



TYNDALE

• SEMINARY •

Course Syllabus Fall 2013

HIST 0561 HISTORY OF CHRISTIANITY I

TUESDAYS 6:30 – 9:20 PM – SECTION 1

WEDNESDAYS 8:30 – 11:20 AM – SECTION 2

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Office Hours: Tuesdays 4:00 – 5:00 PM

To access your course materials, go to your Tyndale email account: <http://mytyndale.ca>. Please note that all official Tyndale correspondence will be sent to your <@MyTyndale.ca e-mail account. For information how to access and forward Tyndale e-mails to your personal account, see <http://www.tyndale.ca/it/live-at-edu>.

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Long before 1500 global Christianity had stretched from Iceland and Ireland to Mongolia and south to Ethiopia. Across this vast area people of faith confronted dramatically differing and constantly changing circumstances. They made decisions about culture, political power, the spiritual life, the canon of Scripture, and doctrine, decisions which shaped the flow of human history, and they experienced both success and loss on the grand scale. This course follows their story. The narrative of the course and the readings from materials they wrote carries students into the dynamism of early Christian life.

II. LEARNING OUTCOMES

The story of the Church centres on human beings attempting to respond to God in the midst of the complexity of their lives. During this course students will acquire a sense of the profound

challenge inherent in attempting this. The degree to which they engage with this will be seen in the written material which they will submit.

Working with historical sources is always a cross-cultural adventure. Students will learn to read primary sources with a strong recognition of the contexts from which they came. This awareness will shape their interactive papers.

Effective communication is essential in all areas of life. In all the written material related to this course, student will demonstrate their ability to express themselves with clarity.

III. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. REQUIRED TEXTS

Gonzalez, Justo L. *The Story of Christianity, Vol. I*. San Francisco: Harper Collins, 1984. (ISBN 0-06-063315-8) **(Reading G)**.

Kydd, Ronald A. N. *Finding Pieces of the Puzzle: A Fresh Look at the Christian Story*. Eugene, Oregon: Wipf & Stock, 2011. (ISBN 13:978-1-60608-567-7) **(Reading K)**

Oberman, Heiko A. *Luther, Man between God and the Devil*. Toronto: Image Books. 1992. (ISBN 0-385-42278-4)

Online Primary Source Readings. **(Reading S)**

B. ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

1. Interactive Paper #1 - The Early Church: Due on the date the Online Primary Source Reading is discussed; 33% of final grade.

This paper is based on one of the five **Early Church** readings.

Instructions: Select a reading from the Online Primary Source Readings. If there is more than one Reading allocated to one date, choose one or the other. Your paper will be your reaction to the document you chose to read. It will involve a “close reading” of the text, looking, first, for the author’s main ideas and then for any clues regarding other details about the author, e.g., character, spirituality, biography, or historical situation. All of this information will shape your reaction. In writing the paper, include a “thesis,” which will be a summary of the argument of the paper, early in the introduction. The body of the paper will be an argument in support of your thesis. Show how your argument is drawn from the text you read by documenting carefully. If there is only one document in the reading you chose, you may identify your references by using a page or section number in parentheses (eg, p. 6). If your reading is made up of several texts, include in the parenthesis abbreviated titles of texts you cite or quote (eg. *Robert the Monk*, p. 1).

The paper is due on the date the Online Primary Source Reading is discussed (eg, the reading S3, "The Life of St. Antony", due October 1st/2nd). **Late papers will not be accepted.**

Length: 1500 words

- 2. Interactive Paper #2 - The Medieval Church:** Due on the date the Online Primary Source Reading is discussed; 33% of final grade.

This paper is based on one of the first five **Medieval Church** Readings. Reading S 11 **may not** be used as the basis for Interactive Paper #2.

Instructions: same as Interactive Paper #1 (see above).

Length: 1500 words

- 3. Integration Paper:** Due on November 26th/27th, 2013; 34% of final grade.

This paper will examine Luther's integration of faith and life. It will use two sources:

- 1) Oberman's *Luther* biography;
- 2) the Online Primary Source Reading by Luther, *On Christian Liberty*.

The paper will have two components:

- 1) a brief examination of Luther's theology of "servant" activity;
- 2) an examination of two case studies drawn from Luther's life based on Oberman.

Length: 1500 words.

C. GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR THE SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN WORK

Interactive Papers will not be accepted as late.

All other papers will be penalized 2% per day.

Academic Integrity

Integrity in academic work is required of all our students. Academic dishonesty is any breach of this integrity, and includes such practices as cheating (the use of unauthorized material on tests and examinations), submitting the same work for different classes without permission of the instructors; using false information (including false references to secondary sources) in an assignment; improper or unacknowledged collaboration with other students, and plagiarism. Tyndale University College & Seminary takes seriously its responsibility to uphold academic integrity, and to penalize academic dishonesty.

