

****DRAFT SYLLABUS, FINAL VERSION POSTED IN AUGUST (texts will not change)****

HSTY 5210: Christian History I:
The Early Church to the Early Reformation
North Park Theological Seminary
Fall 2017, T/Th 8–9:15am, 3 credit hours

INSTRUCTOR

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Office hours: Tues, Thurs 9:30–11am and by appt

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course offers a survey of Christian history and theology from the apostolic times through the early 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 question of unity in diversity. (from Catalog)

Through readings and lecture, students will gain knowledge of and appreciation for a variety of historical documents (theological treatises, homilies, biblical commentaries, autobiography, letters, council acts, etc.). Assignments will encourage students to consider the relevance of Christian history for contemporary Christian ministry.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. **Factual knowledge.** Students will be able to identify and explain key figures, events, and ideas from the breadth of global Christian history, from the early modern period to the mid-twentieth century.
2. **Historical interpretation.** Students will be able to (1) critically read primary texts; (2) evaluate and formulate historical arguments on the basis of original source evidence, for the purpose of
3. **Appropriation** in the life and mission of the church. This includes a growing capacity to (1) locate their faith tradition and ministry in their global, historical contexts (2) interpret contemporary events, discussions, and assumptions in light of the complexity of the Christian past, (3) demonstrate application of historical content and interpretation within Christian ministry.
4. **Virtue formation.** Students will cultivate 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 [abbreviation used in schedule below]

1. [Justo L. González, *The Story of Christianity: The Early Church to the Dawn of the Reformation*](#) (vol. 1), 2nd ed. (HarperOne: 2010) [ISBN: 978-0061855887] [SC]
2. [Justo L. González, *The Story of Christianity: The Reformation to the Present Day*](#) (vol 2), rev. and updated (HarperOne: 2010) [ISBN: 978-0-06-185589-4] [SC2]
3. [John W. Coakley and Andrea Sterk, eds. *Readings in World Christian History; Vol I: Earliest Christianity to 1453*](#) (Orbis Books, 2004). [ISBN: 978-1570755200] [R]
4. Additional primary source readings and articles will be available on Canvas. [C]

ASSESSMENTS

1. **Reading (15% of final grade).** A reading log is provided within our course shell under “Assessment Guidelines & Rubrics.” Completed logs are due at midterm (Oct 22) and end of the semester (Dec 15).
2. **Primary source analysis (5% of final grade).** During weeks 2–4, students will submit 1-page in response to an assigned primary source. These writing exercises will allow opportunity for feedback in preparation for your larger research project. Responses are submitted through Canvas and are due prior to the start of class for which they are assigned.
 - ♦ Week 2: Ignatius, *Letter to the Magnesians* (due Sept 5)
 - ♦ Week 3: Irenaeus of Lyons, *Against Heresies* (due Sept 12)
 - ♦ Week 4: *Life of Macrina* (due Sept 19)
3. **Exam (2x10% of final grade).** Students will complete exam at midterm (Oct 22) and end of semester (Dec 15), testing your knowledge of early church and medieval material. See lists of possible terms in Canvas. It is wise to fill out these terms as we go through the material.
4. **Diachronic research project (60% of final grade).** Students will trace a single theme from the 2nd century through the High Middle Ages. This project constitutes the bulk of coursework, integrating course objectives, and will be submitted in stages, according to the following schedule:

9/17	Submission of chosen theme and sources (5% of final grade)
10/15	Early church primary source analysis due (10% of final grade)
11/12	Medieval primary source analysis due (10% of final grade)
11/26	Research paper due (including Reformation sources). At this stage you will synthesize your research, in conversation with secondary sources, sustaining a clear thesis with the sources you have studied. (20% of final grade)
12/10	Final project submission (<i>included in portfolio</i>). Your final project invites you to apply your research to a particular ministry context. It may take a variety of forms (e.g., sermon series, adult Sunday school class unit, confirmation class, etc.). (15% of final grade)

GRADING

Reading logs	15%
Primary source analyses (3)	5%
Exams	20%
Early & medieval source analyses	25%
Research paper	20%
Final project	15%

