



**HIST 5300 HISTORY OF CHRISTIANITY: EARLY- MEDIEVAL**  
**Theological and Historical Studies Division**  
**SPRING 2022**  
**TUESDAY/THURSDAY 12:30-1:50 PM**

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One of the reasons I love teaching is the opportunity to relate to students. Please feel free to email me or to call me at my office or at my home. I want to help you in any way I can. **Call me if you have a problem or a question. Do not wait until it is too late for me to help!**

This syllabus is subject to minor, necessary or beneficial changes during the semester.

The reading schedule is listed at the bottom of this syllabus so that, once students have secured the textbooks, they can begin reading their assignments.

**I. Mission Statement**

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and Leavell College prepare servants to walk with Christ, proclaim His truth, and fulfill His mission.

**II. 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.

**III. 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.

**IV. Required Texts:**

There are three required textbooks for this class:

Justo González, *The Story of Christianity*, vol. 1, *The Early Church to the Dawn of the Reformation*, rev. ed. (New York: HarperOne, 2010).

Henry Bettensen and Chris Maunder, eds., *Documents of the Christian Church*. 4th ed. (New York: Oxford University Press, 2011).

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

There will be additional required reading from primary sources that are available on the Internet.

Textbooks for the upcoming semester are now available at [nobts.ecampus.com](http://nobts.ecampus.com) (NOBTS Virtual Bookstore). You can use this site to buy, rent, & sell your textbooks/e-textbooks.

V. Requirements:

- A. *Tests*: There will be six (6) tests, each worth 25 points, given throughout the semester. The lowest test grade will be dropped. Tests will be available throughout the course and must be completed by midnight on the last day of the unit. Each test will last 20 minutes and be timed. Exams should be taken without notes in front of you. Please study for the test, then take it "open memory." You are on the honor system. The final day by which unit requirements must be completed is as follows:

**Unit 1: February 10**

**Unit 2: March 3**

**Unit 3: March 24**

**Unit 4: April 7**

**Unit 5: April 21**

**Unit 6: May 3**

- B. *Assigned Reading*: Students are expected to read the assigned pages listed for each unit. A report is due on the last day of each unit on the percentage completed (in 20% increments) of that unit's assigned reading. Each report is worth up to 5 points. Reading Reports are found at the end of each unit's assignments under Course Documents. An additional 5 point bonus will be awarded to students who have completed **all** the assigned reading by **May 3**. This allows you to catch up on reading you have missed during the semester.
- C. *Movie Review*: Each student will watch a movie, based on the period of the early church and write a historical review. The movie is *Quo Vadis* (1951), starring Robert Taylor, Deborah Kerr, and Peter Ustinov. You can purchase this movie inexpensively through ebay.com or amazon.com. If you subscribe to Amazon Prime, you can rent it, or if you subscribe to Netflix DVD, it is available through that service. Also, it is available in the NOBTS library. **Secure this movie in a timely manner to insure that you can submit this assignment on time.**

In the review, include a brief summary of the story plus evaluations of its historical accuracy, including any discrepancies that you notice, and a critique of the film. The review should be 3-4 full pages, double-spaced and is worth 30 points. The movie review is due **February 22**.

- D. *Major Research Paper*: Each student will conduct research and prepare a paper on a significant person, movement, event or place in Christian history. Submit the paper to me under Assignments and post it on the Discussion Board so that your fellow students will have access to your research and writing. **Due March 29**.

The Research Paper will be ten to twelve pages long (not including cover sheet or bibliography; no table of contents is necessary) and should reflect scholarly research. You should discuss the historical context and influence of your subject in church history and conclude with a summary statement about the contributions and lasting consequences of your subject to history. It will be written according to standard guidelines (Turabian; Times New Roman 12 pt. font; double-spaced; standard margins; footnotes, etc.) and include a bibliography of at least ten resources (Textbooks,

reference books, and the Internet are allowed, but you must consult a minimum of six biographies, books focused on your topic, and/or church histories as well).

