

COURSE INFORMATION

Fall 2015

Wednesdays from Sept 9 through December 16

Course goals

This two credit course is designed to survey the history of the church from the time of the apostles up to the time of Gregory the Great, ca. AD 600. The student will be able to outline the main developments of the period and the growth of the church. The course will discuss the Apostolic Fathers, the Apologists, and the leading heretics and theologians of the period. The student will be able to trace the main events and ideas of the conciliar movement and the early creeds of the church. The course will also discuss various important developments within the church, including believers under persecution, heresies that forged orthodox doctrinal statements, church government, early worship, the monastic movement, the missionary impetus, and the beginnings of the papacy.

Reading assignments

Earle E. Cairns, *Christianity Through the Centuries: A History of the Christian Church*, pp. 13-162

Henry Bettenson, *Documents of the Christian Church*, Part I (pp. 1-87)

One of the following original sources:

- 1) *The Apostolic Fathers*, edited by J.B. Lightfoot -OR-
- 2) *The Confessions of St. Augustine* -OR-
- 3) *Ecclesiastical History* by Eusebius

Write a 2-4 page synopsis of your reading, with your summary of its importance.

Review of Historical Theology

Read 300 pages on this period (40-600 A.D.) in any one or two of the follow texts on the historical theology of the early church:

- 1) Allison, *Historical Theology*; 2) Beale, *Historical Theology*, Vol. 1; 3) Berkhof, *History of Christian Doctrine*; 4) Bromiley, *Historical Theology*; 5) Cunningham, *Historical Theology*, Vol. 1; 6) Harnack, *Outlines of the History of Dogma*; 7) Shedd, *History of Christian Doctrine*, Vol. 1; Pelikan, *The Christian Tradition*, Vol. 1

- Write a 3-5 page synopsis of your readings, offering the perspective of the authors.

Exams

Mid-term on October 21

Final Exam on December 16

Grading

Exams	60%	Readings	25%
Reviews	10%	Class Participation	5%