

# HISTORY OF CHRISTIANITY: EARLY & MEDIEVAL HIST 5200-HYBRID COURSE

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## Course Description

This course provides a general historical survey of the Christian movement from its inception through the medieval period. A brief introduction to the 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 Objectives

At the conclusion of the course, the student will be able to:

1. Identify major dates and events in Early and Medieval Church History;
2. Identify major personalities in Early and Medieval Church History;
3. Identify major themes and emphases in Early and Medieval Church History; and
4. Relate past events to current situations.

## Textbook

[G] Gonzales, Justo L. *The Story of Christianity*. San Francisco: Harper & Row, 1984.

[B] Bettenson, Henry and Chris Maunder, eds. *Documents of the Christian Church*. 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. New York: Oxford University Press, 1999.

## Course Methodology

The residential portion of this course will consist of lectures, group discussions, group activities, Power Point presentations, and case studies.

The online portion of this course will consist of threaded discussions on the Discussion Board. The discussions are very much a part of the grade and will be evaluated for content and participation.

The online portion of the class will also include a reading of the class notes on an individual

basis. This will allow the student to be prepared for the class discussion and mini-lectures of the residential class.

### **Course Requirements**

1. School policies concerning absences and tardiness will be strictly enforced. Any student missing more than one-fourth of the classroom 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 counted 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 the roll has already been taken.
2. 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 15 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. Tests can be taken any time prior to the due date. These test are located in the Study Units in Blackboard.
3. Each student is expected to participate in the online discussions of the Discussion Board. Two posts are required per student: one post to my initial question/post and one post to a class mates post. This assignment is relatively easy (so no excuses) and the grading will be based on participation and content.

**Unit 1** Please describe yourself. Please include your education background (where you went to college, major), current degree plan, current ministry, future ministry goals, and future education goals. Please include family background (married, children, single).

**Unit 2** The early church was both strengthened and challenged by persecution. Drawing upon what you have learned from the early church, what effect would persecution of Christians have upon the church in America?

**Unit 3** The legalization of Christianity and its union with the state had a tremendous impact on the church in the fourth century. What influences has it had on church history since then? Had it had a positive or negative effect?

**Unit 4** During medieval times, pilgrimages and relics of the saints gained in popularity. In what ways did they aid Christian devotion and in what ways did they hinder it? Do you see the same influences today in our symbols? For that matter try and think of one religious symbol that is used in most churches today.

**Unit 5** Evaluate the purposes and consequences of the Crusades. In your opinion, does the conflict between Christians and Muslims during the Crusades influence current hostilities in the Middle East?

## Unit6 No Discussion

4. Each student will research and write a 6 page (12 pt., double-spaced produced on a computer) biographical report on a specific historical figure (which will be approved by the professor). This report ought to provide biographical information about the individual, as well as discuss his/her historical significance. The paper is to be written using a 12 pt. Times-Roman font and is to be double spaced. Due to the short length of the paper, neither a table of contents nor chapter divisions should be included in the paper. In addition, the blank page following the title page is to be omitted. Each student is expected to use at least 10 different sources, with one and only one source being an electronic document. If possible, students should make use of the writings of the specific historical figure. The bibliography should also be annotated. For each bibliographic entry, three to four sentences should be written which describe and evaluate the work. The annotations should be indented in block quotation format beneath each entry. This paper will be graded for both its content and its form. Issues or questions of form not mentioned in this assignment description should follow the guidelines outlined in the most recent edition of Turabian. Papers must be submitted in hard-copy form. Electronic submissions will not be accepted. **The paper is due on Nov 29th.** Papers turned in after class on Nov 29th, 2010 will be considered late. The grade will be counted off five points for every day that the paper is late. The biographical report with annotated bibliography will compose 20% of the final semester grade.
5. Each student must read all the assigned reading of each unit. A statement of completion is due at the end of each unit. This will be worth 10% of the grade.
6. The final grade for the course will consist of the following:

Tests (5x25)	25%
Discussion Board	50%
Assigned Reading	10%
<u>Biographical Paper with Annotated Bibliography</u>	<u>15%</u>
Final grade	100%

### Additional Information

The professor is committed to providing an optimum environment for and accurate measures of adult learning for all students. Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact the professor regarding reasonable accommodations so as to allow their full participation in course activities and fulfillment of course requirements.

### Recommended Bibliography

Leith, John H., ed. *Creeeds of the Christian 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.

Reading Schedule:

G=Justo Gonzalez, *The Story of Christianity*, vol. 1.

B=Henry Bettenson, *Documents of the Christian Church*

I=Internet Sources-there may be internet sources for supplemental reading

**NOTE:** Please note that the subjects do not always coincide exactly with the lecture notes. However, the reading assigned will generally cover the same subjects, but in a different order.

Schedule:

Lectures and class discussions generally will adhere to this schedule, but the pace may vary according to instructional and class needs.

Unit	Subject	Reading
[1]	Approaches to History	
	Greco-Roman World Context	G: xv-30
	Apostles	
	Growth During Persecution	G: 31-57, 82-90, 102-8 B: 1-2,3-5, (Tacitus, <i>Annales</i> 15.44: Correspondence of Pliny and Trajan)
	Apostolic Fathers	G: 91-101 B: 9-13 (Martyrdom of Polycarp) I: Ignatius, <i>Letter to the Romans</i>
	Test #1	
[2]	Apologetical Writers and Works	I: Tertullian, <i>Apology</i> (Chapters 2, 50) I: <i>Passion of Perpetua and Felicitas</i>
	Greek Polemical Writers and Works	G: 58-71
	Latin Polemical Writers and Works	G: 73-77 B: 38-42 (Heresies concerning the Person of Christ)
	Schismatic Groups	G: 71-73, 112-35 B: 25-26, 31-32 (The Apostles' Creed; Maratorian Canon) B: 78-81 (Cyprian, <i>On the Unity of the Church</i> ) I: Athanasius, Paschal Epistle
	Test #2	

- [3] Alexandrian Theologians G: 78-81, 151-57
- Trinitarian-Christological Controversies G: 158-206  
B: 27-28; 36-37 (Creed of Nicea and Nicene Creed; Athanasius, *On the Incarnation*)
- Augustine of Hippo G: 207-16  
I: Augustine, *Confessions* (Book 8)  
B: 57-68 (Augustine vs. Pelagius)
- Test #3
- [4] Overview of Medieval Christianity
- Foundations for Early Catholicism G: 217-48  
B: 127-41 (Rule of Benedict)
- Ecumenical Councils G: 251-65  
B: 52-57 (Eutychianism and Response)
- Missions and Development of Papacy
- Rise of Islam and Holy Roman Empire G: 248-50, 266-76
- Test #4
- [5] Monastic Reform at Cluny G: 277-91
- Crusades and Great Schism G: 292-300
- Early Scholasticism G: 307-14  
B: 151-4 (Anselm, The Ontological Argument from Proslogion; Cur Deus Homo?)
- Mendicant Orders G: 301-7  
B: 141-46 (Rule of Francis of Assisi)
- Thomas Aquinas G: 311-23, 362-68  
B: 154-66 (Thomas Aquinas, *Summa Theologica*)
- Test #5

[6] Roman Catholic Sacraments

Waning of Paul Supremacy

G: 324-41, 370-74

B: 123-7 (Innocent III & Boniface VIII)

Stirring of Reform

G: 342-56

B: 191-8 (John Wycliff & The Lollards)

Renaissance and Humanism

G: 56-61, 368-70

I: Thomas Kempis, *The Imitation of Christ*  
(Book 1, Chapter 1)

Europe on the Threshold

G: 379-411

Test #6