*Application point:* After writing a conclusion to your research paper, each student will add at least one application point learned from the subject of the research paper, whether it is a person or a topic. This application point might be a sermon illustration, an application to your ministry, or a lesson learned for your personal life.

The Biography/Research Paper will be evaluated as follows:

1. Grammar and style: Spelling, sentence and paragraph development; punctuation; and conformity to the 6<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup> edition of Turabian. (20 points)
2. Clarity and Coherence: Balance; thoroughness; organization; logical development; overall sense of the paper. (20 points)
3. Research: Bibliography; type and variety of sources (primary, secondary, monographs, journal articles, websites, etc.); most bibliographic entries should be accompanied by footnote citations. (20 points)
4. Historical Awareness and Insight: Factual accuracy; awareness of historical connections (continuity/discontinuity, cause/effect, contrasts/comparisons); sensitivity to historical context; awareness of the historical impact of a person. (20 points)
5. Analysis and Evaluation: Going beyond the mere reporting of facts to include explanation, interpretation, analysis of material; evaluation of strengths and weakness of a person; demonstration that you have thought about the material that you have researched. Give strong and insightful introduction and conclusion. Include an application point. (20 points)

Suggested subjects are:

- Ignatius of Antioch
- Polycarp
- Justin Martyr
- Irenaeus
- Tertullian
- Clement of Alexandria
- Origen
- Cyprian
- Athanasius
- Arius
- Constantine
- Basil the Great
- Macrina
- Jerome
- John Chrysostom
- Augustine
- Pelagius
- Patrick of Ireland
- Benedict of Nursia
- Leo I the Great
- Gregory I the Great
- Muhammad
- Boniface (Wynfrith)
- Charlemagne
- Anselm of Bec
- Thomas Becket
- Peter Abelard
- Bernard of Clairvaux
- Peter Lombard
- Leo IX
- Gregory VII
- Urban II
- Alexander III
- Hildegard of Bingen
- Innocent III
- Francis of Assisi
- Dominic de Guzman
- Catherine of Siena
- Thomas Aquinas
- Boniface VIII
- John Wycliffe
- Jon Huss
- The Interaction of Greek Philosophy & Early Christian Thought
- The Jewish Revolt (including the destruction of Jerusalem & Masada)
- The Impact of Persecution & Martyrdom on the Expansion of the Early Church

- Early Christian Female Martyrs
- Early Christian Suffering & the Development of Superstitious Practices
- Voluntary Martyrdom in the Early Church
- Gnosticism & Its Contemporary Expressions
- Marcion & Marcionism
- Montanism & Its Later Expressions
- Monarchianism & Its Later Expressions
- The Canonization of the New Testament
- The Use of Creeds & Apostolic Succession in Establishing Christian Orthodoxy
- Worship in the Early Church & What We Can Learn from It
- The Constantinian Symbiosis & Its Impact on the Church
- The Christology of the Council of Chalcedon
- The Development of the Worship of Mary in the Early Church
- Augustine vs. Pelagius
- Augustine & the Just War Theory
- The Development of the Roman Papacy
- The Advance of Islam from 632 to 1095
- The Benedictine Rule & Its Impact on the Medieval Church
- The Great Missionary Monks through the Early Middle Ages
- The Rise & Impact of Feudalism on the Feudal Church
- The Rise & Impact of the Cluniac Reform
- The Causes, Events & Effects of the First Crusade
- The Rise & Fall of the Legendary Knights Templar
- Two Papal Crises: The Avignon Papacy & the Great Papal Schism
- The Contributions & Corruption of the Renaissance Popes
- Four Theories of the Atonement: Ransom, Satisfaction, Moral, & Penal Substitution
- A Comparison of Anselm's Ontological Argument & Aquinas' Cosmological Argument for the Existence of God
- An Evangelical Assessment of Roman Catholic Sacramentalism
- The Impact of the Northern Renaissance on the Reformers

You may choose a subject not on this list for your biography, but you must have prior approval from the professor. Send me your top three choices by email. DUPLICATIONS ARE NOT ALLOWED. First come; first served.

