

**Taylor Seminary**

**CH 420 Church History to 1500**

**Fall Semester 2018**  
**8:30 am-12:15 pm (Thursdays)**



**INSTRUCTOR:** Randal D. Rauser, PhD  
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**DESCRIPTION:**

An introduction to the historical development of the ancient and medieval church from its apostolic beginnings. (3 Credits)

**TARGET STATEMENTS:**

Upon completion of this course

Knowledge: Students will

- Provide evidence in writing of their familiarity with the basic lineaments of the history of the church, including major figures, events and movements from the dawn of the church to the Renaissance.

Character: Students will

- Reflect upon and summarize the value they place on the essential role of history in shaping our understanding of the Christian faith.
- Give evidence of a renewed understanding of their own cultural formation as creatures of history.
- Describe how they intend to (or do) serve the church and culture by communicating the centrality of historical understanding with an appropriate humility.

Ability: Students will

- Analyze bibliographical material and apply that analysis to their own Christian formation, beliefs and practices as well as to identify its application to the Church.
- Regularly follow and participate meaningfully in on-line discussion forums.
- Present material in an appropriate, engaging and useful manner.
- Analyze contexts from a perspective of historical awareness.

**TEXTBOOKS:**

Bettenson, Henry and Chris Maunder. *Documents of the Christian Church*. 4<sup>th</sup> ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011.

González, Justo L. *The Story of Christianity: The Early Church to the Dawn of the Reformation*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. New York: HarperOne, 2010.

Noll, Mark. *Turning Points: Decisive Moments in the History of Christianity*. 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2012.

**REQUIREMENTS:****1. Class Participation**

It is important to attend regularly, arrive *on time*, appear to be sentient, and to be actively engaged in the discussion of topics.

**2. Reading (800 pp.)****40 hours**

Assignment accommodates knowledge target statements, develops competencies in Proclamation, Shepherding, Presence, and addresses requirements in Outcomes #3, #4, #5, #8.

**3. Biography Paper****18 hours**

Students should sign up to write a biography paper on one of the people listed in the “Church History Biography Paper Presentation Sign-Up” sheet. The student should provide a historical sketch of the individual which seeks to illumine their significance for Christian history.

This is a research paper and as such it should include a title page, footnotes, and bibliography. The bibliography should include at least ten academic sources (peer-reviewed journal articles and academic books). Textbooks do not count among your ten sources. A maximum of two separate essays from the same book may count as separate sources. As a general rule of thumb, a research paper should have at least 3 footnotes per page.

The biography paper should be titled following the following pattern: student last name-biography (e.g. Jones-biography). The biography paper should then be emailed to [randal.rauser@taylor-edu.ca](mailto:randal.rauser@taylor-edu.ca).

**(3000-4000 words)****Due Date: various**

Assignment accommodates knowledge target statements, develops competencies in Proclamation, Faithfulness, addresses requirements in Outcomes #1, #4, #5, #8.

#### **4. Biography Presentation**

**10 hours**

Present the core research of your biography paper in a class presentation. You are encouraged to be creative in your presentation, and where appropriate to incorporate drama, music, PowerPoint, Prezi, Emaze, finger puppets, or other media and/or methods. If you like, you may show short video clips, but they should not be longer than 1-2 minutes total in your presentation.

*Be creative and be concise.* Presentations should be 15-20 minutes with a few minutes afterward for discussion. Provide a one page handout for members of the class which summarizes major points in the presentation. (I will provide a sample handout as a guide.) Email the handout to the instructor at least one day prior to your scheduled presentation if you wish it to be photocopied.

As a general guide I will grade approximately 40% for the quality of your presentation content (including clarity of speech and acuity in answering questions), 30% for the creativity and pedagogical effectiveness of your presentation and 30% for the quality and clarity of your handout.

Assignment accommodates knowledge target and ability statements, develops competencies in Proclamation, Faithfulness, Presence, and addresses requirements in Outcomes #1, #3, #4, #8.

#### **5. Web Based Reading Forums**

Every week there will be a discussion forum based on the assigned readings at the online Moodle component to the course at <http://online.taylor-edu.ca/>. The discussion forum each week will consist of discussion questions for the assigned readings of *the following week* to ensure that students have completed assigned readings in advance of the class. Students are expected to answer the questions and interact with the comments of fellow students on a weekly basis.

Assignment accommodates knowledge, character and ability target statements, develops competencies in Shepherding, Faithfulness and Presence, and addresses requirements in Outcomes #1, #3, #4, #8.

#### **6. Final Exam**

**10 hours**

Assignment accommodates knowledge target statements, develops competencies in Shepherding, Faithfulness, and addresses requirements in Outcomes #4, #8.

**Total: 90 hours**

**LATE PENALTIES AND PROCEDURES:**

The biography paper will automatically receive a 5% penalty for every day that it is late. Papers late more than one week will receive 0%.