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. Two late arrivals will be counted as an absence.
2. **Assessment submission**
 - Short primary source responses and exams are submitted through Canvas.
 - All stages of the diachronic theme project should be submitted to Canvas and as a hard copy.
 - All assessments are due 11:59pm on the date indicated, with the exception of primary source

- responses, which are due prior to the class for which they are assigned.
- Work submitted late without prior arrangement will receive a grade reduction of 5% per day. Work submitted over two weeks late will not receive credit.
 - NB that your final project, with grade and feedback, will be included in your portfolio.
3. **Communication.** Please feel free to email me with any questions and concerns, and I will respond within 24 hours, M–F. Before emailing a question, be sure the answer isn’t contained in the course syllabus or assessment guidelines (Canvas). 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.

For a fuller discussion of academic dishonesty, review the [Seminary catalog](#), pp. 21–22.

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 “[Disability Resources](#)” provided through North Park’s Office of Student Enrichment Services and Support.

TITLE IX

Students who believe they have been harassed, discriminated against, or involved in sexual violence should contact the Dean of Students (773-244-5565) or Director of Human Resources (773-244-5599) for information about campus resources and support services, including confidential counseling services. As a member of the North Park faculty, we are concerned about the well-being and development of our students, and are available to discuss any concerns. Faculty are legally obligated to share information with the University’s Title IX coordinator in certain situations to help ensure that the student’s safety and welfare is being addressed, consistent with the requirements of the law. These disclosures include but are not limited to reports of sexual assault, relational/domestic violence, and stalking. Please refer to [North Park’s Safe Community site](#) for contact information and further details.

COURSE SCHEDULE

SC=Story of Christianity, R=Readings in World Christian History, C=reading posted on Canvas. Numbers listed for SC correspond to chapters; numbers listed for R correspond to page numbers.

August 29 – The study of Christian history: why and how

Reading: Thomas Andrews and Flannery Burke, “What Does It Mean to Think Historically?” [C]; C.S. Lewis, “Introduction” to Athanasius’s *On the Incarnation* [C]

August 31 – Introduction to course

Reading: Course syllabus; González, SC 1

September 5 – From the New Testament to “church history”: early Christian faith, life, and worship

Background reading: González, SC 2–5

Primary reading: Ignatius of Antioch, *Letter to the Magnesians* [R 3–5]; *Didache* [R 12–16]

Practice PSA due on Ignatius, *Letter to the Magnesians*

September 7 – Church & Empire: martyrs & apologists

Background reading: González SC 6–7

Primary reading: Correspondence of Pliny and Trajan [R 23–24]; *Martyrdom of Perpetua and Felicity* [R 30–37]; Justin, *Second Apology* [R 37–43]; excerpts from Tertullian, *Prescription against Heretics* (c. 200) [C]

September 12 – Orthodoxy & Heresy: the proto-catholic church

Background reading: González SC 8

Primary reading: *Gospel of Thomas* [R 5–12]; Irenaeus of Lyons, *Against Heresies* [R 53–66]

PSA due on Irenaeus, *Against Heresies*

September 14 – Constantine & the end of persecution

Background reading: González SC 12–14, 16

Primary reading: Eusebius, *Ecclesiastical History*, Book 10, “Constantine and Peace” [C]; *Life of Constantine* [R 87–91 (through chpt 32 on p. 91)]

NB: Research theme and early church sources due Sept 17.

September 19 – Christian Asceticism

Background reading: González SC 15–16, 23

Primary reading: Athanasius, *Life of Anthony* [R 131–141]; *Life of Macrina*

PSA due on letters of *Life of Macrina*

September 21 – Nicaea & Trinitarian Theology I

Background reading: González SC 17–19

Primary reading: Letters of Arius and Alexander of Alexandria [R 98–101]; Acts of the Council of Nicaea [C]

September 26 – Nicaea & Trinitarian Theology II

Background reading: González SC 20

Primary reading: Arius’s confession of faith [C]; Gregory of Nyssa, *Ad Graecos* [R 119–22]

September 28 – Christian Empire

Lund Lectures, class meets 8:00–8:45am

NB: Pre-Constantine PSA due Oct 1.