E. *Book Review*: Each student will write a book review of Mark Noll, *Turning Points*. The review should be between six to eight 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 three to four page summary of the contents of the book, with a view to the significant individuals, movements, institutions, and doctrines in the history of Christianity;
- (4) a discussion of principles learned from the history of Christianity in this book;
- (5) 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. **Final Version is due on April 14.**

Each student will write a first draft of the Book Review of Mark Noll, *Turning Points*. **This first draft will be submitted to *Write Stuff*, the NOBTS Writing Center. Students must also upload a copy of the writing center receipt or the returned, corrected paper to Blackboard in the Assignments section.** Information about the Writing Center and the process for submitting papers can be found at <http://www.nobts.edu/writing>. The writing center staff will review the paper and work with the student as necessary to improve it before the final paper is submitted. Working with the writing center should help you in all of your academic writing, as well as help you produce an excellent research paper for this course. **Six points will be deducted from your grade if you do not show proof that you submitted your First Draft to the Writing Center.**

**Embedded Assignment: This assignment is an embedded assignment that will be completed by all students for all sections of this course. The rubric for evaluating this assignment is attached to this syllabus. Please complete the assignment with this rubric in mind.**

#### VI. Penalties:

*Attendance:* No student who misses more than nine classroom hours – or the equivalent of six class meetings – can receive credit for this course. Three occasions of arriving late for class or leaving early will count as one absence. For more information, see the online Graduate Catalog.

*Unit Exams & Reading Reports:* Unit Exams and Reading Reports must be submitted by the date of the unit completion. One unit exam grade will be dropped.

*Tardiness:* A late written assignment will be assessed a **10 percent penalty if it is submitted after the deadline and a 20 percent penalty after five days. An assignment submitted after one week past the deadline will be subject to a severe penalty.**

*Plagiarism:* A high standard of personal integrity is expected of all NOBTS students. Copying another person's work, submitting downloaded material without proper references, submitting material without properly citing the source, submitting the same material for credit in more than one course, and committing other such forms of dishonesty are strictly forbidden. *Although anything cited in three sources is considered public domain, we require that all sources be cited.* Any infraction may result in failing the assignment and the course. Any infraction will be reported to the Associate Vice President of Student Affairs for further action.

#### VII. Submission of Assignments

1. The Unit Exams and Reading Reports will be conducted on Blackboard. Unit Exams and Reading Reports are under Course Documents and under each respective unit.
2. You will submit the Major Research Paper under Assignments and on the Discussion Board. The reasons for submitting your paper both ways are: 1) for ease in grading; and 2) to make it available to the other students. I want every student to be able to benefit from each other's research and writing. **Failure to post your Research Paper in both sites will result in a five-point deduction.**
3. Submit your Book Review and proof of your sending it to the Writing Center under Assignments.

4. Please do not send your assignments to me as email attachments unless I request you to do so or unless there is a compelling reason.

#### VIII. Writing Helps

*NOBTS Writing Center:* Students have access to *Write Stuff, the NOBTS Writing Center*. Information about the Writing Center and the process for submitting papers can be found at <http://www.nobts.edu/writing>. The writing center staff will review the paper and work with the student as necessary to improve it before the final paper is submitted. Working with the writing center should help you in all of your academic writing, as well as help you produce an excellent biography for this course.

*Safe Assignment:* A paper submitted through this service will be compared to other papers in the database and checked for the percentage of copying from other sources. Your work will not be used for any purpose other than preventing plagiarism in the Seminary and other participating institutions. Ownership of the intellectual property contained in your written work will not be transferred to any third party.

Your paper will be assessed for the amount of material copied from other sources and returned to you. The highlighted passages do not indicate plagiarism necessarily, but they point out the percentage of your paper that can be found in other sources. You need to be sure that you properly quote and cite such passages, and you may need to put more of your paper in your own words.

By the way, you probably will find that your footnotes and bibliographical entries are highlighted. That should be expected, since the papers in the database also cite the same sources that you use.

