



History of Christianity Religion 343

Fall 2009

Dr. Charles Edward White, Instructor

Office: History House Telephone: 1389

Office hour: M 12:15-1:15

This document is not an offer and is subject to change.

Objectives:

The objective of this class is to gain an understanding and appreciation of the history of the Christian movement since the time of the New Testament.

Specifically, the student who successfully completes this course will be able to:

1. Identify nine major theologians and discuss the contribution of each;
2. Identify and date various significant events in the history of the church;
3. Explain the relevance of church history to various issues in the church today.

Texts:

1. Bruce Shelley, *Church History in Plain Language*, 2nd ed.
2. Readings from the web

Grades:

The final grade will be determined by four factors: quizzes, the preparation of a research paper, the research paper itself, and a final exam. Each factor will make up 1/4 of the final grade. An average on the quizzes of 0-59% will be worth no points, 60-69% .25 points, 70-79%, .5 points, 80-89%, .75 points, and 90-100%, 1 point. Each of the three tasks in the preparation of the paper will be worth .33 points. For the paper and exam, F = 0, D = .25, C = .5, B = .75, and A = 1. For the final grade 3.75 points are necessary for an A, 3.5 for an A-, 3.25 for a B+, 3 for a B, 2.75 for a B-, 2.5 for a C+, 2 for a C, 1.75 for a C-, and 1.5 for a D. College policy permits no student more than 4 absences from this course without penalty. Additional absences will result in a reduction of the final grade at the discretion of the instructor.

Quizzes:

Brief quizzes will be given to check the mastery of the previous lecture and the daily reading assignment. They will not be tricky, but will reveal whether the student has understood the lecture and read the assignment. A student who notifies the professor that she will miss a class at least one class session in advance in writing may take that quiz early without penalty. A student who misses a quiz may take a make-up after a payment of \$10 to the Childcare Ministry of the Free Methodist Church.

Final Examination:

Some of the following questions will be on the final exam. The instructor expects the student to write about 500 words each on four of the questions. Because this is an examination in church history do not include biblical examples or arguments. Show off your knowledge of church history by using as many specific examples with as much correct historical detail as possible. There is no need to copy or rephrase the question.

Part A: Discuss the following statements in the light of your knowledge of church history:

1. Christians should attempt to control the government because the church prospers most when it has the most political power.
2. Revivals must not be worked up; they must be prayed down.

3. Every Christian sins every day in thought, word, and deed.
4. Loving God with all your mind sometimes means saying "No" to human reason.
6. The idea that the Bible is "truthful in all it affirms" is a recent development. Prior to the twentieth century, Christians felt no need to defend its accuracy in non-salvific matters.

Part B: Discuss what you would say in the following situations in the light of your knowledge of church history:

1. You are on the board of a Crisis Pregnancy Center and make a presentation of your ministry at a church. After the service one of the members says to you, "You shouldn't waste time trying to change culture. Only liberals care about improving society. Our only job is to save souls."
2. You are a missionary to Nigeria where in 2006 the Muslims burned all the church buildings in several states, and where in 2009 they killed 250 Christians in Plateau state. The goal of many Muslims is the forceful imposition of *sharia*, or law based on the Qur'an. What do you say when Christians say, "We have turned both cheeks. Now we must stand and fight."

Students who wish to see their final exams or papers handed in late must call for them at the professor's office or must include a self-addressed stamped envelope with their exams.

Research Paper

Students will submit 2000-word summaries of significant works in church history. This paper will explain the work's argument, setting, and importance. At each stage students will submit a 500-word paper to document the work in progress. Each paper should be in proper academic form and use English correctly. The instructor will not read any paper farther than the tenth solecism, spelling mistake, or typographical error. To assist the students to write a satisfactory paper, the instructor will work with them through all phases of the research process. Further instructions and requirements for the paper are on the class website.

Schedule and Assignments

May be modified as necessary. Readings should be completed before class on the day indicated.

Sep 11	Why & how study church history?			
Sep 14	Christians and Reason	Shelley 3-5	10 point quiz	
Sep 16	Christians and War	Shelley 6-8	10 point quiz	
Sep 18	The Canon	Shelley 9-11	10 point quiz	
Sep 21	Justin Martyr <i>First Apology</i>		10 point quiz	
Sep 23	Revival: Instruction	Shelley 12-14	10 point quiz	
Sep 25	The Christians 1			
Sep 28	The Christians 2			
Sep 30	The Christians 3			
Oct 2	The Christians 4	Shelley 15-16	10 point quiz	
Oct 5	Augustine <i>Enchiridion</i>		10 point quiz	Work
Oct 7	Revival: Evangelism	Shelley 17-20	10 point quiz	
Oct 9	Revival: Fellowship	Shelley 21-23	10 point quiz	
Oct 12	Anslem, <i>Proslogion</i>		10 point quiz	
Oct 14	Thomas Aquinas, <i>Summa Theologica</i> q. 2		10 point quiz	Setting
Oct 16	The Christians 5	Shelley 24-27		

Oct 19	Revival: Worship	Shelley 28-31	10 point quiz	
Oct 21	The Christians 6		10 point quiz	
Oct 26	Luther <i>Letter on Translating</i>		10 point quiz	Importance
Oct 28	Menno <i>Reply to False Accusations</i>		10 point quiz	
Oct 30	Calvin <i>Draft Ecclesiastical Ordinances & Brief Reply</i>		10 point quiz	
Nov 2	The Christians 7		10 point quiz	
Nov 4	Revival: WIFE	Shelley 32-35	10 point quiz	
Nov 6	Wesley, <i>Christian Perfection</i>		10 point quiz	
Nov 9	Wesley, <i>The Use of Money</i>		10 point quiz	
Nov 11	Edwards, <i>The Justice of God in the Damnation of Sinners & The Excellency of Jesus Christ</i>		10 point quiz	
Nov 13	The Christians 7		10 point quiz	
Nov 16	The Christians 8			
Nov 18	The Battle for the Bible 1	Shelley 36-38		
Nov 20	The Battle for the Bible 2	Shelley 39-41		
Nov 23	The Christians 9			
Nov 30	The Christians 10			
Dec 2	The Christian War on Slavery	Shelley 42-45		
Dec 4	The Christians 11			Summary
Dec 7	The Christians 12			
Dec 9	The Christians 13			
Dec 11	The Fifty Unbelievable Years	Shelley 46-48		
Dec 14	Review for exam			
Dec 16	Final exam due at 3 pm			