

**Birmingham Theological Seminary
2200 Briarwood Way
Birmingham, AL 35243
205-776-5650**

Fall 2010

HT 4528 Early & Medieval Church History

Class Hours: 2

Professor: Rev. George Shamblin

205-305-7968

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Course Purpose

This course presents a survey of the Christian church from apostolic times to the medieval period (late 1st century to the end of the 15th century).

Course Objectives

1. The student will be able to name major events in the course of the history of the Christian church.
2. The student will be able to name and discuss the contribution of main persons in the history of the Christian church.
3. The student will be able to describe the development of Christian thought and doctrine.
4. The student will be able to define the major heresies and schisms in the history of the Christian church.

Course Texts

Bainton, Roland H. *Early Christianity*. Malabar: Robert E. Krieger Publishing Company Inc., 1960.

Gonzalez, Justo L. *The Story of Christianity, Volume I: The Early Church to the Reformation*. New York: HarperCollins Publishers, 2010.

Course Requirements

1. Class attendance
2. Completion of all assigned reading

3. Weekly Quizzes
4. Mid-term Exam
5. Write a theological paper of at least 8 pages and not more than 10 pages exclusive of footnotes, bibliography, title page, and table of contents on any of the topics listed below. You may write on an appropriate subject with the professor's prior approval. All papers must be formatted in accordance with Turabian Chicago standards including the title page.
6. Final exam

BTS has made the decision to adopt the Turabian style of writing format for all papers, clinicals, dissertations (DMin) and reports. Also, all papers are to be double spaced, 12-point font and Times New Roman script. This will bring consistency and less confusion for both students and professors. In this technological age, information is readily available; make sure that you understand about giving reference sources the proper recognition.

The theological paper of up to ten pages should incorporate at least two footnotes per page and a bibliography of at least six references and the required extracurricular research to support such a paper.

Grading

1. Reading and weekly quizzes 25%
2. Mid-term Exam 25%
3. Theological paper 25%
4. Final exam 25%

All course materials must be submitted to the professor at the end of the semester (last day of class). Thereafter, course materials may be submitted for up to six weeks after the end of the semester directly to the office of the registrar with the permission of the professor. If a student submits course materials after the end of the semester but within the six week grace period, the student's grade will be lowered by one letter grade. The course materials will not be accepted after the six week grace period and a failing grade will be posted to the student's transcript.

Course Outline

Sept. 16th – Acts 2:42ff—a Glimpse of the Early Church

Sept. 23rd – Jewish & Roman Persecution

Sept. 30th – Early heresies, defiance of the Church

- Oct. 7th – The Fathers of the Church & Development of the Canon
- Oct. 14th – Biblical Authority & The Great Debate—Augustine vs. Pelagius
- Oct. 21st – Fall Break
- Oct. 28th – Mid-Term Exam
- Nov. 4th – Controversies in the Church
- Nov. 11th – Councils of the Church
- Nov. 18th – Scholasticism
- Nov. 25th – Thanksgiving, no class
- Dec. 2nd – The Darkest Night
- Dec. 9th – Briarwood nativity, no class
- Dec. 17th – Paper Due
Final Exam

Further Reading

- Bede. *The Ecclesiastical History of the English People*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1999.
- Berkhof, Louis. *The History of Christian Doctrines*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1975.
- Cairns, Earle E. *Christianity Through the Centuries: A History of the Christian Church*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1981.
- Fairweather, Eugene, ed. *A Scholastic Miscellany: Anselm to Ockham*. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1956.
- Gonzalez, Justo L. *A History of Christian Thought*. Vol. 1-2 . Nashville: Abingdon, 1975.
- Grant, Robert M. *Second-Century Christianity: A Collection of Fragments*. London: Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, 1946.
- _____. *Gnosticism and Early Christianity*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1959.
- Greenslade, S. L., ed. *Early Latin Theology*. Louisville: Westminster Press, 1956.

Latourette, Kenneth Scott. *A History of Christianity Volume I: to A.D. 1500*. Peabody: Prince Press, 1997.

_____. *History of the Expansion of Christianity*. New York: Harper and Bros., 1937.

Schaff, Philip. *History of the Christian Church*. 6 vols. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1910.

Stevenson, J. *Creeds, Councils, and Controversies: Documents Illustrative of the History of the Church A.D. 337-461*. New York: Seabury Press, 1966.

Workman, H. B. *Persecution in the Early Church*. New York: Abingdon Press, 1960.