

## **Houston Graduate School of Theology**

CH 510 The History of Christianity I

Fall 2013, Thursdays, 5:30 – 9:00 p.m.

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*The mission of Houston Graduate School of Theology is empowering spiritual leadership through the intellectual, spiritual, and vocational development of men and women in order to advance the gospel of Jesus Christ throughout the world.*

### **I. Course Description**

A survey of the history of Christianity from first-century beginnings through the thirteenth century, with attention given to salient antecedents, contexts, individuals, movements, and ideas. The course of study includes consideration of general, social, and intellectual historiographies. Three hours.

### **II. Student Learning Outcomes**

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- A. Summarize and periodize the history of Christianity from the early church to the high Middle Ages (Learning Outcome Assessments: quizzes on reading, final examination);
- B. Identify and rank outstanding individuals, significant movements, and important groups (Learning Outcome Assessments: quizzes on reading, final examination);
- C. Interpret history topically as well as chronologically: important topics for this course include the church fathers, the biblical canon, the General Councils, Christological controversies, heresy & schism, Church & State relationships, historical developments in doctrine and spirituality, development of ecclesiology in eastern and western Christianity, monasticism, missionary expansion of the Church, the evolution of the papacy, and church reform movements (Learning Outcome Assessment: final examination)

### **III. Texts**

#### ***Required Textbooks:***

Bettenson, Henry, and Chris Maunder, eds., *Documents of the Christian Church*. Oxford University Press, 1999, 3rd edition. (ISBN: 0192880713)

Gonzalez, Justo L. *The Story of Christianity, Vol. 1: The Early Church to the Dawn of the Reformation*. HarperOne, 2010. (ISBN: 006185588X)

### **IV. Course Requirements**

- A. Four multiple-choice “pop” quizzes on the assigned readings and course content (10% each for a total of 40%). No advanced warning will be given on when the quizzes will be given. Students will have approximately 20-30 minutes to complete each quiz. Make-up quizzes will be given as arranged with the instructor, who reserves the right to deduct penalty points for any late quiz.
- B. A comprehensive final exam (50%) over course content and assigned readings.

- C. Class Attendance (10%). Attendance at scheduled classes is required (from the beginning of class time) and necessary in order to achieve course objectives. Points will be deducted for absence as outlined in the section on Class Policies (see below).

## V. Grading Scale

95-100	A	88-90	B	80-83	C	72-75	D
93-94	A-	86-87	B-	78-79	C-	70-71	D-
91-92	B+	84-85	C+	76-77	D+	0-69	F

## VI. Policies

- A. Attendance is required at scheduled classes, from the beginning of the class time, and necessary in order to achieve course objectives. Points will be deducted for each absence according to the schedule mentioned below. Absence from the equivalent of more than five full classes will result in an automatic failure. Please inform the professor if you have extenuating circumstances. Tardiness of more than ten minutes will be counted as a half-day of absence.

1 absence = one percentage point deducted from final grade  
 2 absences = three percentage points deducted from final grade  
 3 absences = six percentage points deducted from final grade  
 4 absences = ten percentage points deducted from final grade  
 5 absences = automatic failure

### B. Turnitin.com

1. All written assignments are subject to required submission to [www.turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com) to check for originality and style. The assignments that are required for submission will be described in the syllabus.
2. Students will create an account at [www.turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com). After doing so, the student will join the course page with the code and password supplied by the instructor. A list of assignments and due dates will be available on the course page.
3. Students will submit assignments by the due date and time, may be required to submit the assignments in a hard copy format.

### C. Electronic Equipment Usage in Classrooms

It is expected that students will use technology (cell phones, laptop computers, iPads, etc.) during classes only for the purposes of class work. Therefore, students should turn off cell phones and refrain from texting and using laptop computers during classes except for the purposes of taking notes or doing research specifically authorized by the course instructor. Students who have emergency needs not covered by this policy must ask for an exception from the course instructor.

### D. Final Examination

Typically, the student may expect the final examination for this course to be held on the last day of class. However, if time-demands dictate, the instructor reserves the right to offer a take-home final examination (rather than an in-class exam) at his discretion. In the case of a take-home final exam, the exam will be assigned a due date, and students can expect a grade reduction of three points per day on late exams. Take-home finals

must be submitted to **Turnitin.com** (see above). The expectation is that students do their own work, i.e., that they will not work collaboratively with other students on any written assignment (quizzes or exams) unless expressly permitted by the instructor. Any work that the instructor suspects may have been done as a collaborative effort between two or more students will be treated like a case of suspected plagiarism.

E. *Incompletes*

In cases of extenuating circumstances, and at the discretion of the instructor, a student may request and apply for an extension on all required assignments, which are not completed by the end of the semester or term, subject to a 5-point grade reduction on the final grade of each assignment. If an extension is granted, the instructor will record a grade of "I" (Incomplete) and set an extension of time, not to exceed thirty calendar days from the end of the class, within which to complete the work. Additional extensions may be granted only by the Academic Dean or Associate Dean and only after a student has petitioned the Dean in writing. If the course work is not completed within the extended time allotment, the grade of "I" will be converted to the grade earned by the student up to that point. The student is responsible to ensure that all necessary paperwork is submitted to the registrar's office by the deadline published in the school calendar.

