

Syllabus for CH 602 Church History (Online Version)

Course Description

Study of the history of the church beginning with the Reformation and continuing through the modern era. Emphasis on the Reformers, Counter-Reformation, revivals, missionary endeavors, the rise of modern liberalism, and the church's responses to apostasy.

Course Objectives

1. The student will learn the basic historical framework and schools of interpretation concerning church history since the onset of the Reformation through lectures and reading of the text.
2. The student will gain an acquaintance with primary sources in church history by writing a term paper based on the reading of original sources.

Texts

Justo L. González, *The Story of Christianity*, vol. 2, *The Reformation to the Present Day*, rev. and updated ed. (New York: HarperCollins, 2010). ISBN 978-0-06-185589-4.

Accounts of Testimony and Conversion from Church History (pdf provided by the professor for use with the class project)

Schedule of Assignments

For Test #1

- Listen to Lectures 1-10
- Read Gonzalez, 7-134, 229-33

For Test #2

- Listen to Lectures 11-21
- Read Gonzalez, 135-290, 417-38

For Test #3 (Final exam—not cumulative)

- Listen to Lectures 22-32
- Read Gonzalez, 301-415, 438-530
- Turn in the paper on testimonies of conversion

Lecture Copies

For the convenience of students the teacher will provide copies of the lecture notes in pdf (portable document format). Students may use these in connection with listening to the lectures or as a separate study resource. Using these copies does not eliminate paying proper attention to the lectures.

Class Project

Nature of the Paper

Each student will research and write a paper analyzing accounts of Christian testimony and personal conversion by several famous Christians. A pdf of *Accounts of Testimony and Conversion from Church History* is provided, on which the paper will be based. The paper should follow these parameters:

- Describe the various means that you discern God using to work in the lives of these Christians that led to their conversion.

- Focus on the different means that God providentially used, and do not simply summarize the individual accounts.
 - Because this is a history paper, students are not required to include theological or biblical analysis. The point is to discover *historical* data that illustrates conversion. However, in a work of this nature, students may include relevant biblical and theological data as they find it appropriate.
1. Technical specifications (Note: A template for the paper is provided.)
 - a. The essay must be printed, not handwritten.
 - b. Each paper should have a title page giving the title, student's name, name of class and the professor, and the date.
 - c. The essay should be double-spaced and should be printed in a preferred point size of 12-point type in a serif font such as Times Roman, not a sanserif font such as Arial.
 - d. The margins should be 1" on all sides (left, right, top, and bottom margins).
 - e. The essay should be a minimum of 800 words and a normal maximum of 1,200 words in length. (Normally, this length will mean 3 or 4 pages of double-spaced text, not including the title page.) Students, however, may go beyond the maximum if they wish. A note should appear at the end of the essay giving a word count.
 2. Citations
 - a. Because this paper uses sources provided by the teacher, there is no need for footnotes either in text or at the bottom of the page.
 - b. Should students choose to quote other sources beyond those provided by the teacher, they would then need to provide normal footnotes at the bottom of the page, following the normal footnoting form according to "Chicago Style," the form found in Kate Turabian, *A Manual for Writers*, 9th ed.

How will my paper be graded?

1. *Following Instructions:* Be sure to follow all instructions given in the syllabus for the format of the paper. Have you used the proper margins? Is the word count indicated? Is your name found only on a separate title page? Are footnotes in the proper format?
2. *Grammar and Mechanics:* The paper should reflect proper spelling and grammar. Serious errors—run-on sentences, sentence fragments, comma splices—count against the grade most heavily, but numerous smaller errors also can affect the grade.
3. *Structure and Style:* Your paper should have a clear, logical structure and should display a clear and readable style. Is there a perceptible outline and organization? Does sentence length vary to maintain the reader's interest? Are ideas easy to follow and understand?
4. *Content:* The content should reflect the purpose of the assignment. Does the paper evaluate its topic as the instructions ask? (E.g., if you are asked to compare and contrast something, do you compare *and* contrast? If asked to give a judgment on an issue, do you come to a definite conclusion?) All points discussed in the paper should relate to the main topic.

Essay Questions for the Tests

Each test in the class will include an essay question. To help students as they review the material for the test, the question is provided ahead of time. However, students may not use any notes in actually taking the test. The following are the essay questions for each test:

Test #1: Describe the conditions that made the Protestant Reformation *necessary* and *possible*. (Note chapters 1-2 of Gonzalez for helpful background discussion.)

Test #2: D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones observed that God's response to the Age of Reason was revival through the Holy Spirit. Describe some of the spiritual responses in the church to the Age of Reason, feeling free to add strengths or weaknesses of these various responses. (Note pages 251-57, 259-73, and 288-90 of Gonzalez for helpful background discussion.)

Test #3: Define the modern ecumenical movement, identify some major ways it was manifested, and conclude by noting biblical weaknesses of that movement. (Note pages 512-19 of Gonzalez for helpful background discussion.)

Course Grading

The final grade will be averaged from four assignments, the three tests and the term paper.

Grading scale

A – 100%-90%

B – 89%-80%

C – 79%-70%

D – 69%-60%

F – 59% and below

© 2024 Mark Sidwell. All rights reserved. Reproduction prohibited without permission.