

## CH 502 Semlink: The Church since the Reformation

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Credit Hours: 3

This course occurs completely online with no scheduled classroom time. This course follows a weekly schedule that runs for 14 Weeks from Monday, May 20 – Monday, August 26, 2019. A week in this course begins on Tuesday and ends on Monday. You will have required activities due on certain days each week.

### Course Information

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#### Office Hours

Your instructor is available for email correspondence. If you have a question about the course, please contact your instructor via email.

#### Technical Support

Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary offers technical support during regular business hours. If you have a technical issue with your course, please email [servicedesk@gordonconwell.edu](mailto:servicedesk@gordonconwell.edu).

#### Course Description

A general survey of the history of the Christian church from the beginnings of the Protestant Reformation in the sixteenth century to the present time. Designed to fulfill one of the two Church History requirements for the Master of Divinity and other master's programs.

#### Gordon-Conwell Mission

This course satisfies the following institutional learning objectives:

- **Article 2:** To maintain academic excellence in the highest tradition of Christian scholarship in the teaching of the biblical, historical and theological disciplines.
- **Article 3:** To train and encourage students, in cooperation with the Church, to become skilled in ministry.
- **Article 5:** To provide leadership and educational resources for shaping an effective evangelical presence in Church and society.
- **Article 6:** To develop in students a vision for God's redemptive work throughout the world and to formulate the strategies that will lead to effective missions, evangelism and discipleship.

#### Course Learning Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

1. Identify and describe the key persons, places, movements and doctrines of significance to the Christian church from the Reformation to the present.
2. Explain the historical and theological developments of the period, and relate those to contemporary issues in the church.
3. Demonstrate ability to communicate in a scholarly context via written assignments.
4. Consider how reflection on course content has caused them to grow spiritually in the contexts of their relationships, local church service and personal devotion.
5. Understand and appreciate the rich heritage of the Church's global history in order to be able to interact more biblically and effectively in our contemporary world.

## Weekly Lessons

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Over 14 weeks, you will cover the following topics and lessons:

- Getting Started: Introduction to the Study of Church History
- **Module 1: The Protestant Reformation and the Roman Catholic Response**
  - Week 1: The Protestant Reformation, Part 1
  - Week 2: The Protestant Reformation, Part 2
  - Week 3: The Protestant Reformation, Part 3
- **Module 2: Movements of Spiritual Renewal**
  - Week 4: Movements of Spiritual Renewal, Part 1 (17<sup>th</sup> Century)
  - Week 5: Movements of Spiritual Renewal, Part 2 (18<sup>th</sup> Century)
  - Week 6: Movements of Spiritual Renewal, Part 3 (19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries)
- Week 7: Conference and Exam Week 1
- **Module 3: The Rise of Global Christianity**
  - Week 8: The Protestant Missionary Movement
  - Week 9: The Emergence of the Global South
- **Module 4: The Emergence of the Protestant Missionary Movement and Rise of Global Christianity**
  - Week 10: The Fundamentalist and Modernist Controversy in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century
  - Week 11: Fresh Winds of Renewal
- **Module 5: The Challenge of Ministry in a New Millennium**
  - Weeks 12-13: Ministry in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century
- Week 14: Conference and Exam Week 2

## Required Materials

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Before enrolling in this course, you must ensure that you have regular access to the required materials you will use in this course.

### Textbooks

Links to catalog items are provided. E-book editions may be available in GCTS collections, so check the library catalog item to see if electronic resources are available.

- Justo L. González, *The Story of Christianity, vol. II: The Reformation to the Present Day, Revised and Updated*(New York: HarperOne 2010), ISBN 978-0-06-185589-4; 532 pages. <https://gordonconwell.on.worldcat.org/oclc/691293870>
- Sunquist, Scott W. *The Unexpected Christian Century: The Reversal and Transformation of Global Christianity, 1900-2000*(Grand Rapids, MI: Baker 2015), ISBN 978-0801097461; 241 pages. <https://gordonconwell.on.worldcat.org/oclc/904576286>

## Technology

### Computer and Internet Connection

You will need regular access to a computer with high-speed internet and capable of downloading files and streaming multimedia presentations.

### Software

You will need Microsoft Word or a comparable word processor installed on your computer.

## Required Activities

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To demonstrate achievement of course objectives, you will participate in various required activities. Specific due dates can be found in the Assignments tool in your course site.

### Listen to Lectures

Unless otherwise noted, you will begin each lesson by listening to assigned lectures.

### Read Required Texts

You are required to read a total of 2,000 pages for this course, including a careful reading of the two required textbooks. The remaining pages of reading (to make up the full 2,000 pages required for the course) can include the materials that are used for the research paper and/or additional reading from the Recommended Reading document (see the Files section of your course site) or more general reading in related areas of the student's choosing. Viewing of recommended videos can be included as part of the "reading requirement" (with 5 minutes of viewing equivalent to one page of reading). No credit is given for skimming.

