



Church History: The Second Millennium Short Syllabus

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Course Description:

Church History: The Second Millennium surveys the Christian Church from the time of the Crusades (1095) through the Reformation down to today's renewal movements. *Ecclesia reformata semper reformanda* ("The Church reformed must always reform itself") is a central theme. The course covers the Western Church at the height of its worldly power and the "great ideas" of Luther and Calvin. It examines the challenges posed by the Enlightenment, Darwinism and Postmodernism. Culture and theology dynamically interact across this broad overview. We join historians such as Kenneth Latourette in seeking for "the greatness of the power" (Ephesians 1:19) as the church sought to inform and/or transform the culture.

Required Texts:

These texts will be necessary for in-depth reading in order to fulfill the requirements in the course and, with the Lecture Notes, will be vital for doing well on the three quizzes.

Niebuhr, H. Richard, *The Social Sources of Denominationalism* (Cleveland and New York: Meridian Books, World Publishing Company, 1970).

Spickard, Paul R. and Kevin M. Cragg. *A Global History of Christians*. Grand Rapids. Baker Academic, 1994. ISBN 0-8010-2249-5.

Additional Required Text: One of the following texts is to be reviewed by the student and a 4-5 page summary written.

Boyer, Paul. *When Time Shall Be No More: Prophecy Belief in American Culture*. Harvard University Press.

McGrath, Alister, *Christianity's Dangerous Idea: The Protestant Revolution* (to page 196). HarperOne. ISBN 9780060822132.

Meacham, Jon. *American Gospel: God, the Founding Fathers, and the Making of a Nation*.
Moltmann, Jurgen. *Jesus Christ for Today's World*.
Nicolson, Adam. *God's Secretaries: The Making of the King James Bible*.
Obermann, Heiko. *A Scholastic Miscellany*. (Scholastic theology)
Pinn, Anne H. and Anthony B. Pinn, *Fortress Introduction to Black Church History*
Tucker, Ruth and Walter Liefeld. *Daughters of the Church* (chapters 4-11).
John Bunyan, *Grace Abounding* and Spener, Philip Jacob, *Pia Desideria*.

Student Learning Outcomes: Students will:

1. Become familiar with the key events and ideas of the Church's second millennium and have a clear understanding of the order in which the events took place.

Success for this outcome will be determined through three short answer/multiple choice quizzes.

2. See how the Holy Spirit led men and women to access the power of God amid so much outward turmoil and confusion.

Success for this outcome will be determined through a 4-5 page formal report on one of the books on the list of additional required texts.

3. Begin to think about how the Holy Spirit's work through history has shaped how we answer the question "Who is Jesus and what did His coming mean to people across time?"

Success for this outcome will be determined through a three-page reflection paper due after the class is finished.

Course Assignments

Quiz One: Covers Lectures 1-3; to be completed after Lecture 3.

Quiz Two: Covers Lectures 4-6; to be completed after Lecture 6.

Quiz Three: Covers Lectures 7-10; to be completed after Lecture 10.

Reflection Paper: Due in Week 11.

Book Report: Due in Week 12.

Weekly Topics

Course Assignments Chart

Lecture Topics	Assignment for Next Class
1. Introduction/The Early Middle Ages	Spickard and Cragg, pp. 67-101 Niebuhr, Chapter 1
2. The Road to the Reformation	S&G, pp. 146-169 Niebuhr, Chapter 2
3. Luther and Calvin's "Great Ideas"	S&G, pp. 171-190 Niebuhr, Chapter 3
4. Protestant Orthodoxy and the "isms"	S&G, pp. 232-238, 194-199 Niebuhr, Chapter 4
5. Anglicans, Puritans and American Roots	S&G, pp. 221-230, 190-194 Niebuhr, Chapter 5
6. Rationalism and Pietism	S&G, pp. 19-21, 238-243, 253-256 Niebuhr, Chapter 6
7. J. Edwards, John Wesley and the Great Awakenings	S&G, pp. 247-250, 259-271, 273-279, 343-348 Niebuhr, Chapter 7
8. "The Evangelical Century" (1800s)	S&G, pp. 280-307, 323-333 Niebuhr, Chapter 8
9. Twentieth Century Crucible	S&G, pp. 348-382 Niebuhr, Chapter 10
10. Towards Postmodernism and The World Church	S&G, pp. 383-424
Week 11	Reflection Paper Due
Week 12	Book Report Due