

DRAFT VERSION: SUBJECT TO REVISION

HSTY 5200: Christian Heritage I:
The Early and Medieval Church
North Park Theological Seminary
Fall 2014, M,W 8:00–9:15
3 credit hours

INSTRUCTOR

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Office hours: M 10:30–12, W 9:30–12

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course provides a basic introduction to the history of the Christian church from apostolic times through the Middle Ages, with emphasis on the expansion of the church, persons, institutional growth, and theological development. (from Catalog)

Christian Heritage I is a survey of Christian history and theology from apostolic times to the eve of the Reformation. Course material pays balanced attention to Christianity's intellectual and social history, with sustained consideration of the church's evolving relationship to political and social structures and the contested category of orthodoxy.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. **Factual knowledge.** Students will be able to identify and explain key figures, events, and ideas in Christian history from the 1st century to the late middle ages.
2. **Historical analysis.** Students will be able to (1) critically read primary texts; (2) evaluate and formulate historical arguments on the basis of original source evidence.
3. **Application.** Students will (1) gain sensitivity to the irreducibly historical nature of the church and its faith; (2) understand their faith tradition and ministry in their global, historical contexts (3) better interpret contemporary events, discussions, and assumptions in light of the complexity of the Christian past.
4. **Virtue formation.** Students will grow in charity toward Christians of diverse times and places, gratitude to God for preserving and working through an imperfect church, and, in light of this, humility and fidelity in serving God's imperfect church.

This course contributes toward the following MDiv learning outcomes: (1) Interpret the Christian historical and theological tradition for appropriation in the life and mission of the church; (2) engage diversity and exhibit growth towards inter-cultural competence for ministry reflective of God's global redemptive work.

REQUIRED TEXTS

1. Justo L. González, *The Story of Christianity: The Early Church to the Dawn of the Reformation* (vol. 2), 2nd ed. (HarperOne: 2010) [ISBN: 978-0061855887]
2. Justo L. González, *A History of Christian Thought in One Volume* (Abingdon Press: 2014) [ISBN: 978-1426757778] NB: This text will be used in Heritage II as well.
3. Additional primary source readings and articles will be available on Moodle. I have chosen not to assign a single primary source reader. Do, however, anticipate investing the equivalent cost in

printing these documents, as your interaction with these (underlining, taking notes, etc.) constitutes a key component of your learning.

ASSESSMENTS

Rubrics and detailed guidelines for all assignments available on Moodle.

1. **Reading responses.** González’s narrative will background our in-class discussions; lectures will not duplicate this material. Class time will include both lecture and seminar-style discussion. For the latter, emphasis will be placed on your close reading of primary source documents and, occasionally, historiographical articles. Students will select **ten** of these assigned readings to provide a 1-page typed response to questions. This written work will exercise your critical skills, offer preparation for the final exam, and allow opportunity for regular feedback. Responses are submitted through Moodle and are due prior to the start of class. See Moodle for rubric and response questions.
2. **Critical book review.** Each student will read a key work of historiography, for which they will (1) write a review summarizing and evaluating author’s thesis and use of sources, (2) contribute to class discussion on relevant day (outlined in course schedule). Books will be selected early in the course. Reviews due through Moodle 24 hours prior to day of class discussion.
3. **Diachronic theme project.** Students will trace a single theme from the 2nd century to late medieval church. This project will be submitted in stages, according to the following schedule:
 - **9/15** – Submission of chosen theme from list posted in Moodle (by email, 11:59 p.m.).
 - **10/19** – Submission of primary source analysis (Moodle, 11:59 p.m.)
 - **11/9** – Submission of research paper and project rationale (Moodle, 11:59 p.m.; hard copy 11/10 by noon). This will be returned with feedback to improve your presentation and final submission.
 - **12/3, 12/8** – 20x20 presentation (powered by PechaKucha)
 - **12/10** – Final project submission (Moodle, 11:59 p.m. CST; hard copy 12/11 by 10am). Your final project may take any of the following forms:
 - Essay, 6–7,000 words
 - Critical literature review (minimum 10 sources)
 - Sermon series
 - Adult Sunday school class unit
 - Analysis of hymns
 - Proposals of alternate forms are welcome, but must be approved by **10/20**.
4. **Final exam.** Students will write a set of final, closed-book essays, submitted through Moodle. These will require you to (1) offer historical and theological analysis of a series of primary source quotations and (2) answer integrative questions, drawing from course reading. A list of possible quotations and essay questions will be distributed prior to the exam.

GRADING

Reading responses	25%
Book review	15%
Theme project	40%
Final exam	20%

Letter grades will be assigned according to scale printed in the Seminary Catalog, p. 18.

ADDITIONAL COURSE GUIDELINES

1. **Attendance.** Only three absences are permitted without penalty to your final grade. More than three absences may result in a lowered grade; more than six absences will result in failure.
2. **Assessment submission guidelines.**
 - Most assessments will be submitted and returned through Moodle. Please submit your work as a Word document, titled by your last name and the assignment (e.g., Ondrey. Essay 1). Essays are submitted **both** through Moodle and as a hard copy.
 - Reading responses are due *by 8 a.m.* on the day they are due; essays and exams are due by midnight CST of their assigned date.
 - You may have a one-week extension on one reading response submission without a grade reduction. All other work submitted late without prior arrangement will receive a grade reduction of 15% per day.
3. **Email.** Please email me with any questions or concerns. I will make every effort to respond to your emails within 24 hours, M–F. When emailing, please exercise professionalism by including a proper salutation and close.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

In keeping with our Christian heritage and commitment, North Park University is committed to the highest possible ethical and moral standards. Just as we will constantly strive to live up to these high standards, we expect our students to do the same. To that end, cheating of any sort will not be tolerated. Students who are discovered cheating are subject to discipline up to and including failure of a course and expulsion. Our definition of cheating includes but is not limited to:

1. Plagiarism – the use of another’s work as one’s own without giving credit to the individual. This includes using materials from the internet.
2. Copying another’s answers on an examination.
3. Deliberately allowing another to copy one’s answers or work.
4. Signing an attendance roster for another who is not present.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Students with disabilities who believe that they may need accommodations in this class are encouraged to contact the program's office as soon as possible to ensure accommodations are implemented in a timely manner. For further information, see Seminary Catalog, p. 17 and review the following website: <http://www.northpark.edu/ada>.

COURSE SCHEDULE & READINGS to follow later.