

**INSTRUCTORS:**

Lecturer: Brian J. Arnold, Ph.D.

Online Instructor: Kyle DiRoberts, Ph.D.

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**DESCRIPTION (from *Student Handbook*)**

In this course students are introduced to key figures from church history and theological development from the Patristic era up to the Reformation. Students will also learn how the study of history impacts current theological discussion and church practice.

**COURSE OUTCOMES**

At the end of this course, the student will:

1. Explain the key events, people, and issues in the history of the Patristic and Medieval church.
2. Trace theological developments through history.
3. Think and write more clearly on historical theology.
4. Apply church history and historical theology to current debates.
5. Apply the inspiring accounts of history to their lives and ministries.

**COURSE TEXT(S)**

1. Gonzalez, Justo. *The Story of Christianity*, vol. 1 (New York: HaperCollins Publishers, 1984). Read all.
2. Wilken, Robert Louis. *The Spirit of Early Christian Thought* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2003). Read all.
3. Augustine. *Confessions*, trans. R.S. Pine-Coffin (Harmondsworth, Middlesex: Penguin, 1961). Read chapters 1–10.
4. Bettenson, Henry and Chris Maunder, eds. *Documents of the Christian Church*, 4<sup>th</sup> ed. (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1999). Read 1–193.
5. Anselm of Canterbury, *The Major Works* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1998). Read 82-103. (Provided on the course web page.)

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

<p><b>1. Reading [20%]</b> [Outcomes 1-3]</p>	<p>The study of history requires a vast amount of reading. You will be graded on the quantity (how much did you read?) and the quality (did you carefully read or skim?) of your reading.</p> <p><b>DUE:</b> Reading is due each lesson, per schedule on course web page. <b>DUE:</b> Reading Report Form due prior to submitting final assignments.</p>
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<p><b>2. Book Review [15%]</b> [Outcomes 1-4]</p>	<p>This book review on Wilken, <i>The Spirit of Early Christian Thought</i> should be 5 pages in length. It should include a paragraph that introduces the book and the author (essentially answering the question of why he is qualified to write such a book), a summary of the book (roughly two pages), and a critical evaluation of the book's achievement of its goals (2–3 pages). Students will be graded on their ability to summarize and evaluate the author's thesis, in addition to the overall quality of the student's writing.</p> <p><b>DUE:</b> see course web page</p>
<p><b>3. Research Paper [30%]</b> [Outcomes 1-4]</p>	<p>30% of the grade consists of a 10 page research paper. The student is to pick an issue from church history of interest and demonstrate its significance. This paper is to be more than a biographical sketch of a person or a description of an event. Students are to argue a clear thesis throughout the paper (we will discuss how to write a solid thesis statement in class). This paper is to contain footnotes with at least ten sources, using both books and articles.</p> <p>Topic, along with a tentative thesis sentence, must be submitted for approval by the professor per schedule on the course web page.</p> <p><b>DUE:</b> see course web page</p>
<p><b>4. Final Exam [25%]</b> [Outcomes 1-5]</p>	<p>On this exam, students will be expected to recall information from the lectures and the reading. Approximately half of the test will be objective questions, designed to test your memory of specific historical events and people. The other half of the test will be subjective short answers and essay questions designed to test your mastery over the concepts we have learned.</p> <p><b>DUE:</b> Finals week, per schedule on course web page</p>
<p><b>5. Online Discussions [10%]</b> [Outcomes 1-5]</p>	<p>For each lesson, one or more Discussion Questions (DQs) based on the material will be posted.</p> <p>Substantive and synthetic postings are expected. Grading will be based on the Discussion Question Grading Rubric (see course web page). Discussion Question answers should first be typed in a word processor, proofread, saved, and then copied into the course web page.</p> <p><i>Initial responses</i> to the Discussion Question should be posted by <i>Thursday at 11:59 PM</i> of the week in which they appear with at least <i>one response to other students</i> due by <i>Sunday at 11:59 PM</i> of the same week.</p> <p><b>DUE:</b> Each lesson, per schedule on course web page</p>

**GRADING INFORMATION**

Letter Grade	Percentage	Grade Points	Description
A+	100-97	4.0	
A	96.99-93	4.0	Excellent; superior achievement.
A-	92.99-90	3.7	
B+	89.99-87	3.3	
B	86.99-83	3.0	Good; commendable achievement.
B-	82.99-80	2.7	
C+	79.99-77	2.3	
C	76.99-73	2.0	Satisfactory; acceptable achievement.
C-	72.99-70	1.7	
D+	69.99-67	1.3	
D	66.99-63	1.0	Poor; marginal achievement.
D-	62.99-60	0.7	
F	59.99-0	0.0	Failure to advance in the course. No credit earned. Computed in GPA.
S	N/A	N/A	Sufficient achievement of course objectives. Not computed in GPA.
U	N/A	N/A	Insufficient achievement of course objectives. Not computed in GPA.
EX	N/A	N/A	Extension. A formally approved petition for course extension.
NR	N/A	N/A	Not Received. Instructor has not yet submitted grade.
WP	N/A	N/A	Withdrew from class while passing. Not computed in GPA.
WF	N/A	0.0	Withdrew from class while failing. Computed in GPA until retake.