*Style Guide:* A copy of the approved NOBTS Style Guide can be found in the course Blackboard shell, or can be located online at the Writing Center's page on the seminary website at: [https://www.nobts.edu/\\_resources/pdf/writing/StyleGuide.pdf](https://www.nobts.edu/_resources/pdf/writing/StyleGuide.pdf)  
Submit the paper to me under Assignments and post it on the Discussion Board so that your fellow students will have access to your research and writing.

#### IX. Possible Points & Grading Scale:

<u>Possible Points</u>		<u>Grading Scale</u>
Reading:	30 pts.	A = 320-345 pts.
Tests (5 x 25):	125 pts.	B = 295-319 pts.
Movie Review:	30 pts.	C = 265-294 pts.
Major Research Paper:	100 pts.	D = 225-264 pts.
Book Review	<u>60 pts.</u>	F = 224 - □ pts.
	345 pts.	

X. Need technical assistance? Contact the ITC today!

**Selfserve@nobts.edu** - Email for technical questions/support requests with the Selfserve.nobts.edu site (Access to online registration, financial account, online transcript, etc.)

**BlackboardHelpDesk@nobts.edu** - Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS Blackboard Learning Management System NOBTS.Blackboard.com.

**ITCSupport@nobts.edu** - Email for general technical questions/support requests.

**504.816.8180** - Call for any technical questions/support requests.

**www.NOBTS.edu/itc/** - General NOBTS technical help information is provided on this website.

XI. Emergency Plan

In case of hurricane or any other emergency, go to the seminary web site for information: [www.nobts.edu](http://www.nobts.edu)

The administration will communicate information that relates to the seminary: the nature of the emergency, instructions for responses, evacuation, contingency plans, duration of the emergency, and plans to return to campus and/or resume the schedule.

Also, check Blackboard for instructions related to this class. Because this class is available on Blackboard, there should be minimal disruption unless the emergency affects electrical power and connection to the Internet.

In any emergency, communication is important, and our best means of staying connected is through the seminary's web site and Blackboard.

## Course Schedule, including the Reading Schedule

**[G]** Gonzalez, Justo L. *The Story of Christianity*.

**[B]** Bettenson, Henry and Chris Maunder. *Documents of the Christian Church*.

**[I]** Some primary sources will be accessed via Internet.

Week	Date	Daily Topic	Assignments Due
Week 1	Jan. 18	Context	
	Jan. 20	Context	<b>G:</b> Introduction & chapters 2-4
Week 2	Jan. 25	Persecution & Martyrdom	<b>G:</b> Chapters 5-6
	Jan. 27	Perpetua Documentary	<b>I:</b> <i>Passion of Perpetua and Felicitas</i> <a href="https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/source/perpetua.asp">https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/source/perpetua.asp</a>
Week 3	Feb. 1	Persecution & Martyrdom	<b>B:</b> Tacitus, <i>Annales</i> 15.44; Correspondence of Pliny and Trajan  <b>I:</b> Ignatius, Letter to the Romans <a href="http://www.ccel.org/ccel/schaff/anf01.v.v.html">http://www.ccel.org/ccel/schaff/anf01.v.v.html</a>  <b>B:</b> <i>Martyrdom of Polycarp</i>
	Feb. 3	Persecution & Martyrdom	<b>G:</b> Chapters 10 & 12
Week 4	Feb. 8	Ante-Nicene Leaders	<b>G:</b> Chapters 7, 9 & 11  <b>I:</b> Tertullian, <i>Apology</i> (Chapters 2, 50) <a href="http://www.earlychristianwritings.com/text/tertullian01.html">http://www.earlychristianwritings.com/text/tertullian01.html</a>  <b>B:</b> Cyprian, <i>On the Unity of the Church</i>
	Feb. 10	Heresy & Orthodoxy	<b>Unit One Assignments</b> <b>G:</b> Chapter 8
Week 5	Feb. 15	Heresy & Orthodoxy	<b>B:</b> The Apostle's Creed; Muratorian Canon  <b>I:</b> Athanasius, Paschal Epistle <a href="http://www.ccel.org/ccel/schaff/npnf204.xxv.iii.ii.xxv.html">http://www.ccel.org/ccel/schaff/npnf204.xxv.iii.ii.xxv.html</a>
	Feb. 17	Heresy & Orthodoxy	
Week 6	Feb. 22	Church & State	<b>Movie Review</b> <b>G:</b> Chapters 13-18
	Feb. 24	Council of Nicea	<b>B:</b> Heresies concerning the Person of Christ  <b>B:</b> Creed of Nicea and Nicene Creed; Athanasius, <i>On the Incarnation</i>
Week 7	<b>Mar 1</b>	<b>Mardi Gras</b>	<b>No Class</b>
	Mar. 3	Councils 2-4	<b>Unit Two Assignments</b> <b>G:</b> Chapters 19-23 <b>B:</b> Eutychianism

