



On-Campus Course Syllabus

THS 201 FA.L1

Church History

Fall 2022

Class Information

Day and Time: Monday/Wednesday: 3:15pm -- 4:30pm

Room Number: E208

Contact Information

Instructor Name: Dr. Everett Berry

Instructor Email: eberry@criswell.edu

Instructor Phone: 214-818-1356

Instructor Office Hours: TBD

Course Description and Prerequisites

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

Course Objectives

This course is designed to introduce students to the aforementioned subject matter. While it will be based upon the lecture format, it also will include reading, research, and interaction. Furthermore, at the end of this course, the student should demonstrate the ability to . . .

1. Outline a timetable of events that are most pertinent to the major phases of church history.
2. Examine how various theologians have influenced the ways in which many contemporary Christian thinkers understand various doctrinal topics today.
3. Explain how Christianity evolved into multiple denominations and theological traditions.
4. Display a basic familiarity with the major contributions that prominent Christian leaders have made in preserving and perpetuating the Christian faith.
5. Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of historical church leaders as well as the positive and negative implications of various events in church history.
6. Discuss the significance of church history in a clear and accessible manner.

Required Textbooks

* Noll, Mark. *The New Shape of World Christianity*. Downers Grove: Intervarsity, 2009.

* Shelley, Bruce L. *Church History in Plain Language*. 5th ed. Revision editor, Marshall Shelley. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2021.

Course Requirements and Assignments

Reading Assignments (30%)

The approximately 700 pages of required reading are a crucial component of this course. As the class progresses, it is expected that students will read the assigned pages thoughtfully and according to the schedule given on the calendar. By the end of the semester, students will be required to report the percentage of reading that has been completed. To do so...

1. Students are to click the link entitled *Reading Report* which is located on the Canvas modules page.
2. After entering that site, students can then click the *Reading Report* icon and subsequently click the *Begin Button* to enter the Reading Report page.
3. Next, students can see the total number of pages listed, record their total percentage of pages read in the response box, and finally click the *Save and Submit* Button to upload their answer for grade credit.
4. Also note that students will only receive credit for the completed percentage that they report.

Quizzes (20%)

Students are responsible for ten quizzes that will be assigned on assorted weeks throughout the semester. Their purpose is to test the student's knowledge of the assigned pages in Shelley's textbook which are marked by bold print and a Q# symbol in the far-right column of the course schedule. Specifications for taking the quizzes include the following:

1. Quizzes can only be taken in the weekly order as listed in the course schedule. Specifically, quizzes will be available on the class Canvas website and students are required to take each assigned quiz between the Monday (after 12:01 AM) and Friday (before 11:59 PM) of each designated quiz week.
2. They are taken by clicking on the link entitled *Quizzes*, which is located on the Canvas Modules page. Students can then click the available link on the site to take the necessary quiz, which includes ten questions that are provided one at a time with students being prohibited from backtracking once they have answered one question and moved to the next one.
3. The quizzes are to be taken in the allotted time of 15 minutes without consulting notes, textbooks, or other helps. Once students begin each quiz, a set timer in Canvas commences which cannot be paused and it will continue to run until the time limit has expired.
4. There will be no make-up quizzes, but the two lowest quiz grades will be dropped.
5. Students are not allowed to disclose information regarding the content of quizzes to other students.
6. When taking quizzes it is recommended that students use some form of a laptop or desktop computer as opposed to other electronic devices (e.g., iPad, iPhones, tablets, etc.) to minimize the possibility of losing an internet signal or not having software that is adaptable to Canvas programs.

