



On-Campus Course Syllabus

THS 201 L1

Church History

Spring 2025

Class Information

Day and Time: TH 7:30pm-10:00pm

Room Number: E201

Contact Information

Instructor Name: Dr. Everett Berry

Instructor Email: eberry@criswell.edu

Instructor Phone: NA

Instructor Office Hours: N/A

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

* Shelley, Bruce L. *Church History in Plain Language*. 5th ed. Revision editor, Marshall Shelley. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2021. ISBN: 9780310115960

Course Requirements and Assignments

Reading Assignments (30%)

The approximately 500 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 6:00 pm on specified days of class, students are required to report the percentage of reading that has been completed. So, for example, chapters 1-9 in Shelley are to be read by 6:00 pm on Monday 1/30, chapters 10-16 by 6:00 pm on Monday 2/6, and etc. To do so...

1. Students are to click the links entitled *Reading Report* for each designated reading week. They are 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 chapters 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 designated weeks of 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 and Powerpoints available in Canvas as well as one's own personal course notes.
2. Exams can only be taken in the assigned order as listed in the course schedule and no late exams will be allowed.

3. They are taken in class on the designated days listed on the course calendar. The exams include 50 questions that are provided one at a time with students being prohibited from backtracking once they begin.
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 Turabian formatting, which can be found in the most recent edition of Turabian as well as the title page and bibliography reference templates that are provided in Canvas.
6. 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 modules page.
 - * 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."
7. Finally, one must turn in a paper to receive a passing grade in the course.

Due Dates for All Assignments

While the reading reports, quizzes, and exams are to be completed by the assorted dates assigned on the Course Schedule, the Bibliographic Paper Assignment is due by 5/1 (midnight) and this assignment will not be accepted after these due dates.

Course/Classroom Policies and Information

Class Attendance

Students are responsible for enrolling in courses for which they (1) anticipate being able to attend every on-campus class session on the day and time appearing on course schedules, or (2) participating in academically related activities as identified in online-course schedules including synchronous class sessions conducted remotely by video, and then making every effort to do so. When unavoidable situations result in absence or tardiness, students are responsible for acquiring any missed information. Professors are not obliged to allow students to make up missed work. Per their independent discretion, individual professors may determine how

attendance affects students' ability to meet course learning objectives and whether attendance affects course grades. Professors apprise students of such information in course syllabi.

Students receiving grants, loans, or scholarships must meet specified requirements of various departments at the college and should consult relevant sections of the *Academic Catalog*. To ensure such funds will not be forfeited, students are responsible for contacting the proper departments to ascertain any specific course participation requirements and consequences of not meeting such requirements. Students receiving grants, loans, or scholarships should consult the Financial Aid office.

While Criswell College is a non-attendance taking institution, it nevertheless must demonstrate that students begin their courses in order to comply with Federal Aid regulations. Accordingly, students must participate in academically related activities during census periods. Failure to meet this requirement will result in students being administratively dropped from courses.

Academically related activity is defined as any course-related activity that may be used as evidence of attendance. Examples include:

- physical presence in a classroom during a class session with the instructor present,
- participation in a synchronous remote video class session with the instructor present,
- submission of an academic assignment, quiz, or exam,
- participation in an interactive tutorial or computer-assisted instruction,
- participation in a study group or discussion board that is assigned by the instructor,
- documentation showing that the student and a faculty member corresponded about the academic subject of the course.

NOTE: Logging into a Canvas course alone and logging into a Synchronous Online class session without active participation or with the camera off are not considered attendance.

NOTE: A census period begins on the first day of a semester/term and runs through the end of the last day to drop courses. During the census period, attendance data is collected in order to demonstrate compliance with Federal Aid regulations. There is no census period for winter terms since there is no last day to drop courses.

ATTENDANCE NOTE: 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, three absences will result in a full letter reduction of the final grade and absences exceeding four 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	Percentage	GPA
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.

Course Policy on the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI)

(Delete section if not needed or enter policies and/or information applicable to your course or classroom. Create relevant subheadings as desired.)

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.

Research and Writing Standards

The default writing style for written assignments in Criswell College Courses is the latest edition of *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses and Dissertations* by Kate Turabian. However, instructors are free to require alternative writing styles in their courses. These styles include but are not limited to the American Psychological Association (APA), Chicago Manual of Style, Modern Language Association (MLA), and Society of Biblical Literature (SBL) writing guides.

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. Login credentials are emailed to students near the beginning of the semester.

Tutoring Center: Students are encouraged to consult with tutors to improve and enhance their skills and confidence. 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 schedule an appointment through Calendly (<https://calendly.com/criswell-tutoringcenter>) or by visiting the Tutoring Center located on the second floor in room E203. For questions, call 214.818.1373 or email at tutoringcenter@criswell.edu.

Course Outline/Calendar

The following course schedule is proposed but subject to change. Also, note that Reading Reports are due by 6:00 pm on designated class days.

TH	CONTENT	SHELLEY
Week 1 1/23	* Intro to Class * Intro. to the Patristic Era	
Week 2 1/30	* Post-Apostolic Church * Early Christian Apologists * The State Befriends the Church	* Q#1 Chp 8 * Reading Report for Chps 1-9
Week 3 2/6	* The First Four Ecumenical Councils * The Church Becomes Rome	* Q#2: Chp 14 * Reading Report for Chps 10-16
Week 4 2/13	* Intro. to the Medieval Era * The Papacy * The Great Schism	* Q#3: Chp 18 * Reading Report for Chps 17-20
Week 5 2/20	* The Crusades * Christian Scholasticism	* Q#4: Chp 21 * Reading Report for Chps 21-22
Week 6 2/27	* Signs of Opposition and Reform * Spain and the New World	* Reading Report for Chps 23-24
Week 7 3/6	* TEST #1 * Intro. to the Reformation & Post-Reformation	
Week 8 3/13	* The German Reformation * The Swiss Reformation	* Q#5: Chp 27 * Reading Report for Chps 25, 27
3/17-3/21 SPRING BREAK		
Week 9 3/27	* The Anabaptist (Radical) Reformation * The English Reformation * The Catholic-Counter Reformation	* Q#6: Chp 28 * Reading Report for Chps 26, 28-29, 31
Week 10 4/3	* The Age of Reason * Protestants Come to the New World * The First Great Awakening	* Q#7: Chp 32 * Reading Report for Chps 30, 32-36
Week 11 4/10	* TEST #2 * Intro. to Modern & Postmodern Eras	
Week 12 4/17	* The Second Great Awakening * The Rise of Cults	* Reading Report for Chps 37-38
Week 13 4/24	* Classical Liberalism * The Modern Missions Movement * Birth of Neo-Orthodox	* Q#8 Chp 39 * Reading Report for Chps 39-42
Week 14 5/1	* Fundamentalism * Evangelicalism * Bibliography Due	* Q#9 Chp 44 * Reading Report for Chps 43-45
Week 15 5/8	* Denominational Diversity in Evangelicalism * Pentecostalism	* Q#10 Chp 48 * Reading Report for Chps 46-48
5/15 TEST #3 (Week 16)		

Selected Bibliography

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