

Medieval and Reformation Church History

PMP COURSE REQUIREMENTS

2015-2016 Mentorship School Year

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*.

EXAMS: There will be three exams during the term. Ideally, do your readings first and then shoot for these exam deadlines of completion.

Exam 1 — due February 1	(beginning till ca. 1100)
Exam 2 — due June 20	(1100-1521=Diet of Worms)
Final — due June 30	(1521–post-Diet till the end)

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) One non-biographical book of your choice (150+ pp.) on this period in church history or an aspect of it.
In place of this assignment, you may substitute 150 pages of source readings from major characters or documents in church history. (See suggestions below for sources.)

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS: Choose three writing projects from the following four options:

- 1) A four page REVIEW on the non-biographical book or primary source(s) that you chose (see 3 above.)
- 2) A five 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, Hus
- 3) A five page BIOGRAPHICAL PAPER on the character of your choice from Reformation church history.
REFORMATION SUGGESTIONS
Luther, Melancthon, Calvin, Zwingli, Turretin, Arminius, Knox, Rutherford, Melville, Beza, Loyola, Owen, Baxter, Bunyan, Boston
- 4) A six page report on EITHER a) the enduring importance for the church of the “Solus” of the Reformation, OR b) the impact of the Reformation on one or several modern western institutions (representative govt, education, freedoms, missions and colonization, etc.), OR c) a topic of your choice.

GRADING: Exams: 60% Papers: 21% Readings: 17% Assignment Timeliness: 2%