



Online Course Syllabus

THS 201

Church History

Winter 2019 – December 16-Janury 10

Contact Information

Instructor Name: Dr. Scott Shiffer

Instructor Email: sshiffer@criswell.edu

Instructor Phone: 214-818-1316

Instructor Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9AM – 3 PM

Course Description and Prerequisites

An examination of the history of the Christian church from the first century to the present, with an emphasis on the roots of American Christianity.

Course Objectives

At the end of this course, the student should have the ability to . . .

1. Articulate a working knowledge of the significant phases, events, persons, and *development of Christian thought* in the history of the Church.
2. Enrich his or her own devotion to the Faith through the models of devotion manifest in the history of the Church.
3. Recognize how all ministry (doctrine and practice) is influenced by contemporary and antecedent forces and develop a sense of discernment in regards to the forces impacting his or her ministry.
4. Encourage others as to their place in the history of God's work.
5. Engage in sympathetic but critical dialogue with diverse Christian communities, traditions, and denominations striving for unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.
6. *Pursue further formal and informal education in biblical, theological, and ministerial fields by displaying a basic familiarity with scholarship in the field of Church history.*

Required Textbooks

- Shelley, Bruce. *Church History in Plain Language*. 3rd ed. Thomas Nelson, 2008. ISBN: 978-0718025533
- *Criswell College Manual of Style*, 3rd ed. Dallas: Criswell College, 2010. (Available on-line at <http://criswell.edu/Current Students/Student Life/Student Resources>.)

Recommended Reading

- Noll, Mark. *The New Shape of World Christianity*. IVP Academic, 2009. ISBN: 978-0830828470

Course Requirements and Assignments

Grade Scale with 1,000 Points:

A	970-1000	C	800-829
A-	930-969	C-	780-799
B+	910-929	D+	750-779
B	880-909	D	720-749
B-	860-879	D-	700-719
C+	830-859	F	699-0

Requirements for Credit:

Written Reflections (4@50)	200 Pts.
Historical Project	200 Pts.
Exams (2@100)	200 Pts.
Reading	200 Pts.
Class Discussion (5@40)	200 Pts.
Total	1,000 Pts.

Course Requirements in Detail:

Written Reflections: (4) 200 Points (50 Points Each)

Students will write four written reflections during the semester. Each reflection will consist of questions about the textbook, written lecture, and supplemental online readings. Each reflection will contain several questions that can be answered in 3-4 sentences per question. Reflections will be accepted late, with a 5 point penalty for each day they are past due.

Historical Project: 200 Points

Each student will create a historical presentation of a person in church history. The presentation will include a short biography of the person's life, their contribution to the church, and a biblical application for today based on Scripture. The presentation will be 5-8 pages in length and written in Times New Roman font (12 Pt.), and it will be double-spaced. Page margins will be one-inch all the way around. The paper will need to include a Title Page and a Bibliography in addition to the page limit. The topic must be approved by the professor prior to the student beginning the research.

Your thoughts should be supported by evidence in the paper. The paper should be typed with 1 inch margins on each side of the page.

Midterm Exam: 100 Points

For the exam, questions will be asked from the readings in the text as well as from content in the online lectures. Students will have one week to complete the exam, no late exams will be accepted.

Final Exam: 100 Points

For the exam, questions will be asked from the readings in the text as well as from content in the online lectures. Students will have one week to complete the exam, no late exams will be accepted.

Reading: 200 Points

Students will be asked on the Final Exam to share what percentage of the required reading was completed from the textbooks and the online sessions. They will select the answer most closely associated with the amount of reading completed.

Class Participation/Class Discussion: (5) 100 Points (20 Points Each)

In order to receive full credit for class participation every week, each student must respond to the professor's Class Discussion question for that week by Wednesday at 11:55 P.M. of that week. Next, the student must respond to at least two other students' posts by Friday at 11:55 P.M. of that same week. Finally, the student must answer any questions that are asked of him/her by other students by Sunday at 11:55 P.M. in your time zone at the end of that week. Please be courteous to other classmates by not waiting until the last minute each week to post on the Discussion Board.

Additional Discussion Board Guidelines (Maria Puzziferro):

- An acceptable post to the Discussion Board would contain accurate, original, and relevant comments. The comments should stimulate additional thought about the issue being discussed. A simple "I agree" or "I disagree" will not be counted as an adequate comment.
- Your postings should reflect a) facts, b) logical reasoning, c) be related to the topic, d) be written well (no spelling errors, etc.), and e) be on time. Try to avoid sharing your personal opinions if you cannot back them up with facts and/or statistics.
- You may certainly express your views and beliefs in the context of the discussion topic, but DO NOT use your views to attack others. Simply use your best judgment and treat others with respect. This will be important to bear in mind as we discuss very sensitive and controversial issues.
- Read the assigned chapters before you post your response to the question so that you can tie in the main ideas and facts in the readings to your postings.
- You will be evaluated on the quality and thoughtfulness of how you present your point of view. A quality message is well thought out, clearly presented, and well-formulated.
- When posting, be sure to present your thoughts and point of view in an unbiased way. You can and should cite evidence for your assertions where appropriate. Use your textbook, and other selected web resources as educational aids.
- Your postings should be clear, yet concise. Please do not feel as though you have to write a lot. Think quality over quantity.
- Please try to keep messages to one paragraph (150-200 words), if possible.
- Once you have posted, check back frequently to see if anybody has responded to you.

