

THE CHURCH TO THE MODERN ERA SYLLABUS

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

“A study of Christianity from the second century to the rise of the Enlightenment with special emphasis on the institutional history of the church as well as theological developments in the church.” (DTS Catalogue).

II. COURSE OBJECTIVES AND RATIONALE

- A. The student will know generally the history of the Christian church and the writings of leading Christian thinkers to the Modern Era.
- B. The student will understand the various ecclesiastical traditions of the church through studying their doctrines and practices.
- C. The student will reflect upon his or her understanding of theology through the lens of doctrinal formulation and development through the centuries.
- D. The student will analyze the validity of theological perspectives by studying the thought of various historical figures and their movements.
- E. The student will synthesize the historical development of various trends in theology such as the growth of individualism or the emergence of a specific church tradition, practice, polity, or movement.
- F. The student will perceive the value of historical studies and gain insight for his or her ministry.

III. COURSE TEXTBOOKS

A. Required

Barth, Karl. *The Humanity of God*. Louisville: John Knox Press, 1996.

Hannah, John D. *Invitation to Church History: World*. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2018.

Primary Text Readings Packet [Available as pdf in the course files]. The packet will consist of selections from key works (or in some cases, entire texts) written over the course of the history of the church.

IV. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. Course Format

This course is offered in a combination of lecture and seminar discussion. Please see the course schedule for topics and assignments.

B. Reading Assignments

1. **General Reading (50%):** The student should read the required texts in their entirety. As most of the course reading will be the basis for discussion in class sessions, reading according to the schedule is required. The student will report the percentage of completed reading to the professor via Canvas by **18 December**.

C. Written Assignment

Interactive Summary Papers (30%): Based on the primary text readings packet, each student will write a one-to-two- page, single-spaced summary of and interaction with the reading for each primary text discussion session. These interactive summaries will serve as the basis for class discussion. The papers will not only provide a one-paragraph summary of the basic thesis, argument, and content of the work, but will also include a few

paragraphs that focus on critical ideas and issues related to the theology of the church. The student will turn in groups of these summaries four times over the course of the semester—at the conclusion of each “era.” **Due, via Canvas: 9/15 (Patristic), 10/6 (Medieval), 11/3 (Reformation), and 12/8 (Modern).**

D. Quizzes and/or Exams

Final Exam (20%): One objective final exam will be given at the end of the semester covering major figures, themes, events, dates, and developments in the Patristic, Medieval, Reformation, and Modern eras. This exam will consist of a variety of multiple choice, matching, brief answer, and true/false questions. It will be a closed-book, closed-note type of exam. A study guide will be provided online. The final exam will be available via Canvas during Finals Week and must be completed during the week of **12–18 December**.

V. COURSE POLICIES

A. Weight Given to Course Requirements for Grading

| | |
|-----------------------|------------|
| General Reading | 50% |
| Interactive Summaries | 30% |
| Final Exam | <u>20%</u> |
| | 100% |

B. Class Participation

Class sessions are intended to include the interaction of class members. The student is encouraged to participate in class and group discussions for her or his own learning and enrichment. All comments or questions should be collegial, polite, and respectful.

C. Late Assignments

No late papers will be accepted except in the rare case of an emergency. Reading should be completed prior to class on the date it is listed in the course schedule. Without a valid excuse, late homework may lose five points per day of classes.

D. Plagiarism

Take note that *plagiarism* (copying from Internet, articles, or books) or any form of deception or cheating is strictly prohibited and can be grounds for expulsion from the Seminary. All sources should be fully documented and quotation marks used when appropriate. See *www.plagiarism.org for current issues in plagiarism*. Ignorance of guidelines is not a defense against charges of plagiarism. Please be aware that the Seminary has enabled Turnitin software via Canvas in order to detect possible instances of plagiarism.

E. Use of Electronics

To promote class participation and to avoid distraction, the use of electronic equipment—including cell phones, audio or video players, recording devices (except for recording lectures for personal use only), or internet browsing and text messaging—is prohibited during class. Students may use laptop computers only for taking notes during lectures. Exceptions to this prohibition must be approved by the professor in advance.

F. Absences

Penalties for non-attendance will be assigned according to the *Student Handbook*.

G. Letter/Numerical Grade Scale

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|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|
| | B+ 91-93 | C+ 83-85 | D+ 75-77 | F 0-69 |
| A 96-100 | B 88-90 | C 80-82 | D 72-74 | |
| A- 94-95 | B- 86-87 | C- 78-79 | D- 70-71 | |

VI. COURSE SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

1. The professor is indebted to Dr. Michael J. Svigel for some of the course material. Course lecture notes (Powerpoint slides) will be made available on online.dts.edu.
2. DTS does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the operation of any of its programs and activities. To avoid discrimination the student is responsible for informing the Coordinator of Services for Students with Disabilities and the course instructor of any disabling condition that will require modifications.

VII. COURSE SCHEDULE

The following schedule indicates the topics covered during each class session, the lessons from the course notes related to the topics, the required reading for that day of class, and any written assignments due. Note: The professor reserves the right to make modifications to the schedule.

| Week | Date(s) | Topic | Assignments Due |
|------|---------|--|--|
| 1 | 8/25 | Introduction to the Course Patristic Period Introduction | |
| 2 | 9/1 | Primary Text Reading Discussion 1 (Patristic) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Didache</i> • <i>Demonstration of the Apostolic Preaching</i> (Irenaeus) | Secondary Reading: Hannah, Patristic Section |
| 3 | 9/8 | Primary Text Reading Discussion 2 (Patristic) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>On the Incarnation</i> (Athanasius) | |
| 4 | 9/15 | Primary Text Reading Discussion 3 (Patristic) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Against the Pelagians</i> (Augustine) | DUE: Patristic Summaries |
| 5 | 9/22 | Medieval Period Introduction | Secondary Reading: Hannah, Medieval Section |
| 6 | 9/29 | Primary Text Reading Discussion 4 (Medieval) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Cur Deus Homo</i> (Anselm) | |
| 7 | 10/6 | Primary Text Reading Discussion 5 (Medieval) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Summa Theologica</i> (Aquinas) | DUE: Medieval Summaries |
| 8 | 10/13 | Reformation Period Introduction | |
| 9 | 10/20 | Primary Text Reading Discussion 6 (Reformation) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Babylonian Captivity</i> (Luther) | Secondary Reading: Hannah, Reformation Section |
| 10 | 10/27 | Primary Text Reading Discussion 7 (Reformation) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Institutes of the Christian Religion</i> (Calvin) | |
| 11 | 11/3 | Primary Text Reading Discussion 8 (Reformation) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Journal</i> (John Wesley) | DUE: Reformation Summaries |
| 12 | 11/10 | Modern Period Introduction | Secondary Reading: Hannah, Modern Section |
| 13 | 11/17 | NO CLASS—READING WEEK | |
| 14 | 11/24 | NO CLASS—THANKSGIVING BREAK | |
| 15 | 12/1 | Primary Text Reading Discussion 9 (Modern) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Selections</i> (Schleiermacher) | |
| 16 | 12/8 | Primary Text Reading Discussion 10 (Modern) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Evangelical Theology in the 19th Century” & “The Humanity of God” in | DUE: Modern Summaries |

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|--|----------|------------------------------------|---|
| | | <i>The Humanity of God</i> (Barth) | |
| | 12/14-18 | FINALS WEEK | DUE: Attendance Report, Reading Report, Final Exam |