

NORTH PARK THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

HSTY 5200 THE CHRISTIAN HERITAGE: EARLY AND MEDIEVAL
Philip J. Anderson, Professor
Fall 2012

PURPOSES OF THE COURSE:

This course is designed to give the student a basic introduction to the history of the Christian Church from its earliest years through the Middle Ages. The primary objectives of this graduate level course is to gain an understanding of the Christian tradition in all its richness and of one's own place within it; to cultivate capacities in the critical use of sources, reflection, and writing; to enrich one's awareness of the rich diversity and development of God's people through time; and to understand the global character of the church and its respective and varied cultures in order live and present the gospel effectively in spoken and written ways. Quite obviously, we will not be able to explore the whole range of sources and perspectives represented in so broad an area of study. We will, however, examine enough representative persons and issues to provide a deepened appreciation and understanding of both the unity and the variety within the history of the Christian community.

Please note: The structure of this core course is something of an experiment, in that it accommodates the professor's schedule for the fall semester (away from Chicago for much of the time) and offers the student a different pace and approach in what has proven arguably to be the first-year student's busiest and most demanding semester in their unfolding seminary experience.

We will have concentrated classes from 8:00 to 4:30 on the Fridays and Saturdays of September 21-22, October 26-27, and November 16-17. **(Please plan NOW for this and make it a first priority to avoid any scheduling conflicts: absences will be noted.)** These sessions will be a combination of lecture, discussion, and some small group participation. I will also be in my office during the week of each class experience (beginning the preceding Monday) and will be available to meet individually with you. I welcome this, and strongly encourage it, since I would like to get to know each of you better and discuss any issue(s) related to your work. I will also arrange during those weeks a couple of sessions in the afternoon, accommodating the best times in your schedule, where we can discuss readings and pursue your questions.

The primary basis for all learning is the close reading of texts. This schedule will require you to be disciplined in your keeping up with assigned readings (grouped at the end in each of the

three sections). This is quite manageable if you pace yourself throughout the semester according to the syllabus. Required texts are available through the Campus Bookstore or on-line, as you prefer.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Justo Gonzalez, The Story of Christianity, complete (Prince, 1999) or vol. 1 (Abingdon, 1984 and reprints)

_____, A History of Christian Thought, vols. 1 & 2 (Abingdon, 1987 and reprints)

Barbara J. McHaffie, Her Story (Fortress, 2006), 2nd edition

Henry Bettenson and Chris Maunder, eds., Documents of the Christian Church (2011), 4th edition

WRITTEN EXAMINATIONS:

MIDTERM: Covering lectures, readings, and discussion

FINAL: Covering lectures, readings, and discussion since the Midterm

RESEARCH PAPER:

Prepare a 15-page (typed double-spaced, 250 words per page-i.e., 12 point type and 1 inch margins) research paper, exclusive of notes and bibliography, on a topic of choice, with the professor's permission. Students will be asked to complete a form outlining the proposed topic and sources of research for the paper and returned to the professor by e-mail. The paper is to be based on research in primary and secondary sources, and utilize online resources only where necessary and appropriate, duly cited. The paper is due no later than December 7.

Inclusive use of language is expected in all written and oral work in the course. Please see the NPTS Student Handbook for guidelines regarding the preparation of research papers, as well as policies regarding plagiarism and academic dishonesty, which will be followed with integrity.

READING REPORTS:

Students will prepare two reports on primary source readings, one on a selection from the early period, the other from the Middle Ages. Each report should be 1,000-1,250 words (4-5 pages) in length and should cover approximately 75 pages of reading. Lists of suggested readings will be posted on Moodle. The first report is due October 26; the second is due November 16.

PLEASE PUT YOUR MAILBOX NUMBER ON ALL EXAMS AND PAPERS

STUDY AIDS:

Internet resources and study questions are listed on Moodle. A study sheet of key terms will be distributed on Moodle prior to the midterm and final examinations to assist in preparation. If students desire, study sessions can also be arranged.

NOTE: Please see me when I am on campus if you need assistance or simply wish to discuss the material of the course. Do not hesitate to e-mail or phone at any time when I am away. I can be reached by e-mail at panderson@northpark.edu or by phone at 218-475-2459 (Minnesota) or 773-244-6218 (when on campus).

North Park Theological Seminary provides services for students with documented disabilities to ensure equal access to programs, services, facilities, and activities. Students with a disability who believe that they may need accommodations in this class are encouraged to contact Seminary Academic services as soon as possible. If desired or necessary, discussion pertaining to documentation and accommodation can take place at another suitable location or by telephone. Further information about the American Disabilities Act is found in the Student Academic Handbook.

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES AND TOPICS

September 21 and 22:

History and Christianity: Why Study Church History?

The Problem of History and the Earliest Christians

Heretics and Apologists

Teachers of the Church in the East

Formation of the Christian Bible

Teachers of the Church in the West

Worship and Sacraments

From Persecuted Sect to Imperial Church

Required reading: Gonzalez (SC), through page 157
Gonzalez (HCT), through vol. 1, page 267
Bettenson, 7-25; 32-48
McHaffie,

October 26 and 27:

The Trinitarian Controversy

The Christological Controversy

St. Augustine and "What does Athens have to do with Jerusalem?"

Augustine's Theology and Its Legacy

The Middle Ages: An Introduction

The Rise of the Papacy

The Formal Division of Christendom (East and West)

Required reading: Gonzalez (SC), 158-291
Gonzalez (HCT), 1: 268-283; 2:107-194
Bettenson, 86-149
McHaffie,

November 16-17:

The Crusades and Islam

Monastic and Ascetic Life

"A White Garment of Churches": Art & Architecture Film

Scholasticism: Faith and Reason

Scholasticism and the Renaissance

The Great Schism and Conciliarism

The "Pre-Reformers"

Required reading: Gonzalez (SC), 292-412
Gonzalez (HCT), 2:56-106, 198-338
Bettenson, 149-202
McHaffie,