

CH 501-1

Christianity in History

Winter 2016

3 credits

Prerequisite(s): N/A

Class Information		Instructor Information		First day of classes:	Wed., Jan. 6, 2016
Days:	Thursday	Instructor:	David Ney	Last day to add/drop/change to audit:	Sun., Jan. 17, 2016
Time:	6:30-9:30pm (7:30-9:30pm on January 14 th)	Email:	David.Ney@ambrose.edu	Last day to request revised exam:	Mon., Feb. 29, 2016
Room:	A2212	Phone:	587.717.0162	Last day to withdraw from course:	Fri., Mar 18, 2016
Lab/Tut:	N/A	Office:	N/A	Last day to apply for time extension for coursework:	Mon., Mar. 28, 2016
Final Exam: N/A		Office Hrs:	By Appointment	Last day of classes:	Wed., April 13, 2016

Textbooks:

- Hastings, Adrian, ed. *A World History of Christianity*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 1999.
- A biography on an important Christian figure. Students wishing to begin their reading can contact the instructor for the list of possible choices.

Course Description:

It is appropriate to describe Christianity as an iceberg. Most of it rests below the surface, hidden from view. To pay attention only to what we see, that which lies above the surface, is to ignore the most of it. It is always easiest to pay attention only to our immediate experiences. It is always easiest to stay above the water, in the fresh breathable air. But diving beneath the surface promises rich rewards. As we do so we meet brothers and sisters in Christ that have gone before us and now come along side us and guide us in our path, and we come to understand what it means to be part of the communion of saints. As we enter into Christian tradition we are ourselves formed by it. And more than this, we learn about the God of history, the God that has, for over two-thousand years, made good on his promise to build his Church.

Christianity in History is an invitation to dive below the surface. The course text will offer a brief overview of twelve different historical contexts in which Christianity has thrived. Course lectures will offer a more in depth look at twelve central historical events in the history of Christianity. Students will personally engage with twelve important figures in the history of Christianity. And through these encounters they will be given tools to help them understand contemporary Christianity: students will be introduced to Roman Catholicism, Lutheranism, Anglicanism, Evangelicalism and other Church traditions, and will, through this process, be equipped to understand their place within Christian tradition, and Christian history.

Expected Learning Outcomes:

Since the beginning of Greek philosophy, people have been convinced that to study the past is to be formed by it. The past works on us in powerful yet subtle ways. From a Christian perspective, this is especially the case when we engage the history of Christianity. In particular, the study of the Christian promotes the following Ambrose seminary learning outcomes: it brings us to a fuller appreciation of our own vocation and identity in Christ, grows our ability to bear witness to the Gospel, grounds us in ways that help us to embrace the worldwide mission of the Church in all of its local, international, private and public dimensions, and gives us the ability to reflect theologically from the perspective of an evangelical tradition that has been informed and enriched by the breadth of Christian tradition.

By the end of this course, students will have:

1. grasped the basic contours of Christian history, and will therefore be able to locate persons and events they encounter in the future within a larger framework
2. engaged the life and thought of a central Christian figure in an in depth way
3. come to understand the theological and practical distinctives of various Christian traditions and will have a basic knowledge of their place within history and the contemporary world
4. acquired tools to engage Christians that are very different from them *sympathetically*
5. practiced how to reflect theologically upon different issues and events within Christian history

Course Schedule:

Class	Date	Lecture	Readings	Biographical Figure
1.	January 7	Introduction to Christianity in History	Hastings, "Introduction," 1-5.	N / A
2.	January 14	The Trinitarian Controversies of the Fourth Century	Hastings, "150-550," 25-65.	Augustine of Hippo
3.	January 21	Christological Controversies in the East	Hastings, "The Orthodox Church," 66-109.	Gregory Palamas
4.	February 4	The Sacramental System and Parish Life in the Medieval West	Hastings, "The medieval West," 110-46	Francis of Assisi

