

Canadian Theological Seminary
Winter 2005
Christianity in History (CH 501)

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Class Time: Mondays, 2:30-5:15
Location: Room 633

Course Description

This course is an overview of the history of Christianity from the time of the early Church to the present. As we consider the development of Christian ideas and institutions within their corresponding social, cultural and political contexts, we will meet influential Christians, discover devotional treasures, and encounter the diverse traditions that have shaped and been shaped by the world around them.

Course Objectives

In *Christianity in History*, you'll ...

- ✓ Learn the broad sweep and key issues of church history, including fifty of the most important people, events, ideas and institutions from the Christian past.
- ✓ Appreciate the dynamic nature of Christianity as embodied in the Church—in other words, that the Church's theology, practises and institutions are not eternal and unchanging in nature, but deeply intertwined with human civilization and its historical development.
- ✓ Identify your personal Christian/church histories within the history of the Church universal, and understand the influences that have shaped your own faith tradition(s).
- ✓ Grow in your ability to exegete your cultural environment, to understand the forces that influence your church, and to draw on your understanding of church history in order to formulate effective strategies for thriving as a Christian and church leader.
- ✓ Grow in your personal appreciation of and ability to draw from the spiritual journey, testimony and devotional legacy of Christians from the past, knowing that all Christians undergo a common journey from spiritual infancy to maturity.

Texts

1. Paul R. Spickard and Kevin M. Cragg, *A Global History of Christians: How Everyday Believers Experienced Their World* (Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 1994). More people-centred than other histories of Christianity, it still surveys the growth and development of Christian theology and church institutions.
2. Selected primary source documents and focused articles will also be assigned for reading, in order to add depth to the examination of specific issues and eras.

Evaluation

Biography Review/Presentation	30%
Christian roots assignment	40%
Diversity assignment	20%
Participation	10%

Biography Review/Presentation

One of the ways to relate church history to contemporary life and ministry is to examine an individual character from church history, to see how he or she attempted to live the Christian faith in his or her time. To that end, you will read a biography chosen from the list at the end of the syllabus, write an 800-1000 word review, and make a 10-15 minute presentation to the class. The review will briefly describe the subject of the book, and then discuss the argument/interpretation and three sections in detail. For the presentation, you will also need to examine some of their subject's writings (devotional, pastoral, theological, or literary), and share excerpts in class. Reviews are due and presentations will take place during the class period of 7 February 2005. No late work will be accepted.

Christian Roots Assignment

If church history cannot connect contemporary Christians with the great traditions (theological, devotional, historical) of the Church, it has not done its job. To that end, you will identify your own personal Christian tradition(s), then discover, investigate, and explain at least three influences that have shaped that tradition (or those traditions). These may be denominational traditions or influences, or range far beyond typical denominational borders. Finally, you will reflect briefly on how these traditions have shaped or ought to shape your ministry. This assignment will be roughly 1800 words in length, and be due Monday, 28 March 2005. Late essays will be penalized one letter grade (A to B, B+ to C+, etc.), and no essay will be accepted after the final day of exams at the end of the semester.

Diversity Assignment

Students of church history should be exposed to the amazing diversity of expression in the Christian faith. To that end, *A Global History of Christians* will serve as the backbone to the course, while primary source readings and occasional articles will round out our perspective. You will have to attest to reading these materials. To further emphasize the element of Christian

diversity, you will read three editions of *Christian History* (a topically oriented journal) that are not related to either their biographical review or Christian roots assignment, and write a **300-400 word reflection on each one**, describing why you chose the edition, what impressed or moved you about the topic, and what relevance you see in knowing about it. The two reflection papers and reading attestation (signed statement on a separate sheet) are due on the final day of class. Late assignments will be penalized one letter grade (A to B, B+ to C+, etc.), and no diversity assignments will be accepted after the final day of exams at the end of the semester.

Course Outline

1. Introduction and Context of the Early Church
2. Establishing canon and creed
A Global History 1-2
3. Changing status within and after the Roman Empire
A Global History 3
4. Medieval Christendom
A Global History 4
5. Beyond the Western Church
A Global History 5-6
6. Waning of Western Christendom (or, Decline and Reform)
A Global History 7-8
7. The Reformation Spreads (or, The Destruction of Western Christendom)
A Global History 10
8. The New Order (and its implications for Christianity)
A Global History 10
9. Christianity sails to America (and beyond)
A Global History 9, 11
10. Revolutionary modern ideologies challenge the Faith (and the faithful)
A Global History 13-14
11. Evangelicalism and power in Britain and North America
A Global History 12, 15, 16
12. Holiness and Pentecostal Movements
13. The Church at the Millennium
A Global History 17

Important Notes

- Last day to enter course without permission and/or voluntarily withdraw from course without financial penalty: 14 January 2005.
- Last day to voluntarily withdraw from course or change to audit without academic penalty: 11 March 2005.
- It is the responsibility of all students to become familiar with and adhere to CTS Academic Policies, such as the policy on Academic Dishonesty, which are stated in the current academic calendar.
- The following grading system will be used for this course. A student's final grade in a course is recorded as a letter grade on the student's permanent record of marks. Each letter grade

has a corresponding grade point value which is used to determine the number of quality points earned by the student for a given course. Quality points are used to compute the student's grade point average.

<i>Grade</i>	<i>Grade Point</i>	<i>Description</i>
A	4.0	Superior performance showing comprehensive understanding of subject matter.
A-	3.7	
B+	3.5	Clearly above-average performance with knowledge of subject matter complete.
B	3.0	
B-	2.7	
C+	2.5	Basic understanding of subject matter.
C	2.0	
C-	1.7	
D+	1.5	Marginal performance.
D	1.0	
F	0	Unsatisfactory performance or failure to meet course requirements.

