

**Mennonite Brethren Biblical Seminary**  
**HISTORY OF CHRISTIANITY**

*Course No.:* HS-510 (3 units)  
*Semester:* Spring 2010 (January 25 – May 14)  
Mondays, 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.  
*Assignments:* [rempelwork@mbseminary.edu](mailto:rempelwork@mbseminary.edu)

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course is a study of the development of Christianity from apostolic times to the present.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

At the completion of the course students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate familiarity with the Church's history, confessions and heritage including key individuals and events in the development of Western Christianity.
2. Assess the significance of cultural context for interpreting Scripture within and across cultures.
3. Identify ways in which the institutional church has both shaped and been shaped by society.
4. Explain the way church leaders help form God's people for the sake of the worlds in which they live.
5. Reflect openness to learn from the Church's past, both its successes and failures, as it has attempted to be the people of God on earth.
6. Demonstrate basic skills in historical research and writing.

**RELATED DEGREE OBJECTIVES**

Within the larger curriculum goals of the Seminary, this course will facilitate growth in ability to:

1. Describe personal and denominational theological positions in dialogue with the values of Anabaptism and the rest of the Christian tradition.
2. Explain the central themes/doctrines of the Christian faith.
3. Describe the influence of the context on church leaders and the systematic nature of leadership issues.
4. Analyze contemporary issues using a biblical theological paradigm.
5. Describe the mission Dei view of church in dialogue with personal and denominational theology/history/sociology of church.
6. Describe the biblical, historical, and theological foundations of Christian worship.

**TEXTS FOR THE COURSE**

Required texts are recommended for purchase at Pacific Bookshop. Used copies are available via various internet websites. The texts will also be on reserve at Hiebert Library.

Bettenson, Henry, ed. Documents of the Christian Church. Oxford Univ. Press, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed., 1999.

Justo L. Gonzalez, The Story of Christianity. 2 volumes. Harper and Row, 1984.

Ruth A. Tucker and Walter Liefeld, Daughters of the Church. Academic Books, 1987.

### **NATURE OF THE COURSE**

Our goal is to survey nearly 2000 years of church history in order to become acquainted with critical events that have shaped the development of the Christian tradition and to reflect on their meaning for the life of the church. Because that is a rather daunting prospect for a one-semester course our study will be organized around a series of events and issues arising in church history. The two-volume text by Gonzalez will provide a framework on which we can build our study of particular individuals, events and theological developments, the Tucker and Liefeld book will serve as supplement to the Gonzalez texts, and Bettenson's collection of documents will provide an introduction to some of the primary source material. The course will rely on lectures, videos, discussions and written assignments to achieve its objectives.

### **REQUIREMENTS**

1. **Readings.** Students are expected to read the texts and other assigned materials in a timely fashion.
2. **Discussions.** Frequent discussion periods will be used to examine assigned topics and questions as they arise. Successful completion of the course will require participation and adequate preparation for the sessions by careful reading and consideration of the assigned texts.
3. **Class attendance.** Students are expected to attend class regularly. The use of videos, supplemental material given through lectures, and group discussions work together to make class attendance very important. Multiple absences will negatively impact your grade.
4. **Papers.** Each student will write two short papers, approximately 4-5 pages in length and double-spaced, using standard research form and documentation. Students will choose one person *and* one event, issue, or development from the attached "Person, Place or Thing" list. (Assignments will be made at the first class meeting.) Please note that the topic chosen will be *briefly* presented in class. Papers which are not ready for presentation on the assigned date will be marked down 5 percentage points. **Due dates:** 1<sup>st</sup> paper must be completed by **March 8** and presented by **March 22**. The 2<sup>nd</sup> paper must be completed by **April 26** and presented by **May 10**. **Please submit a hard copy of the paper by the appropriate due dates.**  
Papers should be focused as follows:

