Rubric

The rubric for grading the embedded assignment is below. Please complete the assignment according to this rubric.

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					

## Textbooks

- Justo L. Gonzalez, *The Story of Christianity*, Volume 2: *The Reformation to the Present Day* (Second edition, New York, NY: HarperOne, 2010);
- Mark Noll, *Turning Points: Decisive Movements in the History of Christianity* (Third edition, Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2012);
- Henry Bettenson and Chris Maunder (eds.), *Documents of the Christian Church* (Fourth edition; New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 2011).

Students should read the pertinent text materials in preparation for lectures and class discussions. The class schedule indicates the reading assignments.

***Textbooks should be read in their entirety by the end of the semester. A statement indicating completion of this requirement will be submitted by each student at the time of the final examination.***

## Course Teaching Methodology

This course provides a general historical survey of the Christian movement from the Protestant Reformation to the present. The course will involve assigned readings, lectures, participation in class discussions, two book reviews, and a mid-term and final exam. This course is delivered as an on-campus, classroom course.

## Course Requirements

***Book Review 1.*** Each student will write a book review of Mark Noll's, *Turning Points*. The review should be between six to eight double-spaced typewritten pages in length and contain:

- Bibliographical entry at the top of the first page of the review. Include the edition and volume where applicable. Examples:
  - Brown, Robert McAfee. *The Spirit of Protestantism*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1965. 270 pp.
  - Reid, J.K.S., ed. And trans. *Calvin: Theological Treatises*. Vol. XXII of *The Library of Christian Classics*. gen. eds. John T. McNeill, Henry P. Van Dusen. Philadelphia: The Westminster Press, 1954. 355 pp.
- a ***brief*** biographical sketch of the author;
- a two to three page summary of the contents of the book, with a view to the significant individuals, movements, institutions, and doctrines in the history of Christianity;
- a discussion of principles learned from the history of Christianity in this book;
- an evaluation of the impact of this book and the study of Christian history on the student's 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.

**Embedded Assignment: Book Review 1 is an embedded assignment that will be completed by all students for all sections of this course. The rubric for grading this assignment is attached to this syllabus. Please complete the assignment according to this rubric.**

**\*\*\*Book Review 1 is due on Thursday, March 2\*\*\***

**Book Review Two.** Each student will write and submit a critical review of a book selected from the following list:

- Bainton, *Here I Stand: A Life of Martin Luther*
- Bobrick, *Wide as the Waters: The Story of the English Bible and the Revolution It Inspired*
- Byrne, *Religion and Enlightenment: From Descartes to Kant*
- Carpenter, *Revive Us Again: The Reawakening of American Fundamentalism*
- Cox, *Fire from Heaven: The Rise of Pentecostal Spirituality and the Reshaping of Religion in the Twenty-First Century*
- Erickson, *Bloody Mary: The Life of Mary Tudor*
- Estep, *The Anabaptist Story: An Introduction to Sixteenth-Century Anabaptism*
- Gritsch, *Martin – God’s Court Jester*
- Jenkins, *The Next Christendom: The Coming of Global Christianity*
- Littell, *The Origins of Sectarian Protestantism*
- Nicolson, *God’s Secretaries: The Making of the King James Bible*
- Oberman, *The Reformation: Roots and Ramifications*

The text of the review should be ten to twelve pages in length and include the following:

- Bibliographical entry at the top of the first page of the review. Include the edition and volume where applicable. Examples:
  - Brown, Robert McAfee. *The Spirit of Protestantism*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1965. 270 pp.
  - Reid, J.K.S., ed. And trans. *Calvin: Theological Treatises*. Vol. XXII of *The Library of Christian Classics*. gen. eds. John T. McNeill, Henry P. Van Dusen. Philadelphia: The Westminster Press, 1954. 355 pp.
- Biographical sketch of the author(s)
- Summary of contents (4-5 pages)
- Statement of the author’s purpose
- Extent to which the purpose was realized
- Unique features of the book
- Description of the author’s style
- Description of the author’s perspective and biases
- Reviewer’s reaction and concluding evaluation of the book

**\*\*\*Book Review Two is due on Thursday, April 6\*\*\***

**Class Attendance.** Students are expected to attend class regularly and participate in class discussions. Please consult the Graduate Catalog regarding absences.

**Examinations.** Two examinations, a midsemester and a final, are scheduled for the course. The midsemester exam consists of questions on class lectures and textbook materials on the Protestant and Catholic reformations. The final exam draws on lectures and textbook materials on Christianity in the modern period.

### Evaluation of Grade

<b>The student's grade will be computed as follows:</b>		
Midsemester Examination	<b>20%</b>	<b>A: 93-100</b>
Book Review One	<b>20%</b>	<b>B: 85-92</b>
Book Review Two	<b>15%</b>	<b>C: 77-84</b>
Final Examination	<b>30%</b>	<b>D: 70-76</b>
Reading Assignments/Class Participation	<b>15%</b>	<b>F: 69 or below</b>

### 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 Examination	<b>Due</b>	<b>TBD by professor</b>
Book Review One	<b>Due</b>	<b>March 2</b>
Book Review Two	<b>Due</b>	<b>April 6</b>
Final Examination	<b>Due</b>	<b>TBD by professor</b>
Reading Assignments/Class Participation	<b>Due</b>	<b>at time of final exam</b>

## Selected Bibliography

- Bainton, Ronald H. *Here I Stand: A Life of Martin Luther*. Charleston, SC: Forgotten Books, 2012.
- Bettenson, Henry, and Chris Maunder, eds. *Documents of the Christian Church*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 2011.
- Bobrick, Benson. *Wide as the Waters: The Story of the English Bible and the Revolution It Inspired*. New York, NY: Penguin Books, 2002 .
- Byrne, James M. *Religion and the Enlightenment: From Descartes to Kant*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 1997.
- Carpenter, Joel A. *Revive Us Again: The Reawakening of American Fundamentalism*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 1999.
- Cox, Harvey. *Fire from Heaven: The Rise of Pentecostal Spirituality and the Reshaping of Religion in the Twenty-First Century*. Cambridge, MA: Da Capo Press, 2009.
- Erickson, Carolly. *Bloody Mary: The Life of Mary Tudor*. Fort Mill, SC: Quill, 1993.
- Estep, William R. *The Anabaptist Story: An Introduction to Sixteenth-Century Anabaptism*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1995.
- Gonzalez, Justo L. *The Story of Christianity, Volume 2: The Reformation to the Present Day*. New York, NY: HarperCollins Publishers, 2010.
- Gritsch, Eric W. *Martin—God's Court Jester*. Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock Publishers, 2009.
- Jenkins, Philip. *The Next Christendom: The Coming of Global Christianity*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 2007.
- Littell, Franklin H. *The Origins of Sectarian Protestantism*. 1964.
- Nicolson, Adam. *God's Secretaries: The Making of the King James Bible*. New York, NY: HarperCollins Publishers, 2003.
- Noll, Mark. *Turning Points: Decisive Moments in the History of Christianity*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 2000.
- Oberman, Heiko. *The Reformation: Roots and Ramifications*. New York: Bloomsbury T&T Clark, 2004.