

SYLLABUS

1HT504: History of Christianity II**Dr. Sean Michael Lucas**

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Office hours: By appointment.

Course description:

A continuation of 1HT502, concentrating on great leaders of the church in the modern period of church history from the Reformation to the twentieth century.

Goals:

1. The student will be *introduced* to the history of the Christian church over the past five centuries, particularly emphasizing the way certain beliefs and practices have shaped Christian identity.
2. Through the lectures, the student will be *exposed* to the cultural and political contexts of Christian thought and *develop* a greater critical appreciation for the Christian tradition.
3. Through the reading and discussions, the student will be *oriented* to key figures, beliefs, practices, and stories in the life of the Christian church and will *explore* how they relate to contemporary Christian life and ministry.
4. Through the book *On Being Presbyterian*, the student will *appreciate* Presbyterian identity as a confluence of beliefs, practices, and stories, which continues to have importance in our postmodern world.
5. Through the final exam, the student will *reflect* on how Christian identity, as represented over the past five centuries, and how Presbyterian identity may have relevance for contemporary Christian life and ministry.

Required texts:

Justo Gonzalez, *The Story of Christianity, vol. 2: The Reformation to Present Day, revised edition* (New York: Harper, 2010); ISBN: 978-0061855894

^Jonathan Hill, *The History of Christian Thought* (Downers Grove: IVP, 2003); ISBN: 9780830828456

^Hugh T. Kerr, *Readings in Christian Thought*, 2nd edition (Nashville: Abington, 1990); ISBN: 978-0687355478

Sean Michael Lucas, *On Being Presbyterian: Our Beliefs, Practices, and Stories* (Phillipsburg: P&R, 2006); ISBN: 978-1596380195

Philip Jenkins, *The Next Christendom: The Coming of Global Christianity*, 3rd edition (New York: Oxford University Press, 2011); ISBN: 978-0199767465

^also used for 1HT502 *History of Christianity I*

Requirements and Grading:

1. *Regular attendance and class participation* (10%). You will only be allowed to miss two classes without it adversely affecting your grade. I will take attendance at each class meeting.
2. *Reading* (40%). The reading grade is broken into two parts:
 - a. 2 one-page reaction papers (each worth 5%).
 - b. 1 five-page response paper for *Next Christendom* (10%)
 - c. Final reading summary (20%)
3. *Gonzalez tests* (30%). You will have three (3) examinations on the assigned Gonzalez readings, drawn from provided study sheets.
4. *Final exam* (20%). You will take a take home final examination that will be distributed on the last day of class and will be due on the last day of final examinations.
5. *Grading scale (standard RTS scale)*:

97-100	A
94-96	A-
91-93	B+
88-90	B
86-87	B-
83-85	C+
80-82	C
78-79	C-
75-77	D+
72-74	D
70-71	D-
Below 70	F

As part of our purpose to train servants of the triune God to walk with God in all of life, we expect godly integrity in the academic work done at RTS. God's covenant with His people calls for honesty and a commitment to truth (as in the 9th commandment). As we live in that covenant and in community with one another, upholding truth is an essential duty. Specifically applied to academic labors, this means that we accurately represent our work to others. In other words, neither cheating nor plagiarism is tolerated.

Instructions on particular assignments:

1. *One-page reading reaction papers*
 - a. There will be two separate reaction papers, in which you will answer a specific question on the reading. You will find the appropriate question listed in the syllabus.
 - b. The reaction paper will be written with one inch margins, double-spaced, 12 point Times Roman font.
 - c. The reaction paper will be due by the beginning of class time; **no late papers will be accepted**. If you will not be at the particular class time, you will need to submit your paper in advance.
 - d. Please do not email your paper; it is your responsibility to get a hard-copy of the paper to the instructor.

- e. The grade is pass/fail; if you follow instructions completely (including form requirements stated in line b), you will receive the full amount of points (signified by a check mark). If you fail to follow instructions, then the instructor will determine how many points are appropriate.