- Person** - Choose an individual from the attached list. Write a short paper addressing the following: (1) brief biography explaining who the person is, (2) why he or she is significant for the history of the church, and (3) how this person either represents the age or helped change the age in which he or she lived. Your bibliography for each paper should include 4-5 sources which may include textbooks, encyclopedias, journal articles, monographs and other material as appropriate but not more than two websites. Please, no handwritten papers.
  - Event, Issue or Development** - Write a brief exploration of a particular issue, development or event in the history of Christianity (see attached list). Your paper should explore the following: (1) what the issue or event is, (2) why it happened, and (3) what its significance is for the life of the Church. Again, your bibliography for each paper should include at least 4-5 sources which may include textbooks, encyclopedias, journal articles, monographs and other material as appropriate but not more than two websites. Please, no handwritten papers.
5. **Exams.** Two take-home exams will be given, one covering the ancient and medieval periods, and a final exam covering the reformation and modern periods. Exams will ask for essays on critical issues that arise out of your reading assignments. Good exams will require 10-15 pages of writing in order to produce thoughtful essays. Students will be expected to reflect on the assigned readings, information from lectures and videos, as well as their own understanding/reflection on movements and events. Independent work is expected. The first exam is due **Monday, March 22**.  
The second exam is due **Friday, May 14**. LATE EXAMS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

### **COURSE LOAD**

Course load is calculated on 135 hours for a 3-unit class.

Class time	= 42 hours (14 sessions @ 3 hours)
830 pages of Gonzalez	= 25 hours (35 pages/hour)
660 pages of Tucker/Liefeld, Bettenson	= 15 hours (45 pages/hour)
8-10 pages of research papers	= 25 hours (12-13 hours per paper)
Exams	= 28 hours (14 hours per exam)

### **GRADING**

A detailed statement of MBBS grading standards is printed in the current Academic Handbook and serves as the basis for all class evaluations. Plagiarism is unacceptable and work deemed as such will be given a failing grade. Papers and essay exams will be graded on clarity of thought, accuracy, comprehensiveness, and originality. Successful completion of the course requires all assignments to be completed. Percentage points will be deducted for late papers.

1 <sup>st</sup> paper	20%
mid-term exam	30%
2 <sup>nd</sup> paper	20%
final exam	30%
participation	-5 to +0%

## **POLICY NOTES**

**MBBS academic policies** are described at [www.mbseminary.edu/fresno/policies](http://www.mbseminary.edu/fresno/policies). These policies provide guidance on academic integrity and plagiarism, incomplete course work, extensions, dates for changing registration, non-discriminatory and inclusive language, appeals, etc. Students are expected to be familiar with these policies and will be held responsible for adhering to them. If you have questions about how these policies relate to you or to a situation that you face in your studies, please speak to the professor or consult the Registrar or Academic Dean.

**For this course:** Unless special arrangements are made, all assignments are due in hard copy format by the end of the business day in accordance with the course schedule, or at class time. As a courtesy to other students, late exams will not be accepted.

