

BIBL 3173-31 - Church History to 1517

Winter 2014

T/TH, 5:15-7pm (Jan 7 – Mar 20)

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Office Hours: TBD

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Course Description

The course is a comprehensive historical survey of the Christian religion from its beginning to the sixteenth century Reformation. Special emphasis is given to the nature of the early church, later doctrinal controversies, papal development and outstanding personalities of this period.

Course Rationale and Objectives

For the individual who seeks a deeper understanding of the Christian faith, a survey of the major events of its history is essential. The course provides a foundation for theological reflection and application of Christian doctrines to various cultural contexts. Specifically, the course' objective is...

- To increase students' understanding of the essential narrative, influential individuals, and cultural developments in the history of Christianity
- To equip students for critical analysis of primary source material from the period (in English translation)
- To enable students to identify the most important political, religious, and intellectual turning points in Christian history
- To help students grasp the value of historical study for informed theological dialogue

Course Requirements

1. **Exams** (50%) – there are three exams during the course of the semester. The two mid-term exams are non-comprehensive and cover lecture and textbook material. The final exam is comprehensive and requires retention of the entire course content. All three exams will have matching, identification, document identification and analysis, and essay questions.

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2. **Essays** (30%) – each student will write two short reflection essays on important primary sources.
 - **Essay #1** – students will be assigned a seminal primary source from the **pre-Constantinian** period to read, engage, and reflect upon. The paper will introduce the source, describe its content, and explain the most significant **theological** issues it raises (length: 5 pages, double spaced)
 - **Essay #2** – students will be assigned a seminal primary source from the **medieval period** to read, engage, and reflect upon. The paper will introduce the source, describe its content, and explain the most significant **historical** issues it raises (length: 5 pages, double spaced)
- Papers must be submitted at the time indicated in the course outline. No late papers will be accepted under any circumstances.
3. **Participation** (20%) – Active participation in class discussion is critical to the educational benefit of the course. There are two ways of assessing the participation grade:
 - a. **First**, students should participate regularly in class discussion by engaging substantially with the assigned readings. Students must come to class with adequate notes on the readings and be prepared to discuss any questions posed by the instructor via email.
 - b. **Second**, periodic pop quizzes will ensure students are regularly completing the assigned textbook readings and factor into the professor's assessment.

Required Textbooks:

1. Everett Ferguson, *Church History Volume One: From Christ to Pre-Reformation : The Rise and Growth of the Church in Its Cultural, Intellectual, and Political Context*. Zondervan, 2005. (Abbreviated as EF)
2. Henry Bettenson & Chris Maunder, *Documents of the Christian Church*, New Edition. Oxford, 1999. (Abbreviated as DCC)
3. Everett Ferguson, *Early Christians' Speak. Faith and Life in the First Three Centuries*, 3rd Edition. Abilene, TX: ACU press, 1999. (Abbreviated as ECS)

Course Policies

Grading Policy:

| | | |
|------------|---|-----|
| Exam 1 | - | 15% |
| Exam 2 | - | 15% |
| Final Exam | - | 20% |

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| | | |
|---------------|---|------------|
| Essays | - | 30% |
| Participation | - | <u>20%</u> |
| 100% | | |

Course grades are calculated according to the following scale:

| | | |
|-----------|---|---|
| 100 – 90% | = | A |
| 89 – 80% | = | B |
| 79 – 70% | = | C |
| 69 – 60% | = | D |
| 0-59% | = | F |

Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, falsely claiming authorship of an assignment, receiving from or rendering help to fellow students during exams or quizzes, plagiarizing material, and using unauthorized aids during examinations. Also, students must be careful to avoid plagiarism. *Plagiarism is the use of another's ideas or words as one's own and/or the failure to credit accurately the ideas or words of another.* Papers with significant amounts of plagiarized material will receive a "0" for the assignment and students will be reported to the Academic Dean.

Late Work and Make-up Policies:

Exams. If a student is unable to take an exam, he/she must notify me *in advance* (if possible). Make-up exams will be given at my discretion and may be entirely essay in nature. If for any reason the student fails to make up the exam at the specified time, he/she will receive a "0" for that exam. The acceptable reasons for missing an exam are extreme illness or urgent personal emergency, both of which require outside verification. Please note that travel arrangements for holidays, attending weddings or family gatherings and attending school athletic (as a fan) or social events are *not* acceptable reasons for missing an exam.

Pop Quizzes. If a student is late for class and therefore not present to take a pop quiz, there are no make ups allowed. Students will not be penalized for missing a pop quiz for an excused absence.

Mission Statement

Courses taught in The Campbell Institute for Theological Education are accredited by Oklahoma Christian University. The mission statement of Oklahoma Christian University is "to be a premier Christian institution of higher learning and higher calling".

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Classroom Etiquette:

Students are expected to behave in a way that fosters a positive academic learning environment. Students should demonstrate respect for fellow students, the professor, AND the learning process. A few specific things to note:

1. Dress Code – Students are to wear “street” clothing to class that is appropriate for an academic environment. Specifically, students must wear shoes in the classroom and not come to class in sleepwear (PJs, etc).
2. Technology – Students are to turn off ipods/MP3s, cell phones, and other gadgets that distract from the class lecture or discussion. Tablets, Ipads, or Laptops can be used for note-taking but NOT for websurfing, chatting, or other distracting behavior.
3. Talking –excessive talking, coarse language, and other inappropriate talk are to be avoided in class.
4. Tardiness – being late to class is unprofessional and disruptive to class; tardiness negatively affects the participation grade.

Failure to adhere to proper classroom etiquette will result in a lowered participation grade. It may also result in being asked to leave class and/or being marked absent for the class period.

Students with Disabilities.

If you have a diagnosed disability and need special accommodations, please notify Amy Janzen (425-405- 5907) before or immediately after your first scheduled class meeting. After your disability has been verified, I will work with you, with Amy Janzen, and with the Oklahoma Christian University Office of the Vice President of Academic Affairs to provide reasonable accommodations to ensure that you have a fair opportunity to perform in the course.

Note: Course outline will be handed out on the first day of class