

Syllabus: CH501



CH501: Church History to the Reformation with Dr. Garth Rosell

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Snapshot of Course Requirements

CH501 requires timely completion of the following **five** course requirements:

1. Two Examinations (60% of your grade/30% each)
2. Research Paper (30% of your grade, 12-15 pages on an historical topic that falls within the period from approximately 30 A.D. to 1500 A.D.)
3. Required Reading - 10% of your grade
4. Interactivity (required for course grade to be submitted to registration office)
5. [Course Checkout/Reading Report](#) (after you have finished all course requirements above)

Course Description

The Church to the Reformation is a basic introduction to the history of the Christian church from its founding at Pentecost to the beginning of the Protestant Reformation.

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Course Objectives

The Church to the Reformation is designed to provide students with a working knowledge of the major themes, issues, and personalities of church history; to help them make use of the rich resources of church history in their practice of ministry; and to encourage them to seek for spiritual renewal in their own lives, in the church and in society.

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Course Requirements

Students who are taking the course for credit will be asked to listen to all the audio lecture material, take two examinations (a midterm and a final), complete the required reading, and write a research paper.

1. **Examinations:** Two examinations will be given during the course. Both may be taken electronically in Sakai, by accessing the "Tests & Quizzes" feature on the Project Tools menu. Use of a proctor is **required** (see below).
 - **Midterm:** An open-Bible, closed-book, essay examination covering lectures and readings for Lectures 1-13.
 - **Final:** An open Bible, closed-book, essay examination covering lectures and readings for Lectures 14-24.

Preparation for the examinations: Many students have found that the most effective way of preparing for the examinations is to focus their study around the major themes, issues, and personalities raised by the instructor in the lectures. While students are encouraged to draw upon the required and recommended readings, their study in other courses, and the research they are doing for their papers, the essay questions in both the midterm and final exams (for the most part) will invite them to engage the themes, issues, and personalities they have encountered in the lectures.

Note of the examinations: Students will be asked to write a total of three essays for each of the exams (selecting one question of two possibilities in three categories). No books (other than an unmarked Bible and/or dictionary) may be used during the exams. Students may take up to three hours to write the exam.

Grading of the exams: Your examinations will be evaluated on the basis of three primary criteria: (1) the depth and accuracy of your historical knowledge; (2) the quality, clarity, and organization of the analysis/argument you present; and (3) the level of professional skill, creativity, and pastoral sensitivity reflected in the way you apply your historical insights to the practice of ministry.

Format: There are two ways you may take an exam for this course, electronic and paper (see "Taking an Exam" below).

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2. **Research Paper:** Each student taking the course for credit is required to write one 12-15 page paper. The completed paper should be typed and in correct form (for example, double-spaced, using twelve-point font, footnoted where appropriate, with bibliography, etc.). Those who have not had as much experience in writing research papers may want to consult a reliable style manual like Kate L. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 6th edition (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1996). Students may also find it helpful to consult William Kelleher Storey, *Writing History: A Guide for Students* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2003).

Selection of Topic: Students are free to select, research, and present whatever topic they wish to explore provided (1) that their topic is basically historical in nature; (2) that the topic falls within the period from approximately 30 A.D. to 1500 A.D.; and (3) that the written presentation conforms to one of the recognized manuals of style (for example, Turabian). **You do not need the instructor's approval for your choice of topic.**

Remember that an important part of writing a research paper is the sometimes difficult task of locating and selecting the sources you want to use. This will probably involve several hours of hard work in an archive or library. Don't expect others to do this work for you— this is a part of your assignment. Ideas for paper topics can be found in the textbook as well as in the class lectures. Specific issues of *Christian History and Biography magazine* (which can be purchased in the GCTS Bookcentre, used in the GCTS library, or secured on the *Christianity Today* website) are also helpful in selecting topics and locating resources.

Grading of the Paper: Your research paper will be evaluated on the basis of three primary criteria: (1) the depth of the research in both primary and secondary materials; (2) the quality of the analysis/argument you present; and (3) the clarity, accuracy, and beauty of your writing. Attention to these matters will not only help you on this paper assignment, but it will also aid you in developing the kinds of skills you will be using in those various ministries to which God has called each one of you.

Note: "Primary" sources are those that come directly from the period or person you are studying (for example, something written by the individual you have chosen to study). "Secondary" sources do not come directly from the period or person (for example, the Latourette text is a secondary source). While both kinds of sources have their value, primary sources generally get you closer to the event or person.

Cheating and Plagiarism: Please exercise special care in the use of sources. Institutional guidelines can be found in your *Student Handbook* under "Violations of Academic Integrity." As followers of Christ, we need to maintain the very highest standards of professional conduct.