Exams (30%)

Three multiple-choice exams are given in this course: one covering the Patristic/Medieval Eras, the Reformation/Post-Reformation eras, and the Modern/Postmodern eras. Specifications for taking each exam include the following:

1. Exams will cover material from Shelley and class lectures. For preparation, students may consult the Review Sheets, Class Notes, and Powerpoints which are available on Canvas.
2. Exams can only be taken in the assigned order as listed in the course schedule and no late exams will be allowed. Each one is made available only for designated weeks during the semester.
3. They are taken by clicking on the link entitled *Exams*, which is located on the Canvas Modules page. Students can then click the available link on the site to take the necessary exam, which includes 50 questions that are

provided one at a time with students being prohibited from backtracking once they have answered one question and moved to the next one.

4. They are to be taken in the allotted time of 60 minutes without consulting notes, textbooks, or any other helps. Also, once students begin each one, a set timer in Canvas commences which cannot be paused and it will continue to run until the time limit has expired.
5. Students are not allowed to disclose information regarding the content of exams to other students.
6. When taking exams it is recommended that students use some form of a laptop or desktop computer as opposed to other electronic devices (e.g., ipad, iphones, tablets, etc.) to minimize the possibility of losing an internet signal or not having software that is adaptable to Canvas programs.

Paper (20%)

Each student will be required to turn in a bibliography of thirty sources that covers a major figure, event, or movement within church history. The paper must...

1. Be typed in black with Times-New Roman font, font size 12.
2. Have at least 5 sources that are journal articles and/or specialized essays in various anthologies, and/or articles in assorted theological dictionaries.
3. Contain no sources referenced from Internet websites (e.g., blogs, online dictionaries, etc).
4. Include sources that are solely devoted to whatever topic is chosen. So for instance, if a student chooses to compile a bibliography on Martin Luther, they must list sources that are completely about him. Students are not to list sources that merely mention or partially discuss their subject.
5. Include a cover page and be written in accordance with the guidelines found in *The Criswell College Manual of Style*. (Note if students have questions not addressed in CCMS, they should consult the most recent edition of Turabian's guide to writing research papers.)
6. Also students can consult title page and bibliography reference templates that are provided under the *Paper Assignment* rubric. Upon clicking this link, students can then scroll down and consult an example of a Title Page and Bibliography that have been properly formatted.
7. If the student should choose to use the resources that are available in the Wallace Library, then note:
 - * Phone: 214.818.1348
 - * Web: http://www.criswell.edu/current_students/library/
8. Papers are to be uploaded into Canvas for final grading. To do so:
 - * Simply click the link entitled *Paper Assignment*, which is located on the Canvas homepage.
 - * Click the link entitled *Paper Assignment: Click here to Submit*.
 - * Next scroll down and click on "Browse My Computer."
 - * Then find the paper on your computer and click open/submit in either Word Doc or PDF format.
 - * You can write any comments in the "comments" field and click "Submit."
9. Finally, one must turn in a paper to receive a passing grade in the course.

Due Dates for All Assignments

While the quizzes and exams are to be completed by the assorted dates assigned on the Course Schedule, the Bibliographic Paper Assignment is due by 11/28 (midnight) and the Textbook Reading Report is due by 12/5 (midnight). Also note that these assignments will not be accepted after these due dates.

Class Attendance

Students are responsible for enrolling in courses for which they anticipate being able to attend every class session on the day and time appearing on course schedules, and then making every effort to do so. When

unavoidable situations result in absence or tardiness, students are responsible for acquiring any information missed. Instructors are not obliged to allow students to make up missed work. Per their independent discretion, individual instructors may determine how attendance affects students' ability to meet course learning objectives and whether attendance affects course grades.

For this course, missing more than fifteen (15) minutes at the beginning or end of a class period will count as one absence. Therefore, students who wish to depart early should clear it with the professor. Also, three instances of tardiness of fifteen minutes or less equals one absence. Finally, six absences will result in a full letter reduction of the final grade and absences exceeding six will result in failure of the course.

Campus Closure

To ensure the health and safety of students and employees, college administrators may decide it is necessary on rare occasions to close the campus. Once this decision is announced, instructors will contact students to provide further details regarding the campus closure's impact on those courses. Students are responsible to watch for communication from their instructors and respond appropriately. (Unless otherwise specified by the instructor in this syllabus, this communication will be sent to the student's Criswell College e-mail account.)