October 3 – Christianity beyond Empire

Background reading: González, SC 25

Primary reading: Auxentius of Durostorum, *Letter on the Life and Work of Ulfila* [R 102–105]; Rufinus of Aquileia, *Ecclesiastical History* [R 107–109]; Agathangelos, *History of the Armenians* [R 122–30]; Recommended: Ephrem the Syrian, *Hymn 1* [R 113–17]

October 5 – Augustine of Hippo

Background reading: González, SC 24

Primary reading: Pelagius, *To Demetrias*; Augustine of Hippo, *On Nature and Grace* [R 206–13]; *City of God*

October 10 – Ephesus to Chalcedon: Christological controversies

Background reading: González, SC 28; Diarmaid MacCulloch, “Defying Chalcedon: Asia and Africa (451–622)”

Primary reading: Letters of Cyril of Alexandria and Nestorius of Constantinople; Chalcedonian Definition [R 165–76]

October 12 – Medieval Christianity, the New Order: Germanic expansion & Arab conquests

Background reading: González, SC 27

Primary reading: Columbanus, *Letter 2* [R 255–58]; skim *The Heliand* [271–80]; Bede, *Ecclesiastical History*

NB: Early church diachronic analysis due Oct 15.

October 17, 19 – Fall reading week: class does not meet

Midterm exam and reading log due Oct 22.

October 24 – Ongoing christological controversy

Background reading: González, SC 28, pp. 302–end

Primary reading: John of Damascus, *On the Divine Images* [R 289–97]

October 26 – Western Christendom: empire, papacy & monasticism

Background reading: González, SC 29–30

Primary reading: Pope Gregory VII, *Letter to Hermann of Metz* [R 319–24]; Hildegard of Bingen, *Scivias* [C]

NB: Early medieval PSA due Oct 29.

October 31 (500th anniversary of the Reformation) – Christianity confronts Islam in Europe and Africa

Background reading: González, SC 31

Primary reading: Guibert of Nogent, *The Deeds of God through the Franks* [R 324–34]; *The War Chronicle of Amda Tseyon* [R 384–88]

November 2 – High Middle Ages

Background reading: González, SC 32

Primary reading: Boniface VIII, *Unam Sanctam* [R 397–98]

November 7 – High Middle Ages, continued

Primary reading: Aquinas, excerpts from *Summa Theologiae* on the existence of God [R 359–62] and transubstantiation [C]

November 9 – Late Middle Ages: Babylonian captivity, schism

Background reading: González, SC 33

Primary reading: Catherine of Siena, “To Gregory XI” [C]

NB: Medieval diachronic PSA due Nov 12.

November 14 – Late Middle Ages: Impulses of Reform

Background reading: González, SC 34–35

Primary reading: Grote, *Letter 29*; Council of Constance, *Haec sancta* & *Frequens* [R 410–15]

November 16 – The spark that lit the tinder: Martin Luther

Background reading: González, SC 1–2

Primary reading: Luther, *95 Theses* [C], *The Freedom of a Christian* [C]

November 21 – The Lutheran Reformation

Background reading: González, SC 3–4

Primary reading: *Twelve Articles of the Peasants* [C]; Luther, *Admonition to Peace* (1525) [C]

November 23 – Thanksgiving, no class

Research paper due Nov 26.

November 28 – Reformation in Zurich: Zwingli & the Anabaptists

Background reading: González, SC 5–6

Primary reading: Zwingli, *Articles* [C]; *The Schleitheim Confession* [C]

November 30 – Reformation themes (I): Sacraments

Primary reading: Reports on the Marburg Colloquy [C]

December 5 – Reformation themes (II): Church

December 7 – Reformation themes (III): Political theology and political outcomes

Background reading: McGrath, “The Political Thought of the Reformation” [C]

NB: Final project due Dec 10.

December 12 – Final class, reserved for overflow material.

Final exam & reading log due Dec 15.