## COURSE SCHEDULE

### January 25

Introduction, The Church Dispersed

### February 1

Living in the Empire - Before and After Constantine

*read* Gonzalez: Vol. 1, Part I and II

*read* Tucker and Liefeld: ch. 1 and 2

*read* Bettenson: Part I, Section I, II, III, IV & VII

### February 8

Who is Jesus? - Council of Chalcedon

*read* Gonzalez: Vol. 1, Part III, ch. 26-27

*read* Tucker and Liefeld: ch. 3

*read* Bettenson: Part I, Section V and VI

### February 15

**PRESIDENT'S DAY HOLIDAY**

### February 22

Coronations and Christendom - Crowning Charlemagne

*read* Gonzalez: Vol. 1, Part III, ch. 28

*read* Bettenson: Part II, Section II

### March 1

Monasticism- From the Rule to Reform

*read* Gonzalez: Vol. 1, Part III, ch. 29-31

*read* Tucker and Liefeld: ch. 4

*read* Bettenson: Part II, Section III, IV & V

### March 8

The Great Schism - East is East and West is West

*read* Gonzalez: Vol. 1, Part III, ch. 32-34

*read* Bettenson: Part I, Section VIII, and Part II, Section I

**First person/place/thing PAPER DUE March 8**

**March 15-19 -- Intensive Week - No Class**

### March 22

Protestant Voices - Questioning the Church

*read* Gonzalez: Vol. 2, Part 1, ch. 1-3

*read* Bettenson: Part II, Section VIII

**Hard copy of MIDTERM EXAM DUE in class, March 22**

### March 29

Protestant Voices: Instituting Change

*read* Gonzalez: Vol. 2, Part 1, ch. 4-7

*read* Tucker and Liefeld: ch. 5

### April 5

The Rights of the Crown Embraced (Great Britain) and Rejected (the Anabaptists)

*read* Gonzalez: Vol. 2, Part 1, ch. 8-11

*read* Tucker and Liefeld: ch. 6

*read* Bettenson: Part II, Section IX

### April 12

Catholic Reform and the Missionary Impulse - The Jesuits go forth

*read* Gonzalez: Vol. 1, Part IV;

Vol. 2, Part 1, ch. 12-13

*read* Bettenson:

White - Part II, Section XI (#I, II, III)

Blue - Part II, Section X (#I, II, III)

### April 19

**Professor's Absence, No Class**

### April 26

Other Voices -Pietists in Particular

*read* Gonzalez: Vol. 2, Part II

*read* Tucker and Liefeld: ch. 7

*read* Bettenson: White - Part II, Section X

Blue Section XI (#IV, V, IX, XII) Section

XII (#II)

**Second person/place/thing PAPER DUE April 26**

### May 3

Discontents and Revolutionaries - Reason and Revolution

*read* Gonzalez: Vol. 2, Part III

*read* Tucker and Liefeld: ch. 8-9

*read* Bettenson: White - Part II, Section XII

Blue - Part II, Section XI (#1, II, III, VI, VII, VIII, X, XI, XIII)

### May 10

Protestants Answer the Great Commission

*read* Gonzalez: Vol. 2, Part IV

*read* Tucker and Liefeld: ch. 10 & Conclusion, p.435.

*read* Bettenson: White - Part II, Section XIV

Blue - Part II, Section XVI (#I, IV, V)

**Hard copy of FINAL EXAM DUE**

**May 14, 5:00 p.m.**

## THE PERSON, PLACE OR THING LIST

### January 25

Person: Eusebius  
Tertullian  
Origen  
Justin Martyr  
Place or Thing: Gnosticism  
Manichaesism  
Fall of Jerusalem  
Early Christian Worship & Calendar

### February 1

Person: Constantine  
Perpetua  
Ambrose of Milan  
Place or Thing: Early Christian Art & Architecture  
Donatism  
Monastic beginnings/Asceticism

### February 8

Person: Jerome  
Place or Thing: Rome  
Constantinople  
Monophysitism  
Coptic Church

### February 22

Person: St. Boniface  
Bernard of Clairveux  
Francis of Assisi  
The Poor Clares  
Place or Thing: Medieval Monastic life  
Celtic Christianity  
Rise of the University

### March 1

Person: Julian of Norwich  
Catherine of Sienna  
Anselm  
Place or Thing: Gothic Architecture  
Iconoclastic Controversy  
Scholasticism  
Orthodox Church in Eastern Europe/Russia  
Art in the Middle Ages

### March 8

Person: Erasmus  
Jan Hus  
Place or Thing: The Renaissance  
Printing Press

### March 15-19 - Module Week

### March 22

Person: Jacobus Arminius  
Katerine von Bora Luther  
William Tyndale  
Place or Thing: Bible Translation  
Canon Law vs Civil law

### March 29

Person: Menno Simons  
Thomas Cranmer  
Place or Thing: Muenster  
Schleitheim Confession  
Book of Common Prayer

### April 5

Person: Teresa of Avila  
Ignatius of Loyola  
Frances Xavier  
Place or Thing: Council of Trent  
The Baroque Style

### April 12

Person: George Fox and Quakers  
Count von Zinzendorf  
George Whitefield  
Selina, Countess of Huntingdon  
Place or Thing: University of Halle  
Sunday School Movement  
The Great Awakening  
Church Music-Hymnody

