

# Grace Communion Seminary

## Course Description: Church History 1

Church History 1 is a survey of the events, people, and ideas of Christianity from Jesus' ascension to the Great Schism of 1054. The focus is on mastering the key dates and events of the period as well as introducing the student to the writings, thought and theology of key people from this period.

### Required Texts:

These texts will be necessary for in-depth reading in order to fulfill the requirements in the course.

Gonzalez, Justo. The Story of Christianity, Vol. 1. San Francisco, CA: HarperSanFrancisco, 1984. ISBN 0-06-063315-8

Athanasius of Alexandria. On the Incarnation. This text will be made available as a .pdf online so there is no need to buy the book unless you want to.

**Additional Required Text (One of the following texts is to be reviewed by the student and a three page summary written. They will be made available as .pdf files online so there is no need to buy them unless you want to.):**

Basil the Great. On the Holy Spirit.

Gregory of Nyssa. On the Soul and the Resurrection.

Gregory the Great. The Book of Pastoral Rule, Parts 2 and 3.

Ignatius of Antioch. The Epistles of Ignatius.

Irenaeus of Lyons. Against All Heresies, Book 3.

Justin Martyr. On the Resurrection, Fragments.

Patrick of Ireland. The Confession of St. Patrick.

Tertullian of Carthage. The Prescription Against Heretics.

### Recommended Texts:

These texts that are particularly useful for those who wish to expand their library and for use in research, but are not vital to passing this particular course.

Collins, Michael and Matthew A. Price. The Story of Christianity: 2000 Years of Faith. New York: DK Publishing, 1999.

Gurentzki, Stanley et al. Pocket Dictionary of Theological Terms. Downers Grove: IVP, 1999.

Livingstone, E. A., ed. The Concise Oxford Dictionary of The Christian Church. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1977, 1996.

Hacker, Diana. A Writer's Handbook. Boston, MA: Bedford Books, 1995.

McGrath, Alister E. The Christian Theology Reader. Oxford: Blackwell, 1995.

Noll, Mark A. Turning Points: Decisive Moments in the History of Christianity. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 1997, 2000.

**Student Learning Outcomes:** Students will:

1. Become familiar with the key events and ideas of the first one thousand years of Church History 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 key thinkers to preserve and deepen the Church’s answer to the question “Who is Jesus?”  
Success for this outcome will be determined through a three page summary of one of the early Christian 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?”  
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.  
 Book Summary: Due in Week 11.  
 Reflection Paper: Due in Week 12.

**Weekly Topics**

**Course Assignments Chart**

Lecture Topics	Assignment for Next Class
1. Why Study Church History?	Gonzalez, pp. 7-43
2. The Apostolic Fathers	Gonzalez, pp. 44-90
3. The Ante-Nicene Fathers, Part 1	Gonzalez, pp. 91-135
4. The Ante-Nicene Fathers, Part 2	Gonzalez, pp. 136-172
5. The Nicene and Chalcedon Creeds	Gonzalez, pp. 173-180; Athanasius, pp. 2-21
6. Athanasius and Constantine	Gonzalez, pp. 181-220
7. The Cappadocians and Eastern Orthodoxy	Gonzalez, pp. 231-265
8. Augustine and Roman Catholicism	Gonzalez, pp. 266-291
9. The Conversion of Europe	None
10. Schism and the Foundations of Reform	None
Week 11	Book Summary Due
Week 12	Reflection Paper Due