

THCM 2350-01 Survey of Church History I
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Leavell College
Dr. Mike Wetzel
Fall 2013

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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.

Course Objectives

In order to understand and interpret Christian theological heritage and Baptist polity for the church, the students, by the end of the course, should:

1. Comprehend significant events in the history of the church.
2. Value the study of church history.
3. Interpret current events in the light of historical precedent.

Textbooks

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

Bettenson, Henry. *Documents of the Christian Church*, 3rd ed. New York: Oxford Press, 1999.

Course Methodology

This course will consist of lectures, group discussions, group activities, Power Point presentations, and audio-visual Presentations.

Course Requirements

1. School policies concerning absences and tardiness will be strictly enforced. Any student missing more than one-fourth of the classroom 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 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. 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 with-in one week of the missed exam. All make-up exams may be assessed a 5 point penalty and may be 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 25% of the semester average.

3. Each student is expected to read all of the assigned materials on the assigned dates. These readings are intended to augment and support the class discussions, and thus need to be read according to the time-line listed in the course schedule. Each student will provide evidence that they have read the material in a timely fashion by completing a weekly reading quiz on Blackboard. Each week's quiz will be posted on Blackboard (it will open on Monday and will remain open for 2 weeks). **After a quiz closes, it will not be re-opened– thus students will not be allowed to take a reading quiz late.** The reading quiz grades will compose 20% of the semester average.
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 assigned 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 must be turned in by 5:00 pm on, October 7, 2013.** Papers turned in after 5:00 pm 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 25% of the final semester grade.
5. The final grade for the course will consist of the following:
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|-------------------------------------|------------|
| Midterm Exam | 25% |
| Final Exam | 25% |
| Reading Quizzes | 25% |
| Biographical Paper and Bibliography | <u>25%</u> |
| Final grade | 100% |

Reading Assignments

- August 26, 2013 Chapters 1-5 “A Summary of Christian History”
 Sections 1-3 “Documents of the Christian Church”
- September 16, 2013 Chapters 6-10 “A Summary of Christian History”
 Sections 4-6 “Documents of the Christian Church”
- September 23, 2013 Chapters 11-15 “A Summary of Christian History”
 Sections 7-10 “Documents of the Christian Church”
- October 7, 2013 Chapters 16-20 “A Summary of Christian History”
 Sections 11-13 “Documents of the Christian Church”

Selected Bibliography

- Baker, Robert A. *A Summary of Christian History*, rev. ed. Nashville: Broadman, 1994.
- Bettenson, Henry. *Documents of the Christian Church*, 2d ed. London: Oxford Univ. Press, 1967.
- Cross, F. L., and E. A. Livingstone, ed. *The Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church*, 3d 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.