Grading of the reading will be as follows:

Letter Grade	Percentage Required	Letter Grade	Percentage Required
A	100	C	70-74%
A-	95-99%	C-	65-69%
B+	90-94%	D+	60-64%
B	85-89%	D	55-59%
B-	80-84%	D-	50-54%
C+	75-79%	F	Below 50%

In order to complete 2,000 pages of reading (or equivalency), it is necessary to read an average of 143 pages per week. Your reading will not be tracked week to week. You will be asked to submit a Reading Report by the end of Week 14.

## **Contribute to Discussions**

You will participate in five Discussion forums through the course. Your posts to these Discussions should demonstrate understanding of and critical engagement with lesson material. For each discussion, you will be required to post an initial response to the key question and a response to a fellow student's post. It is recommended to continue responding and interacting with your fellow students beyond the required posts to further enhance your learning and experience. You will be expected to post about 500 words for each Discussion and a response of 150 words to at least one other student's post. (Additional comments and responses can be any length.) Your participation in the Discussions will be graded according to the Discussions Rubric (see the Assignment instructions in your course site).

These are the key questions you will respond to in each Module's Discussion:

- Module 1: What Is the Church's Primary Authority?
- Module 2: What Is Spiritual Renewal?
- Module 3: What Is the Primary Mission of the Church?
- Module 4: How Should Christianity Relate to Culture?
- Module 5: How Can the Church Be Faithful to Both Purity and Unity?

## **Participate in Two Live Conferences Online**

You will be required to attend two live online conferences in which you will connect with your fellow students and instructor.

- Conference One will occur in Week 7.
- Conference Two will occur in Week 14.

## **Take Two Exams**

Two exams will be given during this course:

- Midterm Exam: An essay exam covering the readings and class lectures from Weeks 1-6. This exam will be taken during Week 7.
- Final Exam: An essay exam covering the readings and class lectures from Weeks 8-13. This exam will be taken during Week 14.

### **Preparation for the examination:**

Many students have found that the most effective way of preparing for the examinations is to focus their study around the major themes, issues and personalities raised by the instructor in the lectures. While students are encouraged to draw upon the required and recommended readings, their study in other courses and the research they are doing for their research paper, the essay

questions in both the midterm and the final exams (for the most part) will invite them to engage the themes, issues and personalities they have encountered in the lectures.

### **Note on the Exams:**

Students will be asked to write a total of three essays for each of the exams (selecting one question of two possibilities in three categories). No books (other than an unmarked Bible and/or dictionary) may be used during the exams. Students may take up to three hours to write the exam.

### **Grading of the exams:**

Your examinations will be evaluated on the basis of three primary criteria: (1) the depth and accuracy of your historical knowledge; (2) the quality, clarity and organization of the analysis/argument you present and (3) the level of professional skill, creativity and pastoral sensitivity reflected in the way you apply your historical insights to the practice of ministry.

## **Write a Reflection Paper**

You are required to complete a reflection paper on the Sunquist book, which will be due at the end of Week 9.

The paper should be 4-6 pages in length. A successful paper will include three sections:

- **Summary** (1.5-3 pages): a brief overview of the content and basic argument of the book
- **Critical Engagement** (1.5-3 pages): a discussion of at least three key insights (either positive or negative) that you gained from reading the book.
- **Application** (1 page): please take the most significant insight gained from the book from your “critical engagement” section and apply it to your current or potential future ministry/vocational context. For this final page:
  - An example of a question to answer might be: how might this key insight change how your congregation engages with your local community?
  - Engage critically and creatively with both the text and your local context.

## **Write a Research Paper**

You are required to write one 12-15 page research paper, which will be due at the end of Week 14. Completed papers should be typed and in correct form (for example, double-spaced, using twelve-point font, footnoted where appropriate, with a bibliography of all sources used for the study, etc.). Those who have not had much experience in writing research papers may want to consult a reliable style manual like Kate L. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations, 6th edition* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1996). Any recognized style is acceptable to the instructor so long as it is used consistently throughout the paper.

### **Selection of topic:**

You are free to select, research and present whatever topic you wish to explore provided:

1. The topic is basically historical in nature;

2. The topic falls within the period between approximately AD 1500 and the present;
3. The written presentation conforms to one of the recognized manuals of style.

You do not need the instructor's approval for your choice of topic.

### **The task of research:**

An important part of writing a research paper is the task of locating and selecting the sources you want to use. This will probably involve several hours of hard work in an archive, the library, and/or on the web. Don't expect others to do this work for you—this is part of your assignment. Ideas for paper topics can be found in the textbook as well as the class lectures. Specific issues of *Christian History* magazine, available in the Gordon-Conwell library or at the Christian History Institute website (<https://www.christianhistorymagazine.org>), are also helpful in selecting topics and locating resources.

### **Grading the papers:**

Your papers will be graded according to the Research Papers Rubric (see the Assignment instructions in your course site).