Students should consult the current *Academic Calendar* for academic polices on Academic Honesty, Gender Inclusive Language in Written Assignments, Late Papers and Extensions, Return of Assignments, and Grading System. The Academic Calendar is posted at www.tyndale.ca/registrar/calendar. An excerpt is attached with this syllabus for easy reference.

D. SUMMARY OF ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

Evaluation is based upon the completion of the following assignments:

Interactive Paper #1	33%
Interactive Paper #2	33%
Integration Paper	34%
Total Grade	100%

IV. COURSE SCHEDULE, CONTENT AND REQUIRED READINGS

(NOTE: All students are expected to download outlines for each lecture. They are found on the *course web page* at <http://mytyndale.ca>.)

Date	Topic	Reading
Sept. 10/11	Introduction The 'why?' of Church History	G 1

I. The Early Church

Sept. 17/18	c. 49 A.D. — The Council of Jerusalem The Church Moves Out.	G 2, 3, 4 K 1
Sept. 24/25	203 A.D. — Martyrdom in North Africa Expansion and Persecution,	G 5, 6 K 2 S 1, S 2
Oct. 1/2	c. 230 A.D. — Origen's Ordination Early Theology and Theologians.	G 7-12 S 3
Oct. 8/9	325 A.D. — The Council of Nicaea Growth of Power and Orthodoxy.	G 13-19 K 3 S 4
Oct. 15/16	459 A.D. — The Death of Simeon Stylites Asceticism, the 'East,' and the Atlantic Isles.	G 20-26 S 5

II. The Medieval Church

Oct. 22/23	635 A. D.	— The Tang Emperor and the Monk Christianity Reaches China	G 27 K 4 S 6, S 7
Nov. 5/6	781 A.D.	— Debate in Baghdad The Church Living in Islam	G 28,29 K 5 S 8
Nov. 12/13	1095 A.D.	— The Call to ‘Take the Cross’ The Struggle with Islam.	G 30 K 6 S 9
Nov. 19/20	1215 A.D.	— Lateran Council IV Papal power; Mendicant Orders.	G 31 S 10
Nov. 26/27	1414-18 A.D.	— The Council of Constance Longing for Change.	G 32, 33, 34 S 11

III. Reformation Church

Dec. 3/4	1517 A.D.	— A Hammer on the Door Luther and the Launching of Reform.	G 35, 36
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V. ONLINE PRIMARY SOURCE READINGS

The readings below can be found as PDF files on the *course web page* at <http://mytyndale.ca> under “handouts”.

(Please note that the questions or comments with each reading are there to help you access the document. They are not meant to serve as thesis statements. Do not try to answer them.)

THE EARLY CHURCH

- **Reading S1: Early Christian Fathers.** *Early Christian Fathers*. Vol. 1, LLC. Ed. C.C. Richardson. Westminster, 1953.

Q Consider consistency and diversity in church government in the first two centuries.

- **Reading S2: Perpetua and Felicitas.** *The Martyrdom of Saints Perpetua and Felicitas.* Translated by Herbert Musurillo.

Q What was Perpetua's theology?

- **Reading S3: Athanasius of Alexandria.** *St. Athanasius: The Life of Saint Antony.* Translated by Robert T. Meyer.

Q Consider spiritual and cultural principles in desert asceticism.

- **Reading S4: Augustine of Hippo.** *Confessions.* Translated by F.J. Sheed.

Q What motivates Augustine?

- **Reading S5: St. Patrick.** "Translation of St. Patrick's Works: The Confession." Translated by R. P. C. Hanson. *The Life and Writings of the Historical Saint Patrick.*

Q How can Patrick's Confession be used as an historical source for his life and ministry?

- **Reading S6: Benedict of Nursia.** *The Rule of St. Benedict.* Translated by Boniface Verheyen, OSB.

Q How could this Rule have become a vehicle for renewal?

THE MEDIEVAL CHURCH

- **Reading S7: The Jesus Sutras.** *The Jesus Sutras: Rediscovering the Lost Scrolls of Taoist Christianity.* Ed. Martin Palmer.

Q What could these documents show us about the "inculturation" of the Gospel?

- **Reading S8: Timothy I and Caliph Mahdi.** "The Debate on the Christian Faith between Timothy I and Caliph Mahdi in 781 A.D." Translated by A. Mingana. *Bulletin of the John Rylands Library* 12. Vol 2.

Q What might this tell us about inter-religion dialogue?

- **Reading S9: The First Crusade.** *The Chronicle of Fulcher of Chartres and Other Source Materials.* Edited by Edward Peters.

Q What were the various historical and theological motives behind the Crusades?

- **Reading S10: St. Francis of Assisi.** “The Rule of 1221.” *St. Francis of Assisi: Writings and Early Biographies*. Edited by Marion A. Habig.

Q According to Francis, what is the essence of the Christian life?

THE REFORMATION CHURCH

- **Reading S11: Luther, Martin.** “Martin Luther’s Treatise on Christian Liberty.” *Martin Luther: Selections From His Writings*. Edited by John Dillenberger.

Q How does Luther use paradox? Why?