

Church History Survey July 4-15, 2016

Description

This class traces the history of the Church from 100 AD to the present, emphasizes what God has done throughout the history of the Church, and explains the emergence of major theological positions and branches of Christianity. (2 IBS credits – Missions, Ministry, Church History)

Rationale and Approach

This course seeks to understand the emergence and development of the life, ministry, and theology of the church in its historical, cultural, and intellectual contexts. An investigation of the individuals, institutions, and ideas of the Christian enterprise not only informs the other disciplines of a theological education, it interprets the patterns of acting and thinking through which the church has developed.

Objectives

At the end of this course, you should be able to:

- Know the sweep of the history of the Christian church and the writings of leading Christian thinkers to today.
- Understand the various ecclesiastical traditions of the church through a studying of their doctrine and practices.
- Reflect upon his/her own understanding of theology through the study of doctrinal formulation through the centuries.
- Analyze the validity of theological perspectives by studying the thought of various historical figures and their movements.
- Evaluate the premises, theses, and perspectives of a selection of historical writings.

Required Texts

Shelley, Bruce L. *Church History in Plain Language*, 4th edition. Thomas Nelson. ISBN-13: 978-1401676315

YouTube video links will also be distributed to watch as supplements for the course. These will be distributed the first day of class to be watched during the two weeks of class.

Assignments

Please note: all assignments are to be in Microsoft Word, 1 inch margins, Times New Roman. Do not send papers in PDF format as it makes it impossible to grade! ☺

Reading – Read as much of Shelley as you can before we start class together, as it will make the experience richer. However, the reading is due July 15th (last day of class) in writing. Just bring a paper stating that you did the reading (or what percentage you completed).

Timeline Project – students will create a timeline of the entirety of church history. The project can be either handwritten or developed in Word. There are also free web applications that can do this for you, if you wish to use those. The timeline should be broken up into

spaces of 100 years, with relevant names, dates, events, publications listed. The goal here is not to be comprehensive but still you should be thorough. The goal of this assignment is to foster an awareness of the 'big picture' of history, and how things developed in a certain order. The Timeline will be due July 15th

Application Paper – Students will choose one period of church history and write a 7-8-page paper comparing this time period to our own. For example, a student may choose to compare Luther's fight during the Reformation with our understanding of the Gospel today. You can choose any period or any figure you wish, but the goal of the paper is to be 1) clear about your understanding of this historical period and 2) clear about what does/does not connect with our own world. The paper does not need footnotes or secondary works, but it does need to be clearly written. Also the student should focus on theological issues between the past and now vs merely pointing to historical similarities. What issues were important in the past that echo issues that are important today? The paper will be do July 15th via email.

Course Grade:

You will be graded with the following criteria.

-First the reading is 20% of your grade and will be assessed based on how much of the reading (ideally 100%) that you completed.

-Second the paper will be graded on how well you handle both the historical data (based off class, the reading, or the videos—not outside research) and how you connect it to today. The goal here is not to be merely an historian or merely practical but rather draw from the past in a way that gives light to today. As with anything, being overly simplistic or overly speculative is a bad thing. Rather build your case on what you know about the past and how you feel this shapes answers to questions today. Since the course covers ALL of church history, you may choose from any period from 100-1900 (leave off the 1900s until today, as that is our context).

-Third the timeline will be graded on how thorough you are. Again you cannot cover everything, but you will nevertheless want to make sure you cover the major themes, events, persons, etc. and give me a good sense of your view of church history from 30,000 feet. Better yet, pretend the assignment is going to be read by a college senior who knows nothing about the subject. The timeline should allow him/her to plot the story of the church in the past.

Grading Scale

94-100 A	74-79 C
92-93 A-	72-73 C-
90-91 B+	65-71 D
84-89 B	0-65 F
82-83 B-	
80-81 C+	