Course/Classroom Policies and Information

Course Communication:

Students can expect to receive email replies from their online instructor within 48 hours of sending an initial email. Students can expect to have most assignments graded within one week of the due date.

Attendance

Students are responsible for enrolling in courses for which they anticipate being able to participate weekly during the weeks appearing on course schedules, and then making every effort to do so. Such participation may include the following: completing quizzes or exams; emailing faculty or class members as part of an assignment; discussion board posting or response; turning in an assignment; or other communication reflecting ongoing learning in the course. When unavoidable situations result in non-participation, students are responsible for acquiring any information missed. Professors are not obliged to allow students to make up missed work. Per their independent discretion, individual professors may determine how participation affects students' ability to meet course learning objectives and whether participation affects course grades..

Grading Scale

A	97-100	4.0 grade points per semester hour
A-	93-96	3.7 grade points per semester hour
B+	91-92	3.3 grade points per semester hour
B	88-90	3.0 grade points per semester hour
B-	86-87	2.7 grade points per semester hour
C+	83-85	2.3 grade points per semester hour
C	80-82	2.0 grade points per semester hour
C-	78-79	1.7 grade points per semester hour
D+	75-77	1.3 grade points per semester hour
D	72-74	1.0 grade point per semester hour
D-	70-71	0.7 grade points per semester hour
F	0-69	0.0 grade points per semester hour

Incomplete Grades

Students requesting a grade of Incomplete (I) must understand that incomplete grades may be given only upon approval of the faculty member involved. An "I" may be assigned only when a student is currently passing a course and in situations involving extended illness, serious injury, death in the family, or employment or government reassignment, not student neglect.

Students are responsible for contacting their professors prior to the end of the semester, plus filing the appropriate completed and approved academic request form with the Registrar's Office. The "I" must be removed (by completing the remaining course requirements) no later than 60 calendar days after the grade was assigned, or the "I" will become an "F."

Academic Honesty

Absolute truth is an essential belief and basis of behavior for those who believe in a God who cannot lie and forbids falsehood. Academic honesty is the application of the principle of truth in the classroom setting. Academic honesty includes the basic premise that all work submitted by students must be their own and any ideas derived or copied from elsewhere must be carefully documented.

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to:

- cheating of any kind,
- submitting, without proper approval, work originally prepared by the student for another course,
- plagiarism, which is the submitting of work prepared by someone else as if it were his own, and
- failing to credit sources properly in written work.

Institutional Email Policy

All official college email communications to students enrolled in this course will be sent exclusively to students' institutional email accounts. Students are expected to check their student email accounts regularly and to respond in an appropriate and timely manner to all communications from faculty and administrative departments.

Students are permitted to setup automatic forwarding of emails from their student email accounts to one or more personal email accounts. The student is responsible to setup and maintain email forwarding without assistance from college staff. If a student chooses to use this forwarding option, he/she will continue to be responsible for responding appropriately to all communications from faculty and administrative departments of the college. Criswell College bears no responsibility for the use of emails that have been forwarded from student email accounts to other email accounts.

Disabilities

In order to ensure full class participation, any student with a disabling condition requiring special accommodations (e.g., tape recorders, special adaptive equipment, special note-taking or test-taking needs) is strongly encouraged to contact the instructor at the beginning of the course, or if a student has a learning disability, please inform the professor so assistance can be provided.

Intellectual Property Rights

Unless otherwise specifically instructed in writing by the professor, students must neither materially nor digitally reproduce materials from any course offered by Criswell College for or with the significant possibility of distribution.

Resources and Support

Canvas and CAMS: Criswell College uses Canvas as its web-based learning tool and CAMS for student data. Students needing assistance with Canvas should contact the Canvas Help Support line at (844) 358-6140. Tech support is available at this number twenty-four hours a day. Students needing help with CAMS should contact the Campus Software Manager at bstifle@criswell.edu.

Student Services: The Student Services Office exists to foster and encourage success in all areas of life—physical, intellectual, spiritual, social, and emotional. Students are encouraged to reach out for assistance by contacting the office at 214.818.1332 or studentservices@criswell.edu. Pastoral and certified counseling services are also available to Criswell students. Appointments are scheduled through the Dean of Students Jeff Campbell, at jcampbell@criswell.edu.

