

## **THCM 2350 Survey of Church History I**

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary  
South Florida Extension Center  
Professor: Dr. Joseph J. Finn  
Fall Term, 2012  
Monday, 8:00 pm – 10:00 pm

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### **Course Description:**

The purpose of this course is to trace the history of Christianity from its beginnings through the Protestant Reformation. Special attention will be given to the origins, expansions, key figures, theological development and institutional growth of Christianity, as well as, the relationship of church and state.

### **Student Objectives:**

#### **At the conclusion of the course, the student will:**

1. Be able to identify major dates and events in Church History;
2. Be able to identify major personalities in Church History;
3. Be able to identify major themes and emphases in Church History;
4. Be able to relate past events to current situations; and
5. Possess a greater appreciation for historical studies.

### **Textbooks:**

Baker, Robert A. A Summary of Christian History, rev. ed. Nashville: Broadman, 1994.  
ISBN - 10:0805432884

### **Course Methodology:**

This course will consist of lectures, group discussions, Power Point presentations, audio-visual presentations and student delivered oral reports.

### **Course Requirements:**

1. School policies concerning absences and tardiness will be strictly enforced. Any student missing more than one-fourth of the classroom hours (9 hours) **will automatically receive a grade of "F" for the course.** Every three occasions of arriving late for class or leaving early from class will be as one absence. Roll will be taken at the beginning of each period. It is the responsibility of the student to contact the professor if he/she is tardy and roll has already been taken.
2. Two examinations will be given during the semester, a **Mid-term** and a **Final exam**. These tests will cover both materials discussed in class and material taken from the readings. These tests will consist of objective sections (matching, true/false, and multiple answer questions) and subjective sections (identification and essay questions). Each exam will only cover material from that particular section including the Final exam. Any student who misses the Mid-term exam is expected to schedule a make-up exam within one week of the missed exam. All make-up exams are assessed a 5 point penalty and are essay in form. Any mid-term exam not made-up within two weeks of the original exam date **will be given the grade of zero.** Each of these exams will count for 30% of the semester average.
3. Each student will construct a class notebook which will be due on the day of the Final exam. The notebook will be made up of the following 6 independent sections: Class Reflection

Papers, Class notes, Lesson Outlines (downloaded from Blackboard), Biographical Reports, Reading Questions and Reading Notes. Each notebook is to be placed in a three-ring binder and **must contain all six sections**. The notebook will compose 10% of the semester average.

4. Each student will write a 5–8 page (produced on a computer) Biographical Report on a specific historical figure (which will be assigned by the professor). This report ought to provide biographical information about the individual, as well as discuss his/her historical significance. Each student is expected to use a least 5 different sources, with at least one source being an electronic documents. If possible, students should make use of the writings of the specific historical figure. A bibliography will be included in the report to be turned in to the professor, but it is not necessary for the reports to be distributed to the class. Each student will produce enough copies of their report to distribute a copy to everyone in the class. Each student will then present a 5-minute oral report which will discuss the historical figure written about in their report. The student should discuss the significance of the individual and be prepared to answer any questions about the individual that the class may have. **The reports will be given on November 26th, 2012.** The report will be graded on both content and delivery. **Any student who is absent will receive a grade of zero** for the assignment and will be unable to make-up the grade. **The report will compose 20% of the Final semester grade.**
5. **Time Line:** Each student will construct a time line of church history from the Early Church up to the English Reformation (people, places, events and dates are to be included).
6. **The Final Grade for the course will consist of the following:**
  - Mid-Term Exam 30%
  - Final Exam 30%
  - Time Line 10%
  - Notebooks 10%
  - Biographical Report 20%

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Final Grade 100%

**Course Schedule:****Week 1: Aug. 20**

Introduction

The World of the First Century

Baker 1-12

**Week 2: Aug. 27**

Early Writings of the Church Baker 13-26

The Persecution of the Church

Early Heresies

Baker 26-42

**Week 3: Sept. 3 – Off, No Class**

The Ecumenical Councils

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Baker 43-56

**Week 4: Sept. 10**

Early Ideas Surrounding the Sacraments

Early Worship

Augustine of Hippo

Baker 57-72

Baker 73-84

**Week 5: Sept. 17**

Augustine of Hippo

Introduction to the Medieval Period

Barbarian Invasions

Baker 85-101

**Week 6: Sept. 24**

Rise of Islam

Division between the East and West

Monasticism

Baker 103-114

**Week 7: Oct. 1**

Feudalism

Rise of the Papacy

Crusades

Baker 115-122

**Week 8: Oct. 8**

Crusades

Review Day

Mid-Term Examinations

Baker 123-138

**Week 9: Oct. 15**

The Decline of Papal Authority

The Inquisition

Scholasticism

Baker 139-159

**\*Fall Break: Oct. 15-19****Week 10: Oct. 22**

The Mendicant Orders

Early Church Reformers

Early Reformer

Baker 161-181

Baker 183-192

**Week 11: Oct. 29**

Context of the Reformation  
The Work of Martin Luther  
Luther continued

Baker 193-202

**Week 12: Nov. 5****Week 13: Nov. 12**

Baker 203-214

**Week 14: Nov. 19 – Thanksgiving Break**

the Work of John Calvin  
The Counter-Reformation  
The English Reformation

Baker 215-225

Baker 239-267

Baker 269-278

**Week 15: Nov. 26**

Baker 239-267

**Week 16: Dec. 3**

Baker 215-278

**Final Exam: 8 pm Monday, December 10th****Bibliography**

Baker, Robert A. A Summary of Christian History, rev. ed. Nashville: Broadman, 1994.

Bettenson, Henry. Documents of the Christian Church, 2nd. ed. London : Oxford University Press, 1967.

Cross, F.L., and E.A. Livingstone, ed. The Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church, 3rd. ed. London: Oxford University Press, 1997.

George, Timothy. Theology of the Reformers. Nashville: Broadman, 1988.

Gonzalez, Justo. The Story of Christianity. San Francisco: Harper and Row, 1984.

Kelly, J.N.D. Early Christian Doctrines. San Francisco: Harper and Row, 1978.

Latourette, Kenneth Scott. A History of Christianity. New York: Harper and Row, 1953.

**For Additional Bibliographic Sources,  
Please See The Professor**