

Spring 2006 (January 19 thru March 9)

Church History I - To The Reformation

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Church History is a survey study designed to explain the life of the church. Major focus is given to the primary events, people, and struggles that the church faced throughout the course of history. *Church History I* focuses on the Pre-Reformation Era, A.D. 33-1500.

Course Objectives

1. Develop a basic knowledge of the historical traditions of our faith, touching both the broad contours of the church's past and the significant persons who have impacted the history of Christianity.
2. Trace the development and flow of the Western tradition from its beginnings in the early church councils through the early stages of the Reformation. Some attention will be given to the differences between Western (Roman Catholic) and Eastern (Orthodox) traditions and the reasons for the schism between them.
3. Learn to see the organic development of theological positions through studying the history of doctrinal controversy.
4. Learn both to critique and to appreciate your own tradition by examining the church's past. This examination will demonstrate the positive and negative contributions of church traditions with varying institutional and theological commitments.
5. Integrate this material into your own ministry of teaching and to employ the insights learned here to enhance worship, evangelism, and devotion to God.

Required Texts

Justo González. *The Story of Christianity. Volume 1: The Early Church to the Dawn of the Reformation.* San Francisco: HarperSanFrancisco, 1984.

Assignments

1. There will be one mid term and one final exam, the questions for which will be taken from the classroom lectures and Gonzales. All questions will be multiple-choice only.
2. There could be quizzes each week from the class notes - be sure to revise the previous class material.
3. Reading assignments will be all of the material in the book by González (See below).
4. Write a 1-3 page report (paper) on any subject of interest from the reading material from Gonzales. There will be two such essays during the mid term and final. Additional essays (up to 1 essay per week) will get extra credit.

Grading

Final exam constitutes 30% of the total grade.

The completion of the reading assignments and the papers constitutes 25% of the grade.

The Mid term constitutes 25% of the total grade.

The quizzes constitute 20% of the total grade.

Course Schedule *January 19 thru March 9*

January 19

Introduction to the course; Why study church history?

Beginnings of church history

Reading Week 1 - No Reading

January 26

Apostolic Fathers and Apologists

Theological Integrity: Earliest Heresies

Reading Due Week 2 González chapters 1-4

February 2

Christian Thinking in North Africa

Ecumenical Councils

Reading Due Week 3 González 5-10

Next Week: Report/Essay/Paper from Gonzales

February 9

Rise and Domination of Early Catholicism

Augustine

Reading Due Week 4 González 11-15

Mid Term

February 16

Holy Rome and Holy Roman Empire

Pinnacle of Catholicism: Crusades to Babylonian Captivity of the Church

Reading Due Week 5 González 16-19

February 23

Scholasticism

Pre-reform Reform Movements

Reading Due Week 6 González 20-25 (Hard)

March 2

Renaissance; Decline of the Papacy—Make Way for the Reformation

Reading Due Week 7 González 26-33 (Harder)

Next Week: Report/Essay/Paper from Gonzales

March 9

Review - Final Exam

Discussion of Paper

Reading Due Week 8 González 34-36 (Hard)

Final Exam