F. *Plagiarism*

Plagiarism is presenting the work of another person as one's own without giving proper credit for the use of the information. Students must not quote books, articles, essays, or Internet sites without giving proper credit to the author(s). Students should guard against plagiarism by crediting the original author through use of proper citations. Internet plagiarism is a particularly easy and tempting form of intellectual theft. Cutting and pasting sentences and paragraphs from the Internet without citations is plagiarism. Failure to cite Internet sources is plagiarism. Any student who is found guilty of plagiarism is subject to a range of consequences as outlined below.

1. If a faculty member suspects plagiarism, the instructor will investigate. If suspicions are confirmed, the faculty member will present the evidence to the appropriate Associate Dean as a record of the offense. If the Associate Dean concurs with the allegations, the following procedures should be implemented as applicable:
  - The faculty member may discuss the offense with the student following consultation with the Associate Dean, but the student will meet with the Associate Dean.
  - For a first offense, the faculty member, in consultation with the Associate Dean, may give opportunity for a rewrite of the assignment or may assign a grade of zero for the plagiarized assignment.
  - For a particularly egregious case of plagiarism on a major assignment, the consequences could result in automatic failure of the course.
2. The student may appeal the above-mentioned decisions of the faculty member in writing to the Academic Dean.
3. The second confirmed offense will result in expulsion from school. The student will be notified by a letter from the Academic Dean. His or her only opportunity for appeal will be to the President in writing. The President's decision will be final.

### G. *Library Usage*

A student's ability to get the most out of library resources will enhance the possibility of earning a high grade in this class. Therefore, students should consider using, in addition to the HGST library, one or more of the following libraries.

1. *Houston Public Library*— Any resident of Texas can obtain a free Houston Public Library card. Library cardholders have access to all of the books in the library system as well as the use of free interlibrary loans, meaning that HPL cardholders can borrow almost any book available. Cardholders can use the library's website, [www.houstonlibrary.org](http://www.houstonlibrary.org), to search the catalog and manage interlibrary loans. The website also contains links to WorldCat and other online databases that will enhance your research. The HPL location that is closest to HGST, the Collier Regional Branch (832-393-1740), is located at 6200 Pinemont, which is less than three miles from campus. A better option would be the newly expanded and renovated Central Library (832-393-1313), which is located downtown at 500 McKinney. In addition, HPL has many other locations. The HGST library can give you an application for an HPL library card, or you can print the application form from their website.
2. *Fondren Library at Rice University*— The Fondren Library (713-348-5113) is located at 6100 Main. Please visit [www.rice.edu/fondren](http://www.rice.edu/fondren) for more information. The procedure for borrowing books at the Fondren Library is, first, go to the online catalog [[www.rice.edu/fondren](http://www.rice.edu/fondren)] to search for available books; second, go to the HGST library and fill out a form, signed by HGST library personnel, to take with you to the Fondren Library for each book; third, retrieve the book(s) yourself; fourth, take the book(s) and the signed form to the circulation desk to complete checkout (return the yellow copy to the HGST library; when the book(s) are returned to the Fondren Library, they will indicate so on the pink and gold copies; return the pink copy to the HGST Library and keep the gold copy for your records).
3. Lanier Theological Library is a new resource for scholarly theological research in the Houston area. The library is open to the public, Monday-Friday, 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM. The library is a research library with no circulation privileges. Nonetheless, students should consider Lanier Library to be a valuable research option. The catalog of Lanier Library is available online: <http://alexandria.lanierlibrary.net/#>.
4. *Cardinal Beran Library at St Mary's Seminary*—the home of an extensive theological library, St Mary's Seminary (713-686-4345) is located at 9845 Memorial Drive, only 4.6 miles from HGST. For more information, please visit <http://beran.stthom.edu>. The Doherty Library on the main campus of University of St Thomas is also an option.
5. *Library of the Presbytery of the New Covenant* – as an HGST student you have borrowing privileges at this library located at 1110 Lovett Blvd, Houston. To search their online catalog, go to <http://www.pbyofnewcovenant.org/cgi-bin/rqm/rqm.cgi>.
6. Other options include Harris County Public Library ([www.hcpl.net](http://www.hcpl.net)) and the libraries at the University of Houston and Houston Baptist University.