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3. **Required Reading:** Students taking the course for credit are also required to read a total of 2000 pages including a careful reading of González (a total of 448 pages) and Richardson (a total of 397 pages). The remaining 1155 pages of required reading can include the materials that are used for the research paper and/or additional reading from the [Recommended Reading](#) list (also under Resources). The reading report must be submitted by the end of the course. Submit this report on the [Course Checkout Form](#) (left menu).

Grading of reading will be as follows:

100%=A; 95-99%=A-; 90-94%=B+; 85-89%=B; 80-84%=B-; 75-79%=C+; 70-74%=C; 65-69%=C-; 60-64%=D+; 40-59%=D; 20-39%=D-; Below 20%=F. No credit is given for "skimming."

Required Textbooks:

- Justo González, *The Story of Christianity* (HarperOne/HarperCollins, 2010), vol. 1: 448 pages. ISBN-13: 9780061855887
- Cyril C. Richardson, *Early Christian Fathers*. (New York: Touchstone Books, 1996). 397 pages. ISBN-13: 978-0664227470

If one or both of the textbooks is either unavailable or "out of print" you may choose an alternative general church history textbook to replace González or an alternative sourcebook for the writings of the early church fathers to replace Richardson (approved substitutes are listed below). Whichever you select, you must read 100% of the textbooks to avoid a 10% deduction in your reading grade.

General Church History Textbooks:

- Kenneth Scott Latourette, *A History of Christianity, Volume I: Beginning to 1500* (Peabody, MA: Prince Press of Hendrickson Publishers, 2000). 678 pages.
- Williston Walker, *A History of the Christian Church*, 4th ed. (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1985). 413 pages.
- Dale T. Irvin and Scott W. Sunquist, *History of the World Christian Movement, Volume I: Earliest Christianity to 1453*. (Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2001). 506 pages

Sourcebooks for the Writings of the Early Church Fathers:

- Michael W. Holmes, ed. *The Apostolic Fathers: Greek Texts and English Translations*, 3rd Edition (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2007). 805 pages.
- Michael W. Holmes, ed. *The Apostolic Fathers*, 3rd Edition (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2006). 336 pages.

The following table gives the relevant chapters of each general church history textbook according to lecture. You must choose one of these textbooks to fulfill your required reading assignment.

Lecture	González	Latourette	Walker	Irvin/Sunquist
1	1	Preface	Preface	1-2
2	2	1-3	Period I: 1-4	3-4
3	3	4	Period I: 5	5-6
4	4	5	Period I: 6,8	7-9
5	9	6	Period I: 7,9-11	10
6	7	7	Period II: 1-9	11
7	11		Period II: 10-19	12
8	5,6,10,12			13
9	13	9	Period III:1-6	14
10	21,24		Period III: 16	15
11	14,16		Period III: 9-15,17-19	16-17
12	8			18-19
13	17-20			20-21
14	15,25,26	8,18	Period III:7-8	27
15		10,13,14	Period IV: 1-2,4-7,9-13	22-24
16		11,15	Period IV: 3	25-26
17	22,27	12,24,27	Period IV: 8	28-29
18	23,28,29	19,22		30
19	30	16,17	Period V: 1	31
20			Period V: 2	34-35
21	31,34	20,21	Period V: 4-9	32-33
22			Period V: 3	36
23	32	23,25	Period V: 10-12,14-17	37
24	33	26,27,28	Period V: 13	38

The reading of the writings of the early church fathers should be spread out over the lectures which cover the early church. The following table lists the appropriate pages from each sourcebook according to lecture. You must choose one of these sourcebooks to fulfill your reading assignment.

Lecture	Richardson	Holmes <i>The Apostolic Fathers</i>	Holmes <i>The Apostolic Fathers, Greek texts and English Translations</i>

5	pp. 13-137, 161-340	pp. 1-96	pp. 1-158
6	pp. 141-158	pp. 97-130	pp. 159-369
7	pp. 343-397	pp. 131-336	pp. 370-805

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Taking an Exam

There are two ways you may take an exam for this course:

