

Medieval and Reformation Church History

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Spring 2022

COURSE OVERVIEW: The transition from the establishment of the early church to the church of the medieval period: the barbarian influx leading to feudalism, the shift of the Roman empire to Byzantium, and the rise of the Holy Roman Empire; scholasticism, crusades, and the broadening world of knowledge leading to the renaissance; growing heresies and champions who resisted them. Luther the man and the leader of the Reformation; Calvin the man and organizer of the Reformation; the spread of the Reformation and the ecclesiastical and political tumult following the Reformation in Europe through the 30 Years War.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. To learn the medieval dynamics and the principal churchmen of that period who shaped the institutional church (East and West) leading to the Reformation period and beyond.
2. To understand various heresies and aberrations that threatened the church in this period, along with biblical antidotes and their orthodox champions.
3. To learn the biographical outlines of the major Reformers, the issues at stake in their time, and the providences that brought them success in God's time.

COURSE OUTCOMES

1. To be able to trace the spiritual decline of the Christian Church through the middle ages in the face of pockets of evangelical perseverance.
2. To be able to defend the Protestant Reformation and the ongoing need for *Ecclesia reformata semper reformanda*.

READING ASSIGNMENTS:

1. Justo Gonzalez, *The Story of Christianity*, Revised Ed.
By Exam 2 read Vol. 1, Chpts. 28d–38 (pp. 309-494)
By Exam 3 read Vol. 2, Chpts. 1-14 (1-165)

(Alternative to Gonzalez: Earle E. Cairns, *Christianity Through the Centuries: A History of the Christian Church*, Chpt. 16-31)

- 2) H. Bettenson, ed. *Documents of the Christian Church*
By Exam 1 read Part II: Sct. 2 and Sct. 3.2–6.3
By Exam 2 read Part II: Sct. 7.1–8.1
By Exam 3 read Part II: Sct. 8.2–9.2
- 3) EITHER your choice of 1) any ten Books in Merle d'Aubigne's *History of the Reformation*,
OR 2) Twenty hours of primary source reading from this period. See the authors suggested under the next "Written Assignments" section. Consider reading Kempis' *Imitation of Christ*, Luther's *Bondage of the Will*, Pascal's *Pensees*, Baxter's *The Reformed Pastor*.

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS:

- 1) A three page REVIEW on EITHER 1) the value of d'Aubigne's *History*... OR else 2) the primary source reading that you chose.
- 2) A four page BIOGRAPHICAL PAPER on the character of your choice from Medieval church history.
MEDIEVAL Suggestions: Thomas a Kempis, Pascal, Anselm, Abelard, Savanarola, Wycliffe, Lombard, Aquinas, William of Occam, Erasmus, Huss
- 3) A four page BIOGRAPHICAL PAPER on the character of your choice from Reformation church history.
REFORMATION Suggestions: Luther, Melanchthon, Calvin, Zwingli, Turretin, Arminius, Knox, Rutherford, Melville, Beza, Owen, Loyola, Baxter, Bunyon, Boston

EXAMS: (Exams 1 & 2 might be take-home tests, depending on progress in the class discussion).

Dates Exam 1 — due Feb. 24 (beginning till ca. 1000)
Exam 2 — due March 24 (approx. 1000-1521)
Final — May 12 (approx. 1521 till the end of the notes)

GRADING: Exams: 60% Papers: 20% Readings: 15% Attendance: 5%