## VII. Notes for Writing Assignments

- A. Writing assignments should conform to Kate Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 8<sup>th</sup> Edition. This includes matters of style and format.
- B. The instructor requires the use of footnotes for documentation. The student should number pages. According to Turabian, page numbers should be in the upper right hand corner, except for the first page of the paper (not counting the title page). Margins should be one inch on all four sides, except where major headings require a two-inch top margin.
- C. The student should utilize 12-point Times New Roman font throughout. The instructor prefers that the student **not** use presentation or report binders or folders. She prefers submission of papers with staples or binder clips.
- D. Critical or formal writing differs from colloquial writing or spoken English at several points. The student should note the following guidelines for critical writing. The instructor expects students to follow these guidelines strictly. Failure to do so will be penalized.
  1. Avoid 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> person references (“I,” “we,” or “you”). Keep the written projects objective and professional. The student must remember that imperative forms are second person.
  2. Never use contractions.
  3. Avoid passive voice construction (i.e. The student should write “God chose Joshua” rather than “Joshua was chosen by God.”). Some exceptions are necessary, but limiting the use of passive voice is a good policy.
  4. Be sure that number and tense always agree (i.e., Do not write in one place that “Brueggemann argues . . .” and at another place “Brueggemann argued . . .”). Subject-verb agreement is imperative.
  5. Spellcheck! Spellcheck! Spellcheck!
  6. Grammar check works as well!
  7. All pronouns should have clear antecedents. Avoiding “it is” and “there is” in the paper removes much of the ambiguity of pronoun usage.
  8. Sentence fragments are unacceptable. Every sentence must have a subject and a predicate.

## VIII. Class and Reading Schedule

### *UNIT ONE: EARLY CHRISTIANITY*

#### **August 29**

Syllabus; Introduction; Historiography; Judaism in Palestine; Greco-Roman World

- Gonzalez: chapters 1-2

#### **September 5**

Church in Jerusalem; Mission to the Gentiles; Apostles; First Conflicts with the State; Nero and Domitian

- Gonzalez: chapters 3-5
- Bettenson: 1-5; References to Christianity; 7-14, Church and State

**September 12**

Persecutions, Martyrdom, Lapsed; Apologists; Orthodoxy and Heresy; Early Church Fathers

- Gonzalez: chapters 6-10
- Bettenson: 5-7, Ancient Learning; 14-15, Decius, Valerian, Gallienus; 32-36, Ignatius, Irenaeus, Tertullian, Dionysius; 68-84, Clement of Rome, Ignatius, Didache, Justin, Irenaeus, Tertullian, Cyprian

*UNIT TWO: THE IMPERIAL CHURCH***September 19**

People of the Early Church; *Agape* meal; Diocletian Persecution; Constantine; Official Theology

- Gonzalez: chapters 11-14
- Bettenson: 15-20, Diocletian, Milan, Constantine; 93-95, Christian Inscriptions

**September 26**

Early Monasticism; Donatism; Council of Nicea

- Gonzalez: chapters 15-17
- Bettenson: 36-44, Athanasius on Atonement, Transaction with the Devil, Heresies; 84-86, Montanism, Donatism

**October 3**

Council of Nicea; The Pagan Reaction & Julian the Apostate

- Gonzalez: chapters 17-18
- Bettenson: 20-24, Hosius, Julian, Gratian, Theodosius; 25-29, Creeds; 29-32, Gospels, Canon

**October 10**

Athanasius; Great Cappadocians; Theodosius

- Gonzalez: chapters 19-20
- Bettenson: 36-44, Athanasius on Atonement, Transaction with the Devil, Heresies; 44-48, Attempt to Overthrow Nicea

**October 17**

Ambrose; Chrysostom; Chrysostom's Liturgy; Jerome; Paula & Eustochium; Augustine of Hippo

- Gonzalez: chapters 21-26
- Bettenson, 57-68, Pelagius, Augustine, Semi-Pelagianism; 91-93, Doctrine and Development

*UNIT THREE: MEDIEVAL CHRISTIANITY***October 24**

Christianization of Great Britain; St. Patrick's Liturgy; Benedictine Monasticism; Growth of the Papacy;

Eastern Christianity; Chalcedon

- Gonzalez: chapters 27-28
- Bettenson: 48-57, Apollinarianism, Nestorianism, Eutychianism, Leo's Tome, Definition of Chalcedon; 86-91, Claims of Rome; 97-102, Zeno, "Three Chapters," Monothelites, 127-141, Rule of Benedict; 167-171, Church in England

### **October 31**

Charlemagne; Alcuin; Monastic and Papal Reform; Gregory VII; Peter Waldo

- Gonzalez: chapters 29-30
- Bettenson: 106-107, Charlemagne and Education

### **November 7**

The Crusades; Spanish Reconquista; Consequences of offense against Islam; Mendicants; Francis of Assisi

- Gonzalez: chapter 31
- Bettenson: 141-146, Rule of Francis

### **November 14**

Scholastic Theology; Anselm; Abelard; Thomas Aquinas; Sacramental System; Missions; Architecture

- Gonzalez: chapter 32
- Bettenson: 146-149, Inquisition; 151-166, Scholasticism, Anselm, Aquinas

### **November 21**

Division of East and West; Avignon Papacy; Great Western Schism; Conciliar Movement

- Gonzalez: chapter 33
- Bettenson: 102-106, Iconoclasts; Nicholas I, Breach between East and West; 107-127, Empire and Papacy; 149-150, Conciliar Movement

### **November 28 – Thanksgiving Break**

### **December 5**

Waning of the Middle Ages; Wycliffe; Hus; Savonarola; Eckhart; Brethren of the Common Life

- Gonzalez: chapters 34-35
- Bettenson, 171-202, Church in England

### **December 12**

**Comprehensive Final Examination**