Your research papers will be evaluated on the basis of three primary criteria:

1. The depth of the research in both primary and secondary materials
2. The quality of the analysis/argument you present
3. The clarity, accuracy and beauty of the writing

Attention to these matters will not only help you on this paper assignment but it will also aid you in developing the kinds of skills you will be using in those various ministries to which God has called each one of you.

## **Conduct an “Oral History” Interview**

As a way of helping you to connect your study of Church History with the practice of ministry, we are asking that you select one individual who is currently engaged in ministry for an "Oral History" Interview. This interview will be due at the end of Week 14. This interview should be recorded and submitted as an mp3 (no editing necessary) with the rest of your concluding work.

Prior to asking questions, you will need briefly to identify yourself, introduce the person you are interviewing and note the date, time and location of the interview. While you are encouraged to ask questions of your own, the interview should include the following questions:

1. When did you first sense that God was calling you into ministry and what role, if any, did those around you (family, mentors, friends, etc.) play in your positive response to that call?
2. What have been some of your greatest satisfactions in ministry?
3. What have been some of your greatest disappointments in ministry?
4. What resources have you found most helpful in nourishing your own spiritual life?
5. What period of Church History, in your estimation, most resembles our own?

6. What role, if any, have the people, events and issues of Christian history played in shaping your ministry?
7. If you had the opportunity to speak to a group of seminary students, what would you want them to know about ministry?
8. What role, if any, do you think the church should play in spreading the Gospel and in addressing the needs of the larger community?
9. What in your estimation are the major issues facing the Christian community today?
10. What makes you most hopeful about the future of the Christian church?

Please remember that you need to record the interview, so make sure you find a place where the resulting recording will be audible.

## Grading

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Your assignments are categorized and weighted for grading as follows:

Course Assignment	% of grade
Reading Report	10%
Participation in Discussions and Conferences	15%
Midterm Exam	20%
Final Exam	20%
Reflection Paper	10%
Research Paper	20%
"Oral History" Interview	5%

You must follow the criteria detailed above and in the Assignment Instructions posted on your course site. Grading will be based on your work's alignment with the performance criteria in the Assignment Instructions. You must also submit work by the "due by" dates listed in the Course Summary on the Syllabus tool of the course site.

Any work submitted after these "due by" dates will be penalized as follows: Forum posts will lose 1 point (of 3 possible) per day late; Comments on forum posts will lose 1 point (of 2 possible) per day late; Reflection Papers and the "Oral History" Interview will lose 1 point (of 5 possible) per day late; Research Paper and Exams will receive a deduction of 1/3 grade level per day (i.e. A to A-, A- to B+, etc.)

Grading Scale (point values and definitions of letter grades can be found in the "Grading Scale" section of the Gordon-Conwell Student Handbook):

A=4.0; A-=3.7; B+=3.3; B=3.0; B-=2.7; C+=2.3; C=2.0; C-=1.7; D+=1.3; D=1.0; D-=0.7; F=0.0

"A" means "conspicuous excellence;" "B" means "exceeding the minimum;" "C" means "satisfactory" work; "D" means "passing" but "unsatisfactory;" and "F" means "course has been failed."

## Course Policies

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### Instructor Feedback

Your instructor will reply to email within 1-2 business days. He or she will give feedback on assignments within one week of submission and post grades and any additional comments in the Grades tool within two weeks of submission.

### Writing Standards and Submitting Written Assignments

Papers must be double-spaced with 1" margins (side margins as well as top and bottom margins of each page), using Times New Roman or Arial 12-point font. Do not exceed page limits. Sources must be properly documented using notes and bibliography. Citations should be professionally formatted, meaning that it should adhere to either Turabian or APA style. Written assignments should be submitted as a Word or PDF file.

### Violations of Academic Integrity

The seminary considers all breaches of personal and academic integrity to be serious offenses. As such, the seminary has zero tolerance for such behaviors. Cheating involves, but is not limited to, the use of unauthorized sources of information during an examination. Duplication of course requirements involves the submission of the same (or substantially same) work for credit in two or more courses without the knowledge and consent of the instructor. Plagiarism involves the use of another person's distinctive ideas or words, whether published or unpublished, and representing them as one's own instead of giving proper credit to the source (taken from the *Hamilton Student Handbook 2018-2019* – please be sure you understand your campus's current Academic Integrity Policies).

### Discussion Posts

When quoting from or paraphrasing course readings, provide the author's name and page(s) in parentheses. If quoting from other sources, provide appropriate documentation. Similarly, when referring to a specific lecture, identify it using the title of the segment.

### Netiquette

Gordon-Conwell does not tolerate disruptive or disrespectful behavior in the online communications in any course. Students should review the netiquette policy in the Student Handbook and this website: <http://www.albion.com/netiquette>.

### Seminary Policies

You must be familiar with current seminary policies, which are in place for academic activities. Please refer to the Student Handbook for your home campus to familiarize yourself with policies pertinent to participating in academic activities at the seminary. Policies pertaining to this course would include those on Academic Integrity, Late Work and Accessibility, among others.