The biography presentation will automatically receive a 20% penalty for every day that it is late. Presentations more than three days late will receive 0%.

Unless otherwise noted, every assignment is due by 11:59 pm MST on the day it is due.

**HOW TO SUBMIT AN ASSIGNMENT:** Assignments must be emailed to [randal.rauser@taylor-edu.ca](mailto:randal.rauser@taylor-edu.ca) and received before 11:59 pm on the day they are due to ensure you do not receive a late penalty. Do not submit a hard copy. When you email your assignment it is recommended that you request a read receipt to ensure that your assignment has been received. *You are responsible to ensure that the assignment is received.*

**TITLING YOUR ASSIGNMENT:** Please follow this template for naming assignment documents:

Biography Paper: Author's last name-name of historical person  
(e.g. Jones-Martin Luther)

<b>EVALUATION:</b> Class Participation	15%
Web-Based Reading Forum Participation	15%
Biography Paper	30%
Biography Presentation	20%
Final Exam	20%

**ATTENDANCE POLICY:**

Please note that attendance and participation is an essential part of this course. (Yeah, I know, that *should* be obvious.) As a result, late arrival, unexcused absences and lack of participation may adversely affect your grade. Furthermore, *more than three unexcused absences will result in failure for the course.*

**GENERAL INFORMATION:***1. MOODLE*

Taylor Seminary's Moodle is located on a shared platform with our partner seminary, Sioux Falls Seminary. Bookmark this site on your computer for easy, regular access:

<https://moodle.sfseminary.edu>

Moodle log-in is the first initial of your first name and your last name - all in lowercase, with no spaces. For example, if your name is John Calvin, you would log-in as jcalvin

The default enrolment key is the course code (all in lowercase, with no spaces). The course code consists of the course prefix followed by the course number. For example, Old Testament Introduction's key is: ot417

If you are having trouble logging into Moodle or self-enrolling, please email [teresa.seibel@taylor-edu.ca](mailto:teresa.seibel@taylor-edu.ca)

## 2. COURSE WRITING

### *Formatting*

All studies and papers should be typed and formatted according to the Society of Biblical Literature writing style as outlined in the Seminary's *Guidelines for Research Writing in Religion & Theology (SBL)*. For the full stylesheet, please refer to Patrick H. Alexander, et al., ed., *The SBL Handbook of Style: For Biblical Studies and Related Disciplines* (Atlanta: SBL Press, 2014) which is in Reading Room.

### *Research Language.*

You should employ acceptable research language for your paper which is not too informal yet reads inclusively. Avoid the use of gender specific language (e.g., Do not refer to "man" generically or to "mankind," "men," "he"; rather use "humankind," "humanity," "person," etc.)

### *Plagiarism.*

Academic honesty and integrity is essential to the academic enterprise and the Seminary community. All written work submitted *must* be your own. *Guidelines for Research Writing* defines plagiarism as the failure to give credit where credit is due: "To plagiarize is to give the impression that you have written something original which in fact you have borrowed from another without acknowledging that other person's work" (*Guide for Research and Writing*, 2016, p. 11-13). If you borrow ideas or distinctive phrases, or include direct quotations in your written assignments, you must acknowledge your source(s) properly by in-text citation or footnote. It is also wrong to copy another person's work or to submit an assignment previously handed in for credit in another course. **Students guilty of plagiarism may receive a grade of zero for the assignment and may be brought to the attention of the Seminary's Academic Committee.**

## 3. COURSE WITHDRAWAL POLICY

After the period for which tuition refunds are available, a "W" will be placed on the transcript of a student who withdraws from any course. Beyond those dates, an "F" will be recorded on the student's transcript.

**COURSE OUTLINE WITH READINGS:**

Bettenson and Maunder: *DCC*  
 González, *The Story of Christianity*: *SC*  
 Noll, *Turning Points*: *TP*

Note: *SC* and *TP* readings are listed as chapters  
*DCC* readings are listed as pages

DATE	TOPIC	READINGS
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**Introducing Church History**

Sept 6	On the idea of Christian history	No assigned reading
Sept 13	What has Athens (or Rome) to do with Jerusalem?	<i>SC</i> , ch. 1, 2 <i>DCC</i> , pp. 5-7

**The Nascent Church**

Sept 20	From Nazarene Sect to Christian Faith	<i>SC</i> , chs. 3, 4 <i>TP</i> , ch. 1
Sept 27	The Blood of the Martyrs	<i>SC</i> , chs. 5, 6, 10, 12 <i>DCC</i> , pp. 1-5; 7-24; 90-2
Oct 4	Christian identity emerges: Canon, Creed, and Episcopacy	<i>SC</i> , chs. 7, 8, 9, 11 <i>DCC</i> , pp. 25-36; 68-93

