

Syllabus for CH 604 History of Doctrine (Online Version)

Course Description

Study of the development of doctrine beginning with the Reformation and continuing into the modern era. Emphasis is placed on what the Reformers taught, Romanism's responses, and modern theological affirmations.

Course Objectives

1. Through textbook reading and lectures the student will learn the basic historical framework of the history of Christian doctrine from the Reformation to the present.
2. The student will refine abilities of research, analysis, and writing by preparing a term paper on a historic Protestant creed of his own choosing.

Texts

Timothy George, *Theology of the Reformers*, rev. ed. (Broadman & Holman, 2013) ISBN 978-0-8054-0195-0

The student will also read selections from other works as described below; pdfs are provided for these readings.

Schedule of Reading

For Test #1

- Listen to Lectures 1-11
- Read George, 11-322

For Test #2

- Listen to Lectures 12-20
- Read George, 327-74; and the pdfs for Schaff, *Creeds*, 508-23; Schaff, *Creeds*, 102-8; Sidwell on Orthodoxy; and Schaff, *Creeds*, 882-903

For Test #3

- Listen to Lectures 13-23
- Read the pdfs for Foster on the New England Theology; Sidwell on Liberalism; Panosian on Wesley; Schaff, *Creeds*, 845-57; McGlothlin on the NH Confession; Blaising on Dispensationalism; and Sidwell on Neo-Orthodoxy
- Also turn in the term paper by the time you take Test #3

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.

Textbook Reading

Students are expected to read the assigned readings according to the schedule. A study guide for Timothy George's text is provided. Most of the additional readings are in public domain (i.e., free of copyright). However, for those sources still under copyright, students should not make any additional copies or distribute them in any way without the permission of the copyright holder.

Term Paper: History of a Creed

Content

1. The paper is a study of any post-1500 creed of the student's choosing.
2. The paper will consist of two major sections:
 - a. Part 1 is the historical background of the creed. What were the circumstances that led its writing? Who were its major authors? What groups have historically used it? Have there been any significant controversies over its content or over subscription (adherence) to the creed?
 - b. Part 2 analyzes the content of the creed.

The following are creeds that would be acceptable topics:

Augsburg Confession	Thirty-nine Articles of Religion
Luther's Catechism	Savoy Declaration
Formula of Concord	(Second) London Confession (1689)
Belgic Confession	Philadelphia Confession
First Helvetic Confession	New Hampshire Confession
Second Helvetic Confession	Baptist Faith and Message
Heidelberg Catechism	Barmen Declaration
First Scots Confession	Presbyterian Confession of 1967

Students may write about a creed not listed here but should first make sure there is sufficient material to support the research and should also check with the teacher. Also once a topic is chosen feel free to inform the teacher in case he may know of resources that might be useful to the research.

3. The paper should be done in "Chicago Style" as found in Kate Turabian, *A Manual for Writers*, 9th ed.
4. Sources: The paper should include a bibliography of at least five sources consulted. Journal articles are particularly recommended for this study, as they are available.

Physical Requirements

1. The paper should be a minimum of 5-7 pages of text, not including title page, bibliography, etc. There is no maximum length.
2. The paper should be double-spaced and printed in a preferred point size of 12-point type in a serif font such as Times Roman.
3. The essay should have title page, which includes the student's name. An outline is optional.
4. The paper's margins should be 1" on all sides.
5. For those who use Microsoft Word, a template for the paper is provided. This file not only has the proper margins and spacing but also provides samples of basic Turabian style for bibliography and footnotes. (Be sure to delete the examples before turning in the paper.)

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?
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. *Style*: Your paper should reflect 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? If footnotes and/or bibliography are included, are they in the proper format?
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 write the essay ahead of time or use any notes in actually taking the test. The following are the essay questions for each test:

Test #1: Write an essay on views of the Lord's Supper during the Reformation in the following manner: discuss how Luther, Zwingli, and Calvin agreed against Catholicism in their views; describe how Luther, Zwingli, and Calvin differed among each other in their views; and conclude with your thoughts of who makes the best argument.

Test #2: The period from the death of Calvin to the English Civil War was a key era in Calvinistic/Reformed theology. Show how Reformed theology developed in this period by writing an essay noting the important men, movements, and controversies of this period.

Test #3: Compare and contrast *evangelical* and *confessional* theologies, using examples of the teachings and leaders of the different forms of each. Include strengths and weaknesses of each approach.

Grading

The three tests and the paper will be averaged together equally to calculate the final grade.

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