



## **SS: Special Topics in Christian History**

**Spring 2016**

**Mondays, 5:30-8:30pm**

Instructor: Darren Williamson

(see bio at <http://www.cite-osucc.com/faculty/dr-darren-williamson/>)

Phone: 503.752.6032

Office Hours: By arrangement

Class Location: Southwest Church of Christ (Tigard, Oregon)

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### **Course Description**

The course is a historical survey of the Christian religion from its beginning through the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

### **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 (45%)** – 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. Students will take the exams *outside of class* under the supervision of a suitable proctor. This involves a 1 hour commitment outside of class per exam.

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**2. Essays (30%)** – each student will write three short reflection essays on important primary sources that directly relate to Christian Spiritual Formation, or to another topic of special interest to the student. Throughout the term students will be assigned a seminal primary source from the pre-Constantinian, Medieval, and Modern periods. Students should read and reflect upon the source and then write a short essay (length: 4-5 pages, double spaced) that introduces the source, describes its content, and explains its value to the life, teaching, or practices of the church.

\*\*See the essay guidelines for more detailed information.

**3. Participation (25%)** – 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**, daily quizzes will ensure students are regularly completing the assigned textbook readings. Quiz scores amount to ½ of the participation grade.

## Required Readings:

1. Mark A. Noll, *Turning Points. Decisive Moments in the History of Christianity*, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition (Baker Academic, 2012). ISBN: 0801039967 (Abbreviated as TP). Purchase on your own.
2. Supplemental Readings. On a weekly basis students will be directed toward online primary source readings that supplement and support the Noll textbook.

## Course Policies

### Grading Policy:

Exam 1	-	15%
Exam 2	-	15%
Exam 3	-	15%
Essays	-	30%
Participation	-	<u>25%</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

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## **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 may be reported to the Academic Dean.

## **Late Work and Make-up Policies:**

**Exams.** Exam for this class will be taken outside of class and proctored by an unrelated individual who is approved by me and who has agreed to follow the proctoring instructions that I will provide them.

## **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.

**Christian Mission Statement.** CITE is a co-operative arrangement between the University Christian Center and Oklahoma Christian University that utilizes the resources of local Christian faculty to offer accredited collegiate level courses in Biblical studies and Theology for students in the Willamette Valley of Oregon. CITE is an educational enterprise that is distinctively Christian in every possible way. Its instructors all possess graduate level academic preparation in Theology, Biblical Studies, and Christian Ministry, are dedicated ministers in local congregations of churches of Christ, and care deeply about the spiritual welfare of their students. Foundational to CITE's teaching philosophy is the view that piety and scholarship can and should complement one another and that our teaching is an intellectual as well as a pastoral endeavor.

## **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA/504) Statement/Students with Disabilities:**

If you have a diagnosed disability and need special accommodations, please notify Katy Roybal ([405.425.1876](tel:405.425.1876)) before or immediately after your first scheduled class meeting. After your disability has been verified, I will work with you, with Mrs. Roybal, 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 well in the course.

**Prohibition Against Harassment.** Harassment, as defined in the student handbook, is not tolerated at Oklahoma Christian University. Harassment is unchristian and uncivil behavior. It is a breach of community, which expresses disrespect, exploits and undermines relationships based on trust, and interferes with learning and productive work. If you feel that you have been subjected to harassment, you may contact one of the Title IX coordinators listed on pages 19 & 20 of the OC Student Handbook

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(<http://www.oc.edu/dotAsset/f0fb7a56-15dd-4f39-978f-bcf8cc132a6e.pdf>) to discuss remedies. The Title IX coordinator at OC is Ms. Tamie Willis ([Tamie.Willis@oc.edu](mailto:Tamie.Willis@oc.edu)); Campus phone number: 405.425.5320.

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## COURSE OUTLINE

(a more detailed course outline will be provided on the first day of class)

<u>Week</u>	<u>Major Turning Points and Discussion Topics</u>	Assigned Readings & Due Dates
Week 1 Jan 4	Introduction to Church History The Fall of Jerusalem (AD 70) The Canon of Scripture	<i>Turning Points</i> , 11-46. Supplemental Readings
Week 2 Jan 11	The Council of Nicaea (325) Church and Empire	<i>Turning Points</i> , 47-64. Supplemental Readings
Week 3 Jan 18	The Council of Chalcedon (451) The Fathers	<i>Turning Points</i> , 65-82. Supplemental Readings <b>Essay 1</b>
Week 4 Jan 25	The Rule of Benedict (529) Monasticism	<i>Turning Points</i> , 83-106. Supplemental Readings <b>Exam 1</b> (taken prior to class time)
Week 5 Feb 1	Coronation of Charlemagne (800) The Great Schism (1054) Christianity and Islam	<i>Turning Points</i> , 107-150. Supplemental Readings
Week 6 Feb 8	The Diet of Worms (1521) The Radical Reformation	<i>Turning Points</i> , 151-174 Supplemental Readings <b>Essay 2</b>
Week 7 Feb 15	English Act of Supremacy (1534) The Catholic Reformation	<i>Turning Points</i> , 175-220. Supplemental Readings
Week 8 Feb 22	The Conversion of the Wesleys (1738) Pietism & American Revivalism. Modernist Challenges to Christian faith	<i>Turning Points</i> , 221-268. Supplemental Readings <b>Exam 2</b> (taken prior to class time)
Week 9 Feb 29	The American Restoration Movement: Churches of Christ	Supplemental Readings
Week 10 Mar 7	Faith for the World: Edinburgh Missionary Conference (1910) The Church and the Global South	Turning Points, 269-316. Supplemental Readings <b>Essay 3</b>
Mar 14		Final Exam