1. **Electronically** (preferred method): To take an exam electronically, click "Tests & Quizzes" on the left menu (under Project Tools).
 - Select the exam you plan to take. You must provide proctor information (including your proctor's email address) to the Semlink office prior to taking your exam. You cannot login to and/or take an exam without a proctor present.
 - Before taking your exam, your proctor will review important information with you and will then log you into the exam when you are ready to begin. Your proctor must remain present throughout the duration of the exam. You may use your own computer (e.g. a laptop) or a computer provided by your proctor.
 - Ensure you have a reliable internet connection.
 - This format allows you to type your essay responses directly into Sakai.
2. **Paper-based Exam**: To take your exam by paper, click "Tests & Quizzes" on the left menu (under Project Tools). Select the exam you plan to take (it will include "paper exam" in the title).
 - The exam will be available in PDF format. You will need to provide proctor information in order to access your exam (including your proctor's email address).
 - Your proctor will need to print your exam, and preferably have access to a scanner to submit your exam.
 - When you have completed your exam, your proctor may either 1) scan and upload your exam to Sakai, 2) email a scanned copy to the Semlink office; 3) mail to the address provided.
 - This format requires you to handwrite your responses on notebook or blank white paper.

If you plan to take an exam in one of the **GCTS libraries**, you do not need to request your exam through the Semlink office. You may take the exam any time provided the library is open and able to accommodate your request. Library computers can be used to take the exam, but are limited and not always available at all times of day. Use of your own laptop computer is highly recommend. Check with the library also for special summer and holiday hours, or other changes to their schedule that may affect your ability to take your exam. Boston/CUME, Charlotte, and Jacksonville students may need to contact the library to set up a time to take an exam.

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Submitting Assignments

Assignments can be submitted electronically through the Drop Box tool in Sakai. On the left menu, under "Project Tools," select "Drop Box." To add a file, click "Add" and upload from there.

Some guidelines for this process:

- Paper submissions should be in either .doc, .docx or .pdf format.
- Submitting your work through drop box is considered a formal (and final) submission. Nothing further will be needed on your part.
- All submissions are time/date stamped and will be retrieved by the Semlink office and routed to your professor for grading.
- Assignments may be returned to you electronically, in most cases through your Sakai drop box or via email. If your assignment was graded by hand, it will be scanned and delivered to you as a PDF file.
- Remember to use a full heading, including your name, professor, course, and date.

Please let the Semlink office know if you have any further questions about electronic submission. semlink@gordonconwell.edu or 978-646-4144.

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Interactivity

As a member of the Association of Theological Schools, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary recognizes the value of interactivity in distance learning and complies with the standards for accreditation set by ATS which include interactivity as a compulsory component

of any distance learning program that wishes to continue granting credit for its courses. The purpose of Semlink interactivity is to enhance learning by providing an online environment for students to engage meaningfully and substantively with professors, teaching fellows, and other students in order to achieve an enriching and academically challenging distance learning experience.

There are two interactivity requirements for this course:

1. **An online discussion forum:** converse with other students and with instructors on the Semlink forum. You are required to participate four (4) times in the discussions relating to your area of study. To ensure successful completion of this requirement, please complete your participation in the discussion forums at least one week prior to your course due date. This will allow sufficient time for you to resubmit any responses if necessary.
2. **Email-based conversation** with your Semlink teaching fellow. You are required to email a total of three (3) times, including your original response to the conversation starter. Please allow a minimum of one month to complete this conversation to allow time for the teaching fellow to respond. Allow five business days for a response to each of your submissions.

To begin your interactivity (and for more details about this requirement), see the Interactivity section under Modules. This section will explain in more detail what is expected for this requirement.

If you fail to complete the interactivity requirements, you will fail your course.

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Grading

Your final grade for the course will be computed on the following basis:

Midterm Examination	30%
Final Examination	30%
Research Paper	30%
Reading Report	10%
Interactivity	Completion Required

The seminary has adopted an official numerical equivalence for the letter grades that students are assigned. Published annually, these are as follows: A+=4.0; A=4.0; A-=3.7; B+=3.3; B=3.0; B-=2.7; C+=2.3; C=2.0; C-=1A" means "conspicuous excellence"; "B" means "exceeding the minimum"; "C" means "satisfactory work"; "D" means "passing but unsatisfactory"; and "F" means "course has been failed."

Based on the above percentages and numerical equivalences, the student's grade for this course will be computed on the following scale:

Final Point Total	Final Grade
3.85 to 4.0	A
3.65 to 3.84	A-
3.3 to 3.64	B+
3.0 to 3.29	B
2.7 to 2.99	B-
2.3 to 2.69	C+
2.0 to 2.29	C
1.7 to 1.99	C-
1.3 to 1.69	D+
1.0 to 1.29	D
0.7 to 0.99	D-
0.0 to 0.69	F

In order to achieve a particular grade, the student must fall exactly within the above scale. No rounding-off is allowed.

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A Short Guide to Church History Research and Writing

Review the file below for help with church history research and writing. This document will be helpful as you begin your research

paper.

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 [Church History Paper Guide](#)