**DRAFT SYLLABUS; SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

HSTY 5210: Christian History I:
The Early Church to the Early Reformation
North Park Theological Seminary
Fall 2018, M/W 9:30–10:45am, 3 credit hours

INSTRUCTOR
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Office hours: Mon, Wed 11am–12:30pm 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Through readings and lecture, students will gain knowledge of and appreciation for a variety of historical documents (theological treatises, homilies, biblical commentaries, autobiography, letters, council acts, etc.).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events, discussions, and assumptions in light of the complexity of the Christian past, (3) demonstrate application of historical content and interpretation within Christian ministry.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]
4. Additional primary source readings and articles will be available on Canvas. [C]
ASSESSMENTS

Guidelines for each assessment are included under “Assessment Guides & Templates” in Canvas.

1. **Reading (2x10% of final grade).** Reading log templates are provided on Canvas under “Assessment Guidelines & Templates.” Logs are due at midterm (Oct 14) and end of the semester (Dec 14).

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 at 7:00am 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: Gregory of Nyssa, *Life of Macrina* (due Sept 19)

3. **Exam (2x10% of final grade).** Students will complete exam at midterm (Oct 14) and end of semester (Dec 14), 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 (55% of final grade).** Students will trace a single theme from the 2nd century through the Late Middle Ages. This project constitutes the bulk of coursework, integrating course objectives, and will be submitted in stages, according to the following schedule:
   - **9/24** Submission of chosen theme and pre- and post-Constantine sources. See theme options within the assessment guide. (**5% of final grade**)
   - **10/21** Early church primary source analysis due (**10% of final grade**)
   - **11/18** Medieval primary source analysis due (**10% of final grade**)
   - **12/2** Research paper due. 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**)
   - **12/14** Final project submission (**included in portfolio**). 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.). (**10% of final grade**)

GRADING

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<tr>
<th>Assessment</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tr>
<td>Reading logs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Primary source analyses (3)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Theme &amp; source submission</td>
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<td>Exams</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Early &amp; medieval source analyses</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research paper</td>
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<td>Final project</td>
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Letter grades will be assigned according to scale printed in the [Seminary Academic Catalog](#), p. 21.

ADDITIONAL COURSE GUIDELINES
1. **Attendance & participation.** Only three absences are permitted without penalty to your final grade. More than three absences will result in a lowered grade; more than six absences will result in failure. Two late arrivals will be counted as an absence. Active, informed participation in class discussion is expected.

2. **Assessment submission**
   - Submit all work through Canvas as Word files, including your last name in the document title. All submission links are located under the “Assessment Submissions” module. 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 at 7:00am, prior to the class for which they are assigned.
   - All work submitted late without prior arrangement will receive a 1/3 grade reduction each day (e.g., an A grade would receive A- after one day late, B+ after two, etc.). Work submitted over two weeks late will not receive credit. Because primary source analyses are preparatory for class discussion, late submissions will not be accepted.

3. **Communication.** Please feel free to email me with any questions and concerns. 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 Academic Catalog, pp. 25–27.

**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 Academic Catalog, pp. 19–20 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.

The class is far more than time spent in the classroom; it is most especially your direct engagement with course material and careful thinking about it. Some class sessions require more reading, some require less. There are weeks when little to nothing is due, and other weeks where several assessments are due. You are responsible for looking ahead at the syllabus and balancing your work. It is expected that you are consistently spending a minimum of six hours on course work outside of the classroom.

August 27 – 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 29 – Introduction to course
Reading: Course syllabus; González, SC 1

September 3 – Labor Day; class does not meet

September 5 – From the New Testament to “church history”: early Christian faith, life, and worship
Background reading: González, SC 2–4, 11
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 10 – Church & Empire: martyrs & apologists
Background reading: González SC 5–7, 10
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 8–9
Primary reading: Gospel of Thomas [R 5–12]; Irenaeus of Lyons, Against Heresies [R 53–66]
PSA due on Irenaeus, Against Heresies

September 17 – 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)]

September 19 – Christian Asceticism
Background reading: González SC 15–16, 23
Primary reading: skim Athanasius, Life of Anthony [R 131–141]; read Gregory of Nyssa, Life of Macrina [R 147–55]
PSA due on Gregory of Nyssa, Life of Macrina
September 24 – Nicaea & Trinitarian Theology I
  Background reading: González SC 17–19
  NB: Research theme and early church sources due Sept 24.

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]
  Optional PSA due on Arius’s confession (to replace lowest grade)

October 1 – Christianity beyond Empire
  Background reading: González, SC 25

October 3 – Augustine of Hippo
  Background reading: González, SC 24
  Primary reading: Augustine of Hippo, City of God [R 195–206]

October 8 – Ephesus to Chalcedon: Christological controversies
  Background reading: González, SC 28; Diarmaid MacCulloch, “Defying Chalcedon: Asia and Africa (451–622)” [C]
  Primary reading: Letters of Cyril of Alexandria and Nestorius of Constantinople; Chalcedonian Definition [R 165–76]

October 10 – 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]

October 15, 17 – Fall reading week: class does not meet
  Early church PSA due Oct 21.

October 22 – Ongoing christological controversy
  Background reading: González, SC 28, pp. 302–end
  Primary reading: John of Damascus, On the Divine Images [R 289–97]

October 24 – 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]

October 29 – 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]
October 31 – High Middle Ages
   Background reading: González, SC 32
   Primary reading: Boniface VIII, Unam Sanctam [R 397–98]

November 5 – High Middle Ages, continued
   Primary reading: Aquinas, excerpts from Summa Theologiae on the existence of God [R 359–62]
   and transubstantiation [C]

November 7 – Late Middle Ages: Babylonian captivity, schism
   Background reading: González, SC 33
   Primary reading: Catherine of Siena, “To Gregory XI” [C]

November 12 – 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 14 – 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]
   NB: Medieval diachronic PSA due Nov 18.

November 19 – The Lutheran Reformation
   Background reading: González, SC 3–4
   Primary reading: Twelve Articles of the Peasants [C]; Luther, Admonition to Peace (1525) [C]

November 21 – Thanksgiving, no class

November 26 – Reformation in Zurich: Zwingli & the Anabaptists
   Background reading: González, SC 5–6
   Primary reading: Zwingli, “Sixty-Seven Articles” [C]; The Schleitheim Confession [C]

November 28 – Reformation themes (I): Sacraments
   Primary reading: Reports on the Marburg Colloquy [C]
   NB: Research paper due Dec 2.

December 3 – Reformation themes (II): Church

December 5 – Reformation themes (III): Political theology and political outcomes
   Background reading: McGrath, “The Political Thought of the Reformation” [C]

December 10 – Final class, reserved for overflow material.
   Final exam, reading log, final project due Dec 14.