In order to make progress toward the courses' objectives, instructors have the freedom during most campus closures to require students to participate in activities as alternatives to meeting on campus. An instructor may, for example, hold class remotely (through Zoom) at the scheduled time, provide a recording of a class or presentation for students to watch independently, or assign other activities that students are to accomplish before returning to campus. Students are responsible for accomplishing these alternative activities as well as any course requirements listed in this syllabus during the period of the campus closure. If, during the period of the campus closure, personal circumstances prohibit a student from accomplishing these alternative activities or course requirements and assignment listed in the syllabus during the campus closure, the student is responsible for communicating with the instructor as soon as possible. Instructors will not penalize students who do not have the means to accomplish the alternative activities during the period of the campus's closure and will work with students whose circumstances during the campus closure prohibited their timely completion of course requirements and assignments in the syllabus.

Grading Scale

| Letter | Range | Ratio |
|--------|--------|------------------------------------|
| A | 93-100 | 4.0 grade points per semester hour |
| A- | 90-92 | 3.7 grade points per semester hour |
| B+ | 87-89 | 3.3 grade points per semester hour |
| B | 83-86 | 3.0 grade points per semester hour |
| B- | 80-82 | 2.7 grade points per semester hour |
| C+ | 77-79 | 2.3 grade points per semester hour |
| C | 73-76 | 2.0 grade points per semester hour |
| C- | 70-72 | 1.7 grade points per semester hour |
| D+ | 67-69 | 1.3 grade points per semester hour |

| | | |
|----|-------|------------------------------------|
| D | 63-66 | 1.0 grade point per semester hour |
| D- | 60-62 | 0.7 grade points per semester hour |
| F | 0-59 | 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 instructors 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 close of the term or semester in which the grade was awarded, 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 Assessment

Material submitted by students in this course may be used for assessment of the college’s academic programs. Since programmatic and institutional assessment is done without reference to specific students, the results of these assessments have no effect on a student’s course grade or academic standing at the college. Before submitting a student’s work for this type of assessment, the course instructor redacts the work to remove anything that identifies the student.

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

Criswell College recognizes and supports the standards set forth in Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, and similar state laws, which are designed to eliminate discrimination against qualified individuals with disabilities. Criswell College is committed to making reasonable accommodations for qualifying students, faculty, and employees with disabilities as required by applicable laws. For more information, please contact the Student Services Office.

Intellectual Property Rights

Unless otherwise specifically instructed in writing by the instructor, 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 Supports

Canvas and SONIS: Criswell College uses Canvas as its web-based learning tool and SONIS 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 SONIS should contact the Campus Software Manager at studenttechsupport@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. The Student Services Office also works with local counseling centers to ensure that every student has access to helpful mental health resources. More information is located on the college website at [Criswell College Mental Health Resources](#), and students may contact the Director of Student Services if they have any questions.

Wallace Library: Students can access academic resources and obtain research assistance by contacting or visiting the Wallace Library, which is located on campus. For more information, email the Wallace Library at library@criswell.edu. Offsite login information is available in Canvas in the “Criswell Student Training Course” under “Library Information.”

Tutoring Center: Students are encouraged to consult with tutors to improve and enhance their skills and confidence in any subject matter taught at the college. Tutors have been recommended by the faculty to ensure that the tutor(s) are qualified to serve the student body. Every tutor brings experience and expertise in an effort to provide the proper resources for the subject matter at hand. To consult with a tutor, students can visit the Tutoring Center located on the second floor in room E203, or schedule an appointment by emailing tutoringcenter@criswell.edu or by calling 214.818.1373.

