

Medieval and Reformation Church History

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Spring 2016

COURSE OVERVIEW: The transition from the establishment of the early church to the church of the medieval period: the barbarian influx leading to feudalism, the shift of the Roman empire to Byzantium, and the rise of the Holy Roman Empire; scholasticism, crusades, and the broadening world of knowledge leading to the renaissance; growing heresies and champions who resisted them. Luther the man and the leader of the Reformation; Calvin the man and organizer of the Reformation; the spread of the Reformation and the ecclesiastical and political tumult following the Reformation in Europe through the 30 Years War.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. To learn the medieval dynamics and the principal churchmen of that period who shaped the institutional church (East and West) leading to the Reformation period and beyond.
2. To understand various heresies and aberrations that threatened the church in this period, along with biblical antidotes and their orthodox champions.
3. To learn the biographical outlines of the major Reformers, the issues at stake in their time, and the providences that brought them success in God's time.

COURSE OUTCOMES

1. To be able to trace the spiritual decline of the Christian Church through the middle ages in the face of pockets of evangelical perseverance.
2. To be able to defend the Protestant Reformation and the ongoing need for *Ecclesia reformata semper reformanda*.

READING ASSIGNMENTS:

- 1) E.E. Cairns. *Christianity through the Centuries*
Chpts. 16-21 for test 1
Chpts. 22-26 for test 2
Chpts. 27-31 for final exam
- 2) H. Bettenson, ed. *Documents of the Christian Church*
Pp. 96-115; 128-150 for test one
Pp. 133-211 for test two
Pp. 212-243 for test three
- 3) EITHER your choice of any ten Books in Merle d'Aubigne's *History of the Reformation*, OR Twenty hours of primary source reading from this period. See the authors suggested under the "Written Assignments" section. Consider reading Kempis' *Imitation of Christ*, Luther's *Bondage of the Will*, Pascal's *Pensees*, Baxter's *The Reformed Pastor*.

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS:

- 1) A four page REVIEW on the primary source reading that you chose. Exempt yourself from this assignment if you read d'Aubigne in place of source reading.
- 2) A four page BIOGRAPHICAL PAPER on the character of your choice from Medieval church history.
MEDIEVAL Suggestions: Thomas a Kempis, Pascal, Anselm, Abelard, Savanarola, Wycliffe, Lombard, Aquinas, William of Occam, Erasmus, Huss
- 3) A four page BIOGRAPHICAL PAPER on the character of your choice from Reformation church history.
REFORMATION Suggestions: Luther, Melanchthon, Calvin, Zwingli, Turretin, Arminius, Knox, Rutherford, Melville, Beza, Owen, Loyola, Baxter, Bunyon, Boston

EXAMS: (Exams 1 & 2 might be take-home tests, depending on progress in the class discussion).

Dates Exam 1 — due Feb. 17 (beginning till ca. 1000)
 Exam 2 — due March 23 (approx. 1000-1521)
 Final — May 11 (approx. 1521 till the end of the notes)

GRADING: Exams: 60% Papers: 20% Readings: 15% Attendance: 5%