## **SEMINARY ACADEMIC POLICIES**

All Seminary policies affecting student work, appeals, and grievances, as outlined in the Academic Catalog or Student Handbook will apply, unless otherwise indicated in this syllabus.

### **Course Evaluations**

Each student is required to complete an anonymous course evaluation on this course's page at <http://ps.mrooms.net>. Course evaluations will be open the last week of the class until one day before grade reports are issued. All course evaluation results are reported anonymously: professors have no way of linking a particular student to a particular evaluation. This anonymous information will be processed and distributed to professors in summary form and used to strengthen their teaching methods and courses.

## **COURSE DETAILS**

### **On-Line Course Materials**

Lectures, handouts and other course materials will be posted to <http://ps.mrooms.net>. Please note that after the course is over the student will not have access to course material on the website.

### **Participation**

Students are expected to actively participate in the online learning environment. This may include logging on multiple times per week to view material, complete quizzes or exams, and to post responses to discussion questions.

### **Online Course Weeks**

An online course "Week" corresponds to a 7-day week and runs **Monday – Sunday**. The course is based on **Phoenix, Arizona Time**. If you are in a different time zone, you are responsible for calculating the time difference and scheduling appropriately. There may be exceptions so pay close attention to the course web page for specifics.

### **Late Posts, Etc.**

Because dependability and industry are virtues of Christian character, the faculty encourages students to be faithful and timely in the completion of all course assignments. Due to the interactive nature of discussion posts in online education, discussion posts cannot be made up. Failure to take quizzes, exams, or submit papers when they are due will result in a penalty and generally cannot be made up more than one week from their due date. Contact the instructor in cases of emergency that may warrant an extension. Procrastination is not an emergency.

## Bibliography

- Bettenson, Henry and Chris Maunder. *Documents of the Christian Church*. 4<sup>th</sup> Edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011.
- Brown, Peter. *Augustine of Hippo: a biography*. University of California Press, 2000.
- Chadwick, Henry. *The Early Church*. Penguin, 1993.
- Ferguson, Everett. *Backgrounds of Early Christianity*. 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2003.
- Frend, W. H. C. *Rise of Christianity*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1984.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Martyrdom and Persecution in the Early Church*. Cambridge: Lutterworth Press, 2008.
- Gonzalez, Justo. *The Story of Christianity: The Early Church to the Dawn of the Reformation*. Vol. 1. Revised and expanded. New York: HarperCollins, 2010.
- Green, Bradley, ed. *Shapers of Christian Orthodoxy: Engaging with Early and Medieval Theologians*. Downers Grove: IVP Academic.
- Jeffers, James S. *The Greco-Roman World of the New Testament Era: Exploring the Background of Early Christianity*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1999.
- Kelly, J. N. D. *Early Christian Doctrines*. Rev. ed. Peabody, MA: Prince Press, 2004.
- Olson, Roger. *The Story of Christian Theology: Twenty Centuries of Christian Theology*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 1999.
- Pelikan, Jaroslav. *The Emergence of the Catholic Tradition (100-600)*. Vol. 1 of *The Christian Tradition: A History of the Development of Doctrine*. Chicago: The University of Chicago, 1971.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *The Spirit of Eastern Christendom (600–1700)*. Vol. 2 of *The Christian Tradition: A History of the Development of Doctrine*. Chicago: The University of Chicago, 1977.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *The Growth of Medieval Theology (600-1300)*. Vol. 3 of *The Christian Tradition: A History of the Development of Doctrine*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1978.
- Stark, Rodney. *The Triumph of Christianity: How the Jesus Movement Became the World's Largest Religion*. New York: HarperOne, 2011.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *God's Battalions: The Case for the Crusades*. New York: HarperCollins, 2010.
- Wilkin, Robert L. *The First Thousand Years*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2012.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *The Spirit of Early Christianity: Seeking the Face of God*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2005.

## CH 511 READING REPORT

Name \_\_\_\_\_

I have read the following:

**1. *The Story of Christianity***

YES  NO Number of pages? \_\_\_\_

Read Thoroughly  Skimmed

**2. *Documents of the Christian Church***

YES  NO Number of pages? \_\_\_\_

Read Thoroughly  Skimmed

**3. *Confessions***

YES  NO Number of pages? \_\_\_\_

Read Thoroughly  Skimmed

**4. *Proslogion***

YES  NO Number of pages? \_\_\_\_

Read Thoroughly  Skimmed

**5. *The Spirit of Early Christian Thought***

YES  NO Number of pages? \_\_\_\_

Read Thoroughly  Skimmed

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_