Wallace Library: Students can access academic resources and obtain research assistance by visiting the Wallace Library, which is located on campus. For more information, go to the library website, or email the Wallace Library at library@criswell.edu.

Writing Center: Students are encouraged to consult with writing tutors to improve and enhance their skills and confidence by practicing techniques of clear and effective writing. To consult with a tutor, students can visit the Writing Center located on the first floor near the Computer Lab, or they can schedule an appointment by emailing writingcenter@criswell.edu or calling 214.818.1373.

Distance Education

Students participating in courses through Distance Education, with or without live interaction, must complete the academic requirements for those courses with the integrity and commitment necessary to participate in and benefit from all of the exercises provided by the professor for learning the subject matter of the course. Therefore, credit for Distance Education courses is the same as credit for courses taken on campus.

Distance education students can access information about Criswell College’s Wallace Library at http://www.criswell.edu/current_students/library/. The Wallace Library manual is available at http://www.criswell.edu/current_students/library/library_handbook/.

Course Outline/Calendar

COURSE SCHEDULE

The following course schedule is proposed but subject to change.

Session	Content	Assignments	Due Date
Session 1: The Time of Jesus and the Catholic Church (30-300 AD) 12/16	Read: Shelley pp. 3-90	Discussion 1	12/22
Session 2: The Christian Roman Empire (312-590) 12/16	Read: Shelley pp. 91-162	Written Assignment 1 Discussion 2	12/22
Session 3: The Middle Ages (590-1517)	Read Shelley pp. 163-236	Written Assignment 2	12/29

12/23		Discussion 3	
Session 4: The Reformation (1517-1648) 12/23	Read Shelley: 237-310	Exam 1	12/29
Session 5: The Age of Reason and Revival (1648-1789) 12/30	Read Shelley pp. 311-352	Discussion 4 Written Assignment 3	1/5
Session 6: The Age of Progress (1789- 1914) 12/30	Read Shelley pp. 353-418	Written Assignment 4	1/5
Session 7: The Modern Age (1914-Present) Part 1 1/6	Read Shelley pp. 419-460	Discussion 5	1/10
Session 8: The Modern Age (1914-Present) Part 2 1/6	Read Shelley pp. 461-506	Exam 2 Historical Project	1/10

Selected Bibliography

(* means the work is available in the Wallace library.)

- *Akin, D. *Bernard of Clairvaux: Evangelical of the 12th Century (A Critical Analysis of His Soteriology)*, UT-Arlington Ph.D. dissertation, 1989.
- Behr, J. *The Nicene Faith*. Crestwood, NY: St. Vladimir's Seminary Press, 2004.
- * Bettenson, H., ed. *The Early Christian Fathers: A Selection from the Writings of the Fathers from St. Clement of Rome to St. Athanasius*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1970.
- * _____. *The Later Christian Fathers: A Selection from the Writings of the Fathers from St. Cyril of Jerusalem to St. Leo the Great*. London, Oxford University Press, 1974.
- * Bettenson, H. and C. Maunder, eds. *Documents of the Christian Church*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1999.
- * Bingham, D. Jeffrey. *Pocket History of the Church*. Downers Grove: Intervarsity, 2002.
- * Bruce, F. F. *New Testament History*. New York: Doubleday, 1969.
- Chadwick, O. *A History of Christianity*. New York: St. Martins, 1997.
- * Cross, F.L. and E.A. Livingstone, eds. *Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church*. 3d ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005.

- Curtis, A. K., et. al. *The 100 Most Important Events in Christian History*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1999.
- * Douglas, J. D., ed. *The New International Dictionary of the Christian Church*. Rev. ed. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1978.
- Dowley, T. *Introduction to the History of Christianity*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2006.
- Ferguson, E. *Church History: Volume 1- From Christ to Pre-Reformation*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2005.
(Volume 2 is forthcoming.)
- Gay, P. *The Enlightenment: An Interpretation*. 2 vols. New York: Knopf, 1966-69.
- * Gonzalez, J. L. *Church History: An Essential Guide*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1996.
- * _____. *The Story of Christianity*. 2 vols. San Francisco: HarperCollins, 1984-85.
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- * _____. *The Kregel Pictorial Guide to Church History*. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2000.
- * _____. *Our Legacy: The History of Christian Doctrine*. Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress, 2001.
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- * Latourette, K. S. *A History of Christianity*. 2 vols. San Francisco: HarperCollins, 1953; reprint, Peabody: Prince, 1997.
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- * McManners, J., ed. *The Oxford Illustrated History of Christianity*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1990; reprint, 1999.
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- * Noll, M. A. *Turning Points: Decisive Moments in the History of Christianity*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1997.
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- * Pelikan, J. *The Christian Tradition*. 5 vols. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1971–89; paperback, 1991.
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