



Grace Communion Seminary

CH01 Church History 1: The First Millennium

Short Syllabus

Instructor: Jonathan Stepp, M.Div.

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 \$25.99

Jenson, Robert W. Canon and Creed. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2010. ISBN 978-0-664-23054-8. \$16.55

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.

Irenaeus of Lyon. Against Heresies, Book 3. 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 read by the student and a three page response 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.

Ignatius of Antioch. The Epistles of Ignatius.

Justin Martyr. On the Resurrection, Fragments.

Patrick of Ireland. The Confession of St. Patrick.

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.

Torrance, Thomas F. The Trinitarian Faith. Edinburgh: T&T Clark International, 2000.

Student Learning Objectives: Students will:

1. Identify the key events and ideas of the first one thousand years of Church History and give the order in which the events took place.

Success for this objective will be determined through four tests: three short answer/multiple choice quizzes and a final exam.

2. Explain how the Holy Spirit led key thinkers to preserve and deepen the Church's answer to the question "Who is Jesus?"

Success for this objective will be determined through a three page response to one of the early Christian books on the list of additional required texts and a three page response to Against Heresies, Book 3.

3. Analyze how the Holy Spirit's work through history has shaped how we answer the question "Who is Jesus?"

Success for this objective will be determined through a seven (7) page research paper due at the end of the class. The student may choose any topic, event, or person from the First Millennium of Church History on which to do additional research.

Success for this objective will also be determined through an Online Discussion Forum. Students will be expected to post one question or topic

for discussion each week and post one response to another student's question or topic each week. Students will be graded on the extent to which their posts thoughtfully reflect on how specific people, ideas, and events that are being studied in the class reflect the Holy Spirit's work through history to shape how we answer the question "Who is Jesus?"

Success for this objective will also be determined through a three page paper that is a response to Canon and Creed.

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.

Final Exam: Covers Lectures 1-10; to be completed after Lecture 10.

Response Paper to Against Heresies, Book 3: Due in Week 5.

Two Other Book Response Papers: Due in Week 11.

Research Paper: Due in Week 12.

Participation in an Online Discussion Forum: Every week the student will post one question or topic for discussion and respond to one other student's post.

Weekly Topics and Course Assignments Chart

Lecture Topics	Assignment for Next Class
1. Why Study Church History?	Gonzalez, pp. 7-43 Participate in Online Discussion Forum every week.
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; Response Paper on <u>Against Heresies, Book 3</u>
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	Two Other Book Response Papers Due
Week 12	Research Paper Due

Assignments, estimated hours, and grade weighting

Assignment	Hours *	Percentage of grade
Reading the syllabus and lectures	12	0
Watching video and listening to audio	10	0
Reading discussions and making responses	15	10%
Taking quizzes	0.5	32%
Reading the textbooks	58	0
Studying for quizzes	1	0
Writing research papers	35	28%
Writing reaction or review papers	18	30%
Total – about 12 hours each week	149.5	100%

* Please note that this is a *rough* estimate. A student who reads quickly may be slow in writing papers, and vice versa. Some students will complete the course requirements in less total time, and some will take more time. These are estimates for the hypothetical “average” student.