### April 19      New Pastor's Orientation – No Class

### April 26

Person: Jonathan Edwards  
Blaise Pascal  
Rene Descartes  
Friedrich Schleiermacher  
Pope Pius IX  
Samuel Adjai Crowther  
Place or Thing: Deism  
Abolition of Slavery  
Unitarianism

### May 3

Person: Catherine Booth  
Phoebe Palmer  
Lottie Moon  
Cardinal Newman  
William Carey  
Place or Thing: Oxford Movement  
Social Gospel Movement  
Society for the Propagation of the Gospel (SPG) & the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge (SPCK)

### May 10

Person: Bishop Tutu of Africa  
Albert Schweitzer  
Martin Luther King, Jr.  
Helder Camara  
Mother Teresa  
Rosemary Radford Ruether  
Place or Thing: African Independent Church Mov't  
Liberation Theology  
World Council of Churches

## SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY

### ATLASES

Anderson, Charles S.

Augsburg historical atlas of Christianity in the Middle Ages, and Reformation.

Jedin, Hubert, 1900-1980

Atlas zur Kirchengeschichte : die christlichen Kirchen in Geschichte und Gegenwart ; Kommentare Ausführliches Regis..., 1987.

Littell, Franklin Hamlin

The Macmillan atlas history of Christianity / by Franklin H. Littell ; cartography by E. Hausman, 1976.

### REFERENCE AND OTHER RESOURCES

Douglas, J. D.

The concise dictionary of the Christian tradition: doctrine, liturgy, history, 1989.

Guitton, Jean

Great heresies and church councils, 1965.

Moyer, Elgin Sylvester

Great leaders of the Christian church, 1951.

Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church, 1997.

Schaff, Philip

History of the Christian church, 1952.

### GENERAL HISTORIES

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Barraclough, Geoffrey

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The Impact of the church upon its culture : reappraisals of the history of Christianity, 1968.

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A history of Christianity, 1975.

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A history of the Christian church, 1959.

### ANCIENT

Ayer, Joseph Cullen

A source book for ancient church history : from the Apostolic age to the close of the Conciliar period, 1941.

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The apostolic age : its life, doctrine, worship and policy, 1923.

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The fall of Jerusalem and the Christian church; a study of the effects of the Jewish overthrow of A.D. 70 on..., 1957.

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Esebius, of Caesarea, Bishop of Caesarea

The ecclesiastical history, 1926.

Grant, Robert McQueen

Augustus to Constantine; the thrust of the Christian movement into the Roman world, 1970.

### MIDDLE AGES

Bainton, Roland Herbert

Early and medieval Christianity, 1962.

Beck, Hans Georg

From the high Middle Ages to the eve of the Reformation, 1970.

Brown, Peter Robert Lamont

The rise of Western Christendom : triumph and diversity, 200-1000 A.D, 1996.

Frank, Isnard Wilhelm.

Kirchengeschichte des Mittelalters, 1995.  
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The age of reform (1250-1550) : an intellectual and religious history of late medieval and Reformation Europe..., 1980.

Southern, R. W. (Richard William)  
The making of the Middle Ages, 1953.

Swanson, R. N. (Robert Norman)  
Religion and devotion in Europe, c.1215-c.1515, 1995

Vauchez, Andre  
The laity in the Middle Ages : religious beliefs and devotional practices, 1993.

### **MISSIONS**

Foster, John  
After the apostles; missionary preaching of the first three centuries, 1951.

Latourette, Kenneth Scott  
A history of the expansion of Christianity, 1937.

World Student Christian Federation  
History's lessons for tomorrow's mission: milestones in the history of missionary thinking, 1960.

Seebach, Margaret Rebecca  
Missionary milestones, a study of the reformation in its influence on civil and religious liberty and home mission...

### **REFORMATION**

The Reformation : change and stability/  
edited with an intro. by Peter J. Klassen, 1980.

Aland, Kurt  
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### **MODERN**

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