Week 8	Mar. 8	Post-Nicene Leaders	
	Mar. 10	Augustine	<b>G:</b> Chapters 24-26 <b>I:</b> Augustine, <i>Confessions</i> (Book 8) <a href="http://www.ccel.org/ccel/augustine/confession_s.xi.html">http://www.ccel.org/ccel/augustine/confession_s.xi.html</a> <b>B:</b> Augustine vs. Pelagius
<b>SPRING BREAK</b>	<b>Mar 14-18</b>		
Week 9	Mar. 22	Post-Nicene Worship	
	Mar. 24	Intro to Medieval Church	<b>Unit Three Assignments</b> <b>G:</b> Chapters 27-28  <b>B:</b> Rule of Benedict
Week 10	Mar. 29	Western/Eastern Churches	<b>Research Paper</b>
	Mar. 31	Rise of Islam	<b>G:</b> Chapter 29  <b>I:</b> Excerpt from Qur'an <a href="http://www.hti.umich.edu/cgi/k/koran/koran-idx?type=DIV0&amp;byte=1320">http://www.hti.umich.edu/cgi/k/koran/koran-idx?type=DIV0&amp;byte=1320</a> You are responsible only to read verses 2.105-140, which include what the Qur'an says about Christians.
Week 11	Apr 5	Medieval Politics Monastic Reform	<b>G:</b> Chapter 30
	Apr 7	Papacy thru Gregory VII	<b>Unit Four Assignments</b>
Week 12	Apr 12	Crusades	<b>G:</b> Chapters 31
	Apr 14	Crusades	<b>Book Review</b>
Week 13	Apr 19	Papacy: Zenith - Decline	<b>G:</b> Chapters 32  <b>B:</b> Pope & Imperial Elections; Bull "Clericis Laicos"; Bull "Unam Sanctam"
	Apr 21	Monastic Developments	<b>Unit Five Assignments</b> <b>G:</b> Chapter 33  <b>B:</b> Rule of Francis of Assisi
Week 14	Apr 26	Scholasticism	<b>B:</b> Anselm, The Ontological Argument from <i>Proslogion</i> ; <i>Cur Deus Homo?</i>  <b>B:</b> Thomas Aquinas, <i>Summa Theologica</i>
	Apr 28	Renaissance/Humanism	<b>G:</b> Chapter 35  <b>I:</b> Thomas à Kempis, <i>The Imitation of Christ</i> (Book 1, Chapter 1) <a href="http://www.leaderu.com/cyber/books/imitation/imb1c01-10.html#RTFToC13">http://www.leaderu.com/cyber/books/imitation/imb1c01-10.html#RTFToC13</a>
Week 15	May 3	Dawn of the Reformation	<b>Unit Six Assignments</b> <b>G:</b> Chapter 34
<b>Finals Week</b>	<b>May 5-12</b>		

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

### General History

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Gonzalez, Justo. *A History of Christian Thought*. 3 volumes.

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Walker, Williston, et al. *A History of the Christian Church*, 4<sup>th</sup> ed. Scribner's, 1985.

### Early Church

Brown, Peter. *The Rise of Western Christendom: Triumph and Diversity, AD 200-1000*. 2d ed. Blackwell, 2002.

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### Medieval Christianity

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**Embedded Assignment Assessment Rubric for  
HIST5300 History of Christianity: Early-Medieval**

Semester \_\_\_\_\_

Section \_\_\_\_\_

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					