



HIST5300 History of Christianity: Early-Medieval
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Division of Theological and Historical Studies
Spring 2019—Tuesdays/Thursdays, 8:00-9:20 am

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 2018-19 year is *Doctrinal Integrity*.

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 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.

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 Understand significant individuals, movements, institutions, and theological concepts in the history of Christianity					
APPLICATION	Able to apply principles learned from the study of the history of Christianity to church and ministry today					
COMMUNICATION	Able to communicate understanding and application of principles learned from the study of the history of Christianity					

Textbooks

- Justo L. Gonzalez, *The Story of Christianity*, Volume 1: *The Early Church to the Dawn of the Reformation* (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 its inception to the medieval period. 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 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:

- Bibliographical entry at the top of the first page of the review. Include the edition and volume where applicable.
- 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 One is due on Thursday, March 7******

Book Review Two. 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 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 11*****

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

Examinations. Two examinations are scheduled for the semester. The midsemester exam consists of questions on lecture and text material of early Christianity. The final examination is based on lecture and reading material on medieval Christianity.

Evaluation of Grade

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

Technical Assistance

For assistance regarding technology, consult ITC (504-816-8180) or the following websites:

1. Selfserve@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the Selfserve.nobts.edu site (Access to online registration, financial account, online transcript, etc.)
2. BlackboardHelpDesk@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS Blackboard Learning Management System NOBTS.Blackboard.com.
3. ITCSupport@nobts.edu - Email for general technical questions/support requests.
4. 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	Due	TBD by professor
Book Review One	Due	March 7, 2018
Book Review Two	Due	April 11, 2018
Final Examination	Due	TBD by professor
Reading Assignments/Class Participation	Due	at time of final exam

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.
- Gonzalez, Justo L. *The Story of Christianity, Volume 2: The Early Church to the Dawn of the Reformation*. New York, NY: HarperCollins Publishers, 2010.
- Grant, Michael. *Constantine the Great: The Man and His Times*. New York: Scribner's, 1994.
- Grant, Robert. *Greek Apologists of the Second Century*. Philadelphia, PA: The Westminster Press, 1988.
- 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.
- _____. *Christianity and Paganism in the Fourth to Eighth Centuries*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1997.

Noll, Mark. *Turning Points: Decisive Moments in the History of Christianity*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 2000.

Oberman, Heiko. *The Harvest of Medieval Theology*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2000.

Staniforth, Maxwell and Andrew Louth, editors and translators. *Early Christian Writings: The Apostolic Fathers*. New York: Penguin Books, 1987.

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.