2. *Five-page response paper to Next Christendom*

- In the first half-page, introduce your paper: mention who wrote the book, his background, his thesis, etc.
- In section one, answer the following question (2-3 pages): *citing relevant examples, how did Jenkins set forward his argument that the center of Christianity is shifting to the Global South? In what ways does Jenkins believe that this shift will affect Christianity in this century?*
- In section two, answer the following question (2-3 pages): *In the light of Jenkins' argument, how should western Christians begin to engage Global Christianity? Or to put it more practically, how should Jenkins' book shift the way your local church's missions committee should think about international outreach?*
 - a. The response will be written with one inch margins, double-spaced, 12 point Times Roman font. Please write in complete sentences, paragraphs, etc.
 - b. The response will be due by the beginning of class time on **Monday, March 17, 2014; no late papers will be accepted.** If you will not be at the particular class time, you will need to submit your paper in advance.
 - c. Please do not email your paper; it is your responsibility to get a hard-copy of the paper to the instructor. You may place your hard copy in the instructor's box prior to class if you will not be in class when it is due.

SCHEDULE OF ASSIGNMENTS AND PROBABLE LECTURE SCHEDULE

27 January 2014

Syllabus; Luther: Man Between God and the Devil

3 February 2014

The German Reformation and Anabaptist Reaction

Readings:

Gonzalez, 7-76

Hill, 178-93

Kerr, 135-57, 79-82

10 February 2014

Calvin: Man Between Heaven and Earth

Readings:

Gonzalez, 77-134

Hill, 194-208

Kerr, 157-69

17 February 2014

Discussion #1

Response paper #1

Re-read Kerr, 157-69; answer one of the following questions:

1. How (or better, in whom) does Calvin ground the authority of the Bible? Does his approach provide an alternative to the way evangelicals often seek to defend biblical authority?
2. How does Calvin talk about human depravity? What is Calvin's solution to depravity?
3. In the selection, how does Calvin speak about predestination? Compare Calvin's approach with some popular Reformed approaches—is Calvin's approach similar/different?

Christ's Churches Purely Reformed: the Reformed Faith in the 16th Century

Readings:

Gonzalez, 135-66

Hill, 194-208

Kerr, 169-79

24 February 2014

Gonzalez Test #1 (pp. 1-166)

Protests, Puritans and Presbyterians: Reformed Faith in the 17th Century

Readings:

Gonzalez, 173-210

Hill, 209-16

Kerr, 182-6

3 March 2014

Pietists of the World, Unite!: Pietism's Impact on the 17th and 18th Centuries

Readings:

Gonzalez, 211-36

Kerr, 186-204

10 March 2014: SPRING BREAK: NO CLASS

17 March 2014

Next Christendom Paper Due

Christianity in a Revolutionary Age: The 18th Century

Readings:

Gonzalez, 237-90

24 March 2014

Gonzalez Test #2 (pp. 173-290)

The Rise of Modern Theology in the 19th Century

Readings:

Gonzalez, 301-48

Hill, 217-39

Kerr, 207-36

31 March 2014

Discussion #2

Response paper #2

Re-read Kerr, 212-22; answer one of the following questions:

1. How (or in what) does Schleiermacher ground religious authority? Why might this be an attractive apologetic for his (and our) age?
2. How does Schleiermacher relate the essence of religion to the “essence of Christianity”? Does he successfully protect the exclusivity of Christianity in his approach?

“The Christian Century”: Mission and Christianity in the 19th Century

Readings:

Gonzalez, 349-84

Hill, 240-62

Kerr, 246-57

7 April 2014

“Christianity Today”: Anglo-American Christianity in the 20th Century

Readings:

Gonzalez, 385-456

Hill, 263-301

Kerr, 257-81

14 April 2014

Between the Times: Modern Theology in the 20th Century

Readings:

Gonzalez, 457-530

Hill, 302-31

Kerr, 282-315, 321-57

21 April 2014: EASTER MONDAY (NO CLASS)

28 April 2014

Gonzalez Test #3 (pp. 301-530)

To the Ends of the Earth: Global Christianity into the 21st Century

FINAL EXAM

6-8 May 2014