



Nipawin Bible College
GE2013 Church History I: The Early Church to Reformation
Fall 2022
3 Credit Hours
Mr. Morgan Allen
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

A firm foundation - that is the first requirement for every substantial dwelling that the world has ever known! As Christians we have a firm foundation. This foundation is built upon Christ Jesus who is the cornerstone. Jesus laid that first and most important stone in our foundation, and His Church has continued building upon that foundation ever since. It is this continued foundation that this course helps students understand, appreciate, and learn about. This learning comes from their fellow members of the body of Christ who lived from Pentecost to 1500.

COURSE TEXTBOOKS

Dowley, Tim. *Introduction to the History of Christianity*. 3rd ed. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2018.

Course Handouts.

Christian Classics Ethereal Library - <https://ccel.org/>

COURSE OBJECTIVES

By the end of the course students will be able to...

1. Nurture their connection with other Christians by being able to identify key figures, events, and theological positions in the history of Christianity from early Christianity to 1492 CE.
2. Be equipped to learn from their fellow members of the Body of Christ by being able to analyze and interact with primary sources with assistance.
3. Apply the wisdom gained from the historical community of the church to evaluate contemporary issues in the student's life and the life of the church.
4. Develop and communicate a biblically informed theology of history.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

Quiz - 20%

- The textbook will give students a broad "overview" understanding of Christian history. In-class lectures and discussions will assume students have that knowledge and will focus on going deeper in fewer areas. Neither textbook reading nor class

participation can replace the other. Instead, both complement each other to fulfill the purpose of the class. To demonstrate understanding of the reading, students will be required to answer quiz questions once each week. The question or questions will consist primarily of multiple choice and true/false questions. There will also be a question that focuses on the student's personal growth and application of church history.

- See Associated Rubric for Grading Scheme
- The quiz will measure how well the students meet Course Objective 1.

DUE: See Course Schedule

Theology of History Paper - 20%

- As Christians, how should we understand history and its connection to God and creation? In this paper, students will synthesize the in-class labs and their own thinking to identify and explain their "theology" of history. As they write their paper, the student may find one or more of the following questions helpful to organize their thoughts: What is history? What is God's role in non-biblical human history? Should a Christian practice and communicate history differently than a non-Christian? Why should a Christian study/practice history? The student should also illustrate their theology of history by providing concrete, detailed examples of how they would use (or not use) church history from Pentecost to 1500 in their life, ministry, and/or church. The student is not required to cite any sources other than the Bible. The paper must be a minimum of five, double-spaced pages not including footnotes or endnotes. The following elements will be assessed:
 1. A clear thesis statement which is supported by the rest of the paper.
 2. A coherent "theology of history" which provides the foundation for all the elements of the paper.
 3. Clear evidence of deep thought and biblical integration.
 4. Clear, concrete applications which illustrate the theology of history.
 5. Appropriate writing ability, including grammar, spelling, and style.
- Theology of History Paper will help assess how well the students meet Course Objectives 3-4.

DUE: December 5

Exams - 2 exams, one worth 20%, one worth 25% (45% total)

- There will be a first-half exam (worth 20%) and a non-cumulative second-half exam (worth 25%). The exams will cover in-class material, not Dowley. Both exams will consist of 50 multiple choice questions. The exam will not cover dates, unless the professor specifically says to remember a particular date. The student will have 1.5 hours to write the exam.

- The Exams measure how well the students meet Course Objective 1.

First-Half Exam DUE: November 4
Second-Half Exam DUE: Exam Week

Primary Source Lab Reports - 15%

- Most weeks there will be an in-class primary source lab involving reading and discussing a primary source text. To prepare for a primary source lab, students will turn in a report on the primary source lab consisting of:
 1. A 4-6 sentence summary of the primary source;
 2. One question which arose from the lab;
 3. One application for how the material covered in the lab impacts your life.
- These reports measure how well the students meet Course Objectives 2 and 3.

DUE: See Course Schedule

NOTE: All written assignments are to be typed in accordance with the guidelines in Kate L. Turabian's *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 9th ed. (Chicago, IL: The University of Chicago Press, 2018) for papers. **(See NBC Sample Paper - 2022.)** Assignments will be graded on the basis of content, clarity, grammar, and spelling.

Assignments will be due at the **beginning of class** on the date assigned.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

- Refer to the NBC Handbook 2022-2023

LATE ASSIGNMENT POLICY

- Refer to the NBC Handbook 2022-2023

Reading: 305 pages from *Introduction to the History of Christianity*; **64 pages** from Primary Source Packet

Writing: 5-page Theology of History paper and **primary source lab reports.**

COURSE SCHEDULE:

Date	Topic	Assignment	Assignment Due
Sept 19	Introduction and Syllabus		
Sept 23	Orthodoxy and Heresies	Dowley Chapters 1-2	Quiz 1
Sept 26		Dowley Chapters 3-4	Primary Source Lab #1 Report
Oct 7	Spread of Christianity	Dowley Chapters 5-6	Quiz 2
Oct 14		Dowley Chapter 7	Primary Source Lab #2 Report
Oct 17	Nicene Controversies	Dowley Chapters 8-9	Quiz 3
Oct 21		Dowley Chapters 10-11	Primary Source Lab #3 Report
Oct 24	Diverging East and West	Dowley Chapters 12-13	Quiz 4
Oct 28		Dowley Chapters 14-15	Primary Source Lab #4 Report
Oct 31	Worship in the early Church		Quiz 5
Nov 4			Exam 1
Nov 14	Christianity Outside Europe	Dowley Chapter 16	Quiz 6
Nov 18		Dowley Chapter 17	Primary Source Lab #5 Report
Nov 21	The Making of European Christianity 1	Dowley Chapter 18	Quiz 7
Nov 25			Primary Source Lab #6 Report
Nov 28	The Making of European Christianity 2	Dowley Chapter 19	Quiz 8
Dec 2		Dowley Chapter 20	Primary Source Lab #7 Report
Dec 5	Roots of the Reformation and Colonial Christianity	Dowley Chapter 21	Theology of History Paper Quiz 9
Dec 9			Primary Source Lab #8 Report
Dec 12			Quiz 10
Dec 14-16 (Exam Week)			Final Exam

SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY

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

Gonzalez, Justo L. *The Story of Christianity, Vol. 1, The Early Church to the Dawn of the Reformation*. Revised and updated. New York: HarperCollins, 2010.

Moffett, Samuel. *History of Christianity in Asia: Volume 1, Beginnings to 1500*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 1998.

Walton, Robert. *Chronological and Background Charts of Church History*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2005.