- All sources used in written assignments must be listed in a bibliography. All quotations and paraphrases from published material must be annotated by means of footnotes or endnotes (Turabian format, please). Plagiarism will not be tolerated, and is defined as the unattributed copying and presentation of another person's thoughts, writings and discoveries from another source--including purchased essay--as your own. This also includes close paraphrasing--changing a few words from the sources. Plagiarism or cheating leads to disciplinary action such as failure in the course and/or dismissal from the College.
- The Instructor reserves the right to change elements of this syllabus if external circumstances necessitate alterations or if the interests of the students are better served by altering course components.

Biography Book List

Wills, Gary. *Saint Augustine*. New York, 1999.

- on the famous Bishop of Hippo and author of *Confessions*.

Hanson. R.P.C. *Saint Patrick, His Origins and Career*. New York, 1968.

- on the missionary to and patron saint of Ireland.

Maddocks, Fiona. *Hildegard of Bingen: The Woman of Her Age*. New York, 2001.

- on the 11th century musician and theologian.

Leclercq, Jean. *Bernard of Clairvaux and the Cistercian Spirit*. Kalamazoo, 1976.

- on the founder of the Cluny reform, and great medieval churchman.

Jantzen, Grace. *Julian of Norwich: Mystic and Theologian*. New York, 1988.

- on the 14th-15th century mystic.

Kittelson, James M. *Luther the Reformer*. Minneapolis, 1986.

- on the founder of the Protestant Reformation and Lutheran Church, Martin Luther.

Potter, G.R. *Zwingli*. Cambridge, 1976.

- on Huldrych Zwingli, the Swiss Reformer, who lived from 1484-1531.

Goertz, Hans-Jürgen. *Thomas Müntzer: apocalyptic mystic and revolutionary*. Edinburgh, 1993.

- on a controversial leader in the “radical reformation”, Thomas Müntzer (c. 1489-1525). Due: 9

Cottret, Bernard. *Calvin: a biography*. Grand Rapids, 2000.

- on French Reformer Jean Calvin.

Medwick, Cathleen. *Teresa of Avila: The Progress of a Soul*. New York, 1999.

- on the late medieval mystic nun.

Marshall, Rosalind. *John Knox*. Edinburgh, 2000.

- on the founder of Scottish Presbyterianism, John Knox.

Rack, Henry D. *Reasonable Enthusiast: John Wesley and the rise of Methodism*. Philadelphia, 1989.

- on the founder of Methodism, John Wesley.

Stout, Harry S. *The Divine Dramatist: George Whitefield and the Rise of Modern Evangelicalism*. Grand Rapids, 1991.

- on the evangelist who rivalled Wesley, George Whitefield (1714-1770).

Phipps, William E. *Amazing Grace in John Newton: slave-ship captain, hymnwriter, and abolitionist*. Macon, GA, 2001.

- on the colourful author of the most famous English hymn, John Newton (1725-1807).

Pollock, John. *Wilberforce*. New York, 1977.

- on the British abolitionist and reform politician William Wilberforce.

Busch, Eberhard. *Karl Barth: His Life from Letters and Autobiographical Texts*. Philadelphia, 1976.

- 500+ pages on the 20th century Swiss theologian.

Wind, Renate. *Dietrich Bonhoeffer: a spoke in the wheel*. London, 1991.

or

Bethge, Eberhard. *A Costly Grace: An Illustrated Introduction to Dietrich Bonhoeffer*. New York, 1979.

- on the German theologian and martyr to Hitler, Dietrich Bonhoeffer (1906-1945).

- Sayer, George. *Jack: A Life of C.S. Lewis*. Wheaton, 1994.
- 450+ pages on the English author and apologist, C.S. Lewis (1898-1963).
- Greene, Dana. *Evelyn Underhill: Artist of the infinite life*. New York, 1990.
- an English spiritual writer, who lived from 1875-1941.
- Hebblethwaite, Peter. *Pope John XXIII: Shepherd of the Modern World*. Garden City, NY, 1985.
- 500+ pages on the surprising reformer who called the Second Vatican Council.
- George, Timothy. *Faithful Witness: The Life and Mission of William Carey*. Birmingham, 1991.
- on the great missionary pioneer to India.
- Hambrick-Stowe, Charles E. *Charles G. Finney and the Spirit of American Evangelicalism*. Grand Rapids, 1996.
- on the foremost evangelist of pre-Civil War United States, who lived from 1792-1875.
- Taylor, Frederick Howard. *Hudson Taylor's Spiritual Secret*. London, 1953.
- on the missionary and founder of the China Inland Mission.
- Jeal, Tim. *Livingstone*. London, 1993.
- on David Livingstone, the 19th century Scottish missionary and explorer.
- Pollock, John. *Moody: The Biography*. Chicago, 1983.
- on the 19th century American evangelist, D.L. Moody.
- Minus, Paul M. *Walter Rauschenbusch, American Reformer*. New York, 1988.
- on the founder of the American social gospel movement, who lived 1861-1918.
- Ruffin, Bernard. *Fanny Crosby*. Philadelphia, 1976.
- on the great American hymn-writer.
- Martin, William. *A Prophet With Honor: The Billy Graham Story*. New York, 1991.
- 700+ pages on the world-reknowned evangelist.
- Epstein, Daniel Mark. *Sister Aimee: the life of Aimee Semple McPherson*. New York, 1993.
- on the charismatic preacher and founder of the Foursquare Gospel Church, Aimee Semple McPherson (1890-1944).
- Spink, Katheryn. *Mother Theresa: a complete authorized biography*. San Francisco, 1997.
- on the Albanian Catholic humanitarian, Mother Theresa, who lived from 1910-1997.