5.	February 11	Reform and Revolution	Hastings, "Reformation," 238-81.	Martin Luther
6.	February 25	Praying in Common: The Book of Common Prayer and the English Commonwealth	Hastings, "Reformation,"	Richard Hooker
7.	March 3	Saving them from Ourselves: Evangelizing and protecting the Natives of Latin America	Hastings, "Latin America," 328-68.	Bartolomé de Las Casas
8.	March 10	The Missionary Encounter and Religious Accommodation	Hastings, "China", 369-415.	Matteo Ricci
9.	March 17	Secularity and the Religious Free Market	Hastings, "North America," 416-57	George Whitfield
10.	March 24	The New Empirical Science and Christian Apologetics	Hastings, "Western Europe," 458-507.	John Wesley
11.	March 31	The Russian Religious Renaissance and the Russian Revolution	Hastings, "Eastern Europe," 282-327.	John of Kronstadt
12.	April 7	Christianity in Africa and the rise of Pentecostalism	Hastings, "Africa," 192-237.	William Wadé Harris

Requirements:

Element	Title	Weight
1.	Course Reading Reviews	30 %
2.	Book Report and Report Review	20%
3.	Book Report Presentation	15%
4,	Final Assignment	25%
5.	Participation	10%

1. Course Reading Reviews: Students will begin each class by answering some basic questions about the chapter they have read from the *Hastings* textbook.

2. Students will submit a brief book report on the biographical figure they have selected the week before this figure is discussed in class. These reports will be posted on Moodle. The exception to this rule is week three of the course, which is the first week students will submit a report. Students working on a report for the figure we will be discussing this week, Gregory Palamas, will only be expected to submit their report on him the day we discuss him. The expectations for this report will be distributed on the first day of class. Students will also

be expected to engage a report submitted by a fellow student constructively. The book report students submit will be worth 15 % of their final grade, and their review of a fellow student's report will be worth 5 %.

3. Book Report Presentation. Students will introduce the class to the biographical figure they have been reading about the week after they submit a book report dealing with this figure. Students will work together with other students to address basic questions about the life and contributions of this figure.

4. Final Assignment: The Final assignment will be distributed to students on March 31st. Students will be expected to select three of four essay questions that will help them integrate the learning they have achieved throughout the semester. The Final assignment will be submitted to the professor during exam week.

5. Participation: Students will be graded on their in-class participation and engagement with the material and for their attendance.

Given the structure of the course, students will not be able to submit their assignments after the day that they are due. Exceptions will be made only for students that receive written consent from the instructor before the assignment in question is to be submitted.

Attendance:

Student attendance will form half of the participation grade. Unexcused absences will result in the deduction of 2 percentage points from the participation grade. Students with three unexcused absences will fail the course.

Grade Summary:

The available letters for course grades are as follows:

<u>Letter Grade</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Numerical Equivalent</u>
A+	Excellent	90-100%
A		85-89%
A-	Good	80-84%
B+		77-79%
B		73-76%
B-	Satisfactory	70-72%
C+		67-69%
C		63-66%
C-	Failure	60-62%
F		0-59%

Because of the nature of the Alpha 4.00 system, there can be no uniform College-wide conversion scale. The relationship between raw scores (e.g. percentages) and the resultant letter grade will depend on the nature of the course and the instructor's assessment of the level of each class, compared to similar classes taught previously.

Please note that final grades will be available on student registration system. Printed grade sheets are not mailed out.

Policies:

Communication

All students have received an Ambrose e-mail account upon registration. It is the student's responsibility to check this account regularly as the Ambrose email system will be the professor's instrument for notifying students of important matters (cancelled class sessions, extensions, requested appointments, etc.) between class sessions. If students do not wish to use their Ambrose accounts, they will need to forward all messages from the Ambrose account to another personal account.

Registration

During the **Registration Revision Period** students may enter a course without permission, change the designation of any class from credit to audit and /or voluntary withdraw from a course without financial or academic penalty or record. Courses should be added or dropped on the student portal by the deadline date; please consult the List of Important Dates. After that date, the original status remains and the student is responsible for related fees.