Course Outline/Calendar

(The following course schedule is proposed but subject to change.)

| M/W | CONTENT | SHELLEY | NOLL |
|---|--|-------------------------------------|------------|
| M 8/15 | * Intro to Class | | |
| W 8/17 | * Intro- The Patristic Era | Chps 1-2 | |
| M 8/22 | * Post-Apostolic Church & Early Apologists | Q#1 Chp 8 ; Chps 3-4 | |
| W 8/24 | * The State Befriends the Church | Chp 10 | |
| M 8/29 | * The Ecumenical Councils | Q#2 Chp 14 ; Chps 5-7, 10-12 | |
| W 8/31 | * The Church Becomes Rome * Intro to the Medieval Era | Chps 9, 13-14 | |
| LABOR DAY M 9/5 | | | |
| W 9/7 | * The Papacy & the Great Schism | Q#3 Chp 18 ; Chps 15-17, 19 | |
| M 9/12 | * The Crusades & Christian Scholasticism | Q#4 Chp 21 ; Chps 20, 22 | |
| W 9/14 | * Signs of Opposition & Reform * Spain and the New World | Chps 23-24 | |
| EXAM 1 (9/19 – 9/23) | | | |
| M 9/19 | * Intro- Reformation & Post-Reformation | | |
| W 9/21 | * The German Reformation | Chp 25 | |
| M 9/26 | * The Swiss Reformation | Q#5 Chp 27 | |
| W 9/28 | * The Anabaptist (Radical) Reformation | Chp 26 | |
| M 10/3 | * The English Reformation | Q#6 Chp 28 ; Chp 31 | |
| W 10/5 | * The Catholic Counter-Reformation | Chp 29 | |
| STUDENT DEVELOPMENT WEEK (10/10 – 10/14) | | | |
| M 10/17 | * The Age of Reason | Q#7 Chp 32 ; Chp 33 | |
| W 10/19 | * Protestants Come to the New World | Chps 30, 40 | |
| M 10/24 | * The 1 st Great Awakening | Chps 35-36 | |
| W 10/26 | * Intro- The Modern and Postmodern Eras | | Chps 1-3 |
| EXAM 2 (10/31 – 11/4) | | | |
| M 10/31 | * The 2 nd Great Awakening | | |
| W 11/2 | * The Rise of Cults & Liberalism | Chps 34, 38, 41-42 | |
| M 11/7 | * The Modern Missions Movement | Q#8 Chp 39 | Chps 4-9 |
| W 11/9 | * The Birth of Neo-Orthodoxy * Fundamentalism & Evangelicalism | | |
| M 11/14 | * <i>Note Reading and Quiz (No class)</i> | Q#9 Chp 44 | |
| W 11/16 | * <i>Note Reading and Quiz (No class)</i> | | |
| READING WEEK (11/21 – 11/25) | | | |
| M 11/28 | * Pentecostalism * Paper Due | Q#10 Chp 48 | |
| W 11/30 | * The Ecumenical Movement * Denominations within Evangelicalism | Chps 37, 45-46 | Chps 10-11 |
| M 12/5 | * Postmodernity & Christianity * Reading Report Due | Chps 43, 47 | |
| FINAL EXAM (12/6 – 12/9) | | | |

Selected Bibliography

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

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- * Bingham, D. Jeffrey. *Pocket History of the Church*. Downers Grove: Intervarsity, 2002.
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- Campbell, Ted A. *Christian Confessions: A Historical Introduction*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 1996.
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- Ferguson, Everett. *Church History: Volume 1- From Christ to Pre-Reformation*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2005.
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- * Gonzalez, Justo L. *Church History: An Essential Guide*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1996.
- * _____. *The Story of Christianity*. 2 vol. San Francisco: HarperCollins, 1984-85.
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- * Hannah, John D. *Charts of Ancient and Medieval Church History*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2001.
- _____. *Charts of Reformation and Enlightenment Church History*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2004.
- _____. *Charts of Modern and Postmodern Church History*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2004.
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- Hannula, Richard M. *Trials and Triumph: Stories from Church History*. Moscow, ID: Canon Press, 1999.
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