**The State Church and the Shaping of Orthodoxy**

Oct 11	Constantine and the State Church	<i>SC</i> , chs. 13, 14
Oct 18	Modular Week (no class)	No assigned reading
Oct 25	On the Fringes of the State	<i>SC</i> , chs. 15, 16 <i>DCC</i> , pp. 122-40 <i>TP</i> , ch. 4
Nov 1	Arianism and the Trinitarian Controversy	<i>SC</i> , chs. 17, 18, 19, 20, 21 <i>DCC</i> , pp. 35-47 <i>TP</i> , ch. 2
Nov 8	Salvation: Augustine vs. Pelagius  The Eastern Church and the Shaping of Christology	<i>SC</i> , ch. 24 <i>DCC</i> , 55-66  <i>SC</i> , chs. 22, 23, 27 <i>DCC</i> , pp. 47-55; 93-102 <i>TP</i> , ch. 3

Nov 15	The Collapse of Empires: Feudalism and Church/ State Struggles	SC, chs. 25, 26, 28, 29 DCC, pp. 102-106 SC, ch. 30 DCC, pp. 106-22; TP, ch. 5
Nov 22	The Crusades	SC, ch. 31

### The Medieval Church

Nov 29	Scholasticism; Ecclesial Crises and Medieval Reform Movements	SC, ch. 32, 33 DCC, pp. 140-93
Dec 6	Renaissance and Reformation	TP, ch. 6 SC, chs. 34, 35, 36

### BIBLIOGRAPHY:

#### General Histories

Bass, Diana Butler. *A People's History of Christianity: The Other Side of the Story*. New York: HarperOne, 2009.

Duffy, Eamon. *Saints and Sinners: A History of the Popes*. Princeton: Yale University Press, 1997.

Edwards, David L. *Christianity: The First Two Thousand Years*. Mary Knoll, NY: Orbis, 1997.

Johnson, Paul. *A History of Christianity*. New York: Atheneum, 1983.

Latourette, Kenneth Scott. *A History of Christianity*. (2 vols.) New York: Harper Collins, 1953.

Schaff, Philip. *History of the Christian Church*. (8 vols.) Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 2002. (Originally, published with Scribner's, 1858-1910).

Shelley, Bruce L. *Church History in Plain Language*. Waco, TX: Word Books, 1982.

Walker, Williston. *A History of the Christian Church*. 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. New York: Scribner's, 1970.

#### Ancient and Byzantine Church

Barnes, Timothy. *Constantine and Eusebius*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1984.

Barnett, Paul. *Behind the Scenes of the New Testament*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1991.

- Blackman, Edwin Cyril. *Marcion and His Influence*. London: SPCK, 1948.
- Bruce, F.F. *New Testament History*. Garden City, NY: Doubleday, 1971.
- Drake, H.A. *Constantine and the Bishops: The Politics of Intolerance*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2002.
- Eusebius. *The Church History*. trans. and commentary, Paul Maier. Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel, 1999.
- Jeffers, James. *The Greco-Roman World of the New Testament: Exploring the Background of Early Christianity*. Grand Rapids, MI: InterVarsity Press, 1999.
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- MacMullen, Ramsay. *Christianizing the Roman Empire (A.D. 100-400)*. Princeton: Yale University Press, 1986.
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- Randolf, Kurt. *Gnosis: The Nature and History of Gnosticism*. New York: Harper SanFrancisco, 1987.
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Wenham, David. *Paul: Follower of Jesus or Founder of Christianity?* Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1995.

Wilken, Robert Lewis. *The Christians as the Romans Saw Them*. Princeton: Yale University Press, 2003.

### **Medieval Church**

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Burns, J. H. and Thomas Izbicki, eds. *Conciliarism and Papalism*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1997.

Hannah, John D. *Charts of Ancient and Medieval Church History*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2001.

Kenny, Anthony. *Wyclif in His Times*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1986.

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Maalouf, Amin. *Crusades Through Arab Eyes*. New York: Schocken, 1989.

Malone, Mary. *Women and Christianity: The Medieval Period*. Dublin: Columba Press, 2003.

Regan, Geoffrey. *First Crusader: Byzantium's Holy Wars*. New York: Palgrave, 1969.

Riley-Smith, Jonathan. *What Were the Crusades?* San Francisco: Ignatius Press, 2002.

Runciman, Steven. *A History of the Crusades*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1969.

Winks, Robin W. *Europe in a Wider World-1350-1650*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2003.

### **Historical Theology**

Hanson, R.P.C. *The Search for the Christian Doctrine of God: The Arian Controversy, 318-381*. Edinburgh: T&T Clark, 2000.

Kelly, J.N.D. *Early Christian Doctrines*. New York: Harper Collins, 1978.

Pelikan, Jaroslav. *The Christian Tradition: A History of the Development of Doctrine*. (5 vols.) Chicago: University of Chicago, 1971-1989.