Students intending to withdraw from a course after the Registration Revision Period must apply to the Office of the Registrar by submitting a "Request to Withdraw from a Course" form or by sending an email to the Registrar's Office by the **Withdrawal Deadline**; please consult the List of Important Dates on the my.ambrose.edu website. Students will not receive a tuition refund for courses from which they withdraw after the Registration Revision period. A grade of "W" will appear on their transcript.

Exam Scheduling

Students wishing to withdraw from a course, but who fail to do so by the applicable date, will receive the grade earned in accordance with the course syllabus. A student obliged to

withdraw from a course after the Withdrawal Deadline because of health or other reasons may apply to the Registrar for special consideration.

Students, who find a conflict in their exam schedule must submit a Revised Examination Request form to the Registrar's Office by the deadline date; please consult the List of Important Dates. Requests will be considered for the following reasons only: 1) the scheduled final examination slot conflicts with another exam; 2) the student has three final exams within three consecutive exam time blocks; 3) the scheduled final exam slot conflicts with an exam at another institution; 4) extenuating circumstances. Travel is not considered a valid excuse for re-scheduling or missing a final exam.

Electronic Etiquette

Students are expected to treat their instructor, guest speakers, and fellow students with respect. It is disruptive to the learning goals of a course or seminar and disrespectful to fellow students and the instructor to use electronics for purposes unrelated to the course during a class session. Turn off all cell phones and other electronic devices during class. Laptops should be used for class-related purposes only. Do not use iPods, MP3 players, or headphones. Do not text, read, or send personal emails, go on Facebook or other social networks, search the internet, or play computer games during class. Some professors will not allow the use of any electronic devices in class. The professor has the right to disallow the student to use a laptop in future lectures and/or to ask a student to withdraw from the session if s/he does not comply with this policy. Repeat offenders will be directed to the Dean. If you are expecting communication due to an emergency, please

speak with the professor before the class begins.

Academic Policies

It is the responsibility of all students to become familiar with and adhere to academic policies as stated in the Academic Calendar. Personal information (information about an individual that may be used to identify that individual) may be required 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.

Extensions

Although extensions to coursework in the semester are at the discretion of the instructor, students may not turn in coursework for evaluation after the last day of the scheduled final examination period unless they have received permission for a course Extension from the Registrar's Office. Requests for course extensions or alternative examination time must be submitted to the Registrar's Office by the deadline date; please consult the List of Important Dates. Course extensions are only granted for serious issues that arise "due to circumstances beyond the student's control."

Appeal of Grade

An appeal for change of grade on any course work must be made to the course instructor within one week of receiving notification of the grade. An appeal for change of final grade must be submitted to the Registrar's Office in writing and providing the basis for appeal within 30 days of receiving notification of the final grade, providing the basis for appeal. A review fee of \$50.00 must accompany the appeal. If the appeal is sustained, the fee will be refunded.

Academic Integrity

We are committed to fostering personal integrity and will not overlook breaches of integrity such as plagiarism and cheating. Academic dishonesty is taken seriously at Ambrose University as it undermines our academic standards and affects the integrity of each member of our learning community. Any attempt to obtain credit for academic work through fraudulent, deceptive, or dishonest means is academic dishonesty. Plagiarism involves presenting someone else's ideas, words, or work as one's own. Plagiarism is fraud and theft, but plagiarism can also occur by accident when a student fails or forgets to acknowledge to another person's ideas or words. Plagiarism and cheating can result in a failing grade for an assignment, for the course, or immediate dismissal from the university college. Students are expected to be familiar with the policies in the current Academic Calendar that deal with plagiarism, cheating, and the penalties and procedures for dealing with these matters. All cases of academic dishonesty are reported to the Academic Dean and become part of the student's permanent record.

Note: Students are strongly advised to retain this syllabus for their records.