

Course Prospectus

For THL 422 History of Christianity II

Overview

This course begins with the Protestant Reformation of the sixteenth century and continues to the present. The focus is on the people and events shaping ideas of Protestantism, Catholicism, and Orthodoxy during this period. Noted are basic theological developments in these systems and the social, political, and economic forces influencing them. This is a readings course.

COURSE CATALOG DESCRIPTION FOR THