



AMBROSE SEMINARY

CH501 - Christianity in History Syllabus

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Place: New Covenant Chinese Alliance Church

1490 Birchmount Road, Scarborough, ON M1P 2E3

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Course Description

This course is an overview of Christianity in history from the time of the early church to the present. It considers the development of Christian ideas and institutions within their corresponding social, cultural and political contexts. In the process we will encounter influential Christians and diverse traditions that have shaped and been shaped by the world around them.

Course Objectives

1. To gain an understanding of the historical, theological and sociological history of the church
2. To explore how our understanding of the history affects our approach to ministry
3. To be able to apply church history to ministry
4. To be able to evaluate find historical sources that can respond to contemporary issues

Class Schedule

- Course will start in mid-January.
- A book review will be required every 3 weeks. The student must be available for a 30 minute discussion after each book review is submitted

Textbooks and Pre-Course Reading

A. To be read before the class starts

Tomkins, Stephen. 2006. *A short history of Christianity*. Grand Rapids, Mich: William B.

- Eerdmans Pub. Co.
- B. To support class material
Dowley, Tim. 2002. *Introduction to the history of Christianity*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press.
- C. For Book Reviews
Jenkins, Philip. 2006. *The New Faces of Christianity : Believing the Bible in the Global South*. Oxford ; New York: Oxford University Press.
Marty, Martin E. 2007. *The Christian World : A Global History*. New York: Modern Library.
Noll, Mark A. 2000. *Turning points : decisive moments in the history of Christianity*. Grand Rapids, Mich: Baker Books.
- D. One of the Following
Moffett, Samuel H. 1992. *A History of Christianity in Asia*. [San Francisco, Calif]: HarperSanFrancisco.
Bediako, Kwame. 1995. *Christianity in Africa : The Renewal of a Non-Western Religion*. Edinburgh Maryknoll, N.Y: Edinburgh University Press Orbis Books.

Additional readings as recommended by the professor.

Course outline

- Introduction
- Growth & Conflict: Early Church (5 BCE - 313 CE)
 - Socio-Cultural Background
 - The New Testament Period
 - The Early Church
- Establishment: Christian Empire (313 - 590 CE)
- Institutionalization: Middle Ages (590 - 1517 CE)
 - Western Church
 - Eastern Church - Orthodoxy
 - African Church
 - Islam
 - Art and Architecture
 - Scholasticism
 - Mysticism
 - Asian Church
- Reformation, Radical Reformation & Counter-Reformation (1517 - 1648)
- Rationalism, Renewal, and Revival: Awakenings (1648 - 1914)
 - Enlightenment
 - Rationalism
 - Scientific Revolution
 - Awakenings
 - Missionary Movement
 - South American Church
- Contemporary Christianity (1914 – Today)
- Future Challenges

Different sections of this outline will be given different levels of attention. Some sections may be skipped entirely depending on the needs of the class.

Assignments

- A. Book Review (10% X 4 = 40%)
1. Read the four books in the book review list.
 2. Read the book carefully and take notes
 3. Write a brief review of the content of each book

4. Using the Dowley text for background write a critical evaluation of one of the book's main themes
 5. Discuss your report with the professor
- B. In-ministry Application and Course Presentation (15%)
1. Identify a particular historical character, theme or event
 2. Use that character, theme or event in a ministry context
 3. Have your presentation evaluated by someone present at that context (preferably a mentor or supervisor) using the evaluation form provided
 4. Give a short presentation explaining what you presented, the context you presented it in, and what you learned from the experience (your presentation will be cut off after your time is up)
 5. Prepare a two page paper evaluating your experiences
 6. Your mark will be based on your presentation and your paper
- C. Research Paper (35%)
1. Identify a particular historical theme (it must be a different theme than that chosen in Assignment B)
 2. Explore social, historical, and theological aspects of this theme
 3. Use at least 10 different sources (not including Internet sources)
 4. Explain how knowledge of this theme is applicable to contemporary ministry

Evaluation

Assignment	Value	Max. Size	Due Date
A. Book Review	40%	5 pages each	January 30, February 20, March 13, April 3
B. In-ministry Application	15%	2 pages	April 10
C. Research Paper	35%	12 pages	April 24
TOTAL	100%		

Submission/Return of Assignments

Students will submit completed assignments in hard copy form directly to the instructor at:

Mark Chapman
 423 Bernay Drive
 Waterloo, ON N2T 2X8

Students are responsible to retain both a disk backup and a paper copy of all their assignments in addition to the copies sent to the instructor. Mail can be unpredictable. Backup copies protect all parties. Students must provide a self-addressed, stamped envelope (of sufficient size and postage) to enable us to return the graded assignments. It is recommended that the student enclose this with their completed assignments when they are mailed to us.

Paper Format

Seminary papers are to follow the guidelines of a style manual. Examples include, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses and Dissertations*, by Kate L. Turabian (6th edition) and/or *The Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (Fourth edition). The instructor will indicate where these guidelines may be waived or substituted. Students will identify, on the first or cover page of all assignments, the course name, the instructor's name and their own name (student ID numbers are optional).

Please note: Papers should be double-spaced with regular spacing between paragraphs, using 12 point text only (titles and headings may be larger). One inch margins should be used on all four edges.

If you have not yet done so I strongly recommend that you take our free seminar: *Researching and Writing Academic Papers*.

Other Important Notes

Registration

Registration and payment in full is due for this modular class by 7pm on the first day of class, (Feb. 19, 2009).

Students may withdraw from this modular class and receive a full refund prior to the second class session (i.e., before 7 pm on Friday, Feb. 20, 2009). No tuition refund will be issued after this deadline. Students may voluntarily withdraw or change their registration from credit to audit, without academic penalty, only prior to completing 70% of the course (i.e., before 7pm on Friday, March 7, 2009). Students who withdraw from a course after this deadline will receive a grade of “F”.

All registration changes must be made through the Registrar’s Office by completing a Registration Revision Form.

Policy on extensions:

All coursework requirements and due dates are clearly stated in the course syllabus. Coursework submitted after the due date, without prior approval by the Registrar and Academic Dean of a formal “Request for an Extension to Coursework” will receive a grade of “F”. Requests for an extension will be considered only in the following circumstances:

- The quality of prior coursework has been satisfactory; AND
- Circumstances beyond the student’s control, such as an extended illness or death of a family member, make it impossible for the student to complete the coursework on time; AND
- The student submits a “Request for an Extension to Coursework” application to the registrar on or before (a month before the final assignment is due).

Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty Policy:

The seminary maintains a zero tolerance policy on plagiarism and academic dishonesty. Plagiarism and academic dishonesty can result in a failing grade for an assignment, for the course, or immediate dismissal from the seminary. Even unintentional plagiarism is to be avoided at all costs. Students are expected to be familiar with the policy statements in the current academic calendar and the student handbook that deal with plagiarism, academic dishonesty (cheating), and the penalties and procedures for dealing with these matters. All cases of academic dishonesty are reported to the Dean.

Protection of Personal Information:

Personal information, that is, information about an individual that may be used to identify that individual, may be collected as a requirement as part of taking this class. Any information collected will only be used and disclosed for the purpose for which the collection was intended. For further information contact the Privacy Compliance Officer at privacy@ambrose.edu.

Bibliography

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- Balling, Jakob. 2003. *The story of Christianity : from birth to global presence*. Grand

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