

Cincinnati Christian University

Foster School of Biblical Studies, Arts & Sciences

HIST 220 01 – History of Christianity in the Western World – Section 1 (3 semester credit hours)

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Fall Semester 2018

T-TH, 8:30-9:45
Presidents Hall, 252

COURSE SYLLABUS

DESCRIPTION: A survey of Christianity from its origins to the present, placed in the context of western civilization. Political and social influences receive special attention.

RATIONALE: An examination of the History of Christianity will familiarize students with the themes, events, personalities, and theological concepts that have influenced Christianity from the time of its inception to the present. Because we stand on the shoulders of those who have gone before us, it is important for students to recognize the development of Christianity and the influences upon it, so that they will be better equipped to understand their own beliefs, the beliefs of others, and the manner in which Christianity both affects and is affected by our current age.

OUTCOMES FOR THE ARTS & SCIENCES DEPARTMENT

- 1) Communicate effectively in both oral and written forms in a variety of rhetorical contexts, including Standard English.
- 2) Adeptly utilize modern research and writing tools.
- 3) Identify decisive events and ideas in the human experience and assess their influences on modern culture and thought.
- 4) Employ critical and creative thinking and mathematic and scientific principles for problem solving, literary and socio-cultural analysis, intercultural understanding, and research in the sciences and humanities.
- 5) Demonstrate the integration of academic insights and experiences by constructing and employing a personal framework in which ethical decisions can be made in light of societal values and a Christian worldview.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: The student will...

- Be able to identify the personalities, events, themes, and theological concepts that are important to the development and growth of Christianity from its beginning to the present (A&S Outcomes 3 and 5).
- Be equipped to present an overview of the historical development and growth of Christianity from apostolic times to its current situation (A&S Outcome 3).

- Be able to explain how theological, social, cultural, and political forces have influenced the growth and development of Christianity from its inception to the present day (A&S Outcomes 3 and 5).
- Improve analytical reading and writing abilities (A&S Outcomes 1, 2, and 4).

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

1. Class Attendance – Your consistent attendance is essential. Class absences are strongly discouraged. For additional attendance requirements see the college catalog. NOTE: Three “tardies” are equivalent to one unexcused absence.
2. Take notes on all class lectures.
3. Read the course text: *A History of the Church from Pentecost to Present* by James B. North.
4. Read and prepare a book review for the following:
 - (a) *God’s Battalions* by Rodney Stark (Due on Sept. 20)
 - (b) *Luther the Reformer* by James M. Kittelson (Due on Nov. 1)
5. Complete two Mid-Term Examinations and a Final Examination.

GRADING PROCEDURE: Letter grades will be determined in accordance with the percentages listed in the college catalog. Grade will be based on the following criteria:

a.	Examinations	40%	(20% each)
b.	Final Examination	25%	
c.	Two Book Reviews (3 pages each)	30%	(15% each)
d.	Class Participation and Conduct	5%	

COURSE SCHEDULE:

(The Professor reserves the right to make any Course Schedule changes or Syllabus changes deemed appropriate)

- **Section I:** Early Church and Rise of Roman Catholicism (Chapters 1-9) → **Exam I**
- **Section II:** High Middle Ages through Reformation (Chapters 10-19) → **Exam II**
- **Section III:** Age of Reason and the Modern Church (Chapters 20-26) → **Exam III**

BOOK REVIEW PROCEDURES:

1. LENGTH

Book Review – Three typed pages (double-spaced).

2. FORMAT

Book Review – Must consist of the following three divisions:

(1) Publication Data – A bibliographic entry for the book under review. See example below:

Geary, Patrick J. *Furta Sacra: Thefts of Relics in the Central Middle Ages*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1978.

(2) Summary – An insightful overview of the book's content.

(3) Evaluation – An analytical discussion of the book's content. Things to look for:

(a) **Thesis** – A single sentence that defines the author's primary argument (or purpose) for the book. Ask yourself why the author wrote this book.

(b) **Strengths and Weaknesses** – While reading the book, search for the strengths and weaknesses of the book (i.e., does the author support the book's thesis? Is the book thoroughly documented? Are there contradictions in the book? How could the author make the book better? Stylistic elements? Etc., etc., etc.

3. **STYLE** – Book Reviews must be written as formal documents using proper English grammar. Spelling mistakes and grammatical errors will substantially lower grades. It is suggested that you proofread your work at least twice before it is submitted.

A. *Typing Format* – Use one-inch margins, twelve-point type (Times New Roman), page numbers, and new paragraph indents of between five and eight spaces.

B. *Formal Writing* – All writing assignments are considered formal scholarly writing. Avoid the following mistakes:

(1) Passive Voice (i.e., "Washington was elected by the people").

(2) Personal Judgments (i.e., "It was boring," "I did not like it," etc.).

(3) First-Person Commentary (i.e., "I find...," "I think...," "I feel...," etc.).

(4) Contractions (i.e., "don't," "can't," etc.) and Abbreviations (i.e., "2nd," "thru," etc.).

C. *Documentation* – All quotes and sources of information **must be documented**. For Book Reviews the use of parenthetical references is acceptable. Example: (Geary, 87).

4. **GRADES** – Grading considerations will include content, grammar, and compliance with the rules and guidelines provided above.

CLASS GUIDELINES:

1. Arrive on time and be prepared.
2. Be attentive during class. Excessive inappropriate activities such as sleeping, dreaming, talking, texting may result in the lowering of your grade.
3. The use of electronic devices for anything other than taking notes is forbidden.
4. Turn cell phones to silent prior to class!
5. Complete and turn in all assignments on the assigned dates. However, the professor may grant extensions depending on the circumstances. To successfully pass this course, all assignments must be completed.

6. Possible extra credit will be available for students at the discretion of the professor.
7. Feel free to contact the professor if you have any problems, need clarification of information, require help with course assignments or need some other form of assistance!

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS:

Students who require academic accommodations due to any documented physical, psychological, or learning disability should request assistance from the Student Services Department within the first two weeks of the semester. The Student Services Department is located on the upper level of Presidents Hall. You may also contact the office by phone (244-8150). Tutoring services in various subjects are also available.

***NOTE: The professor reserves the right to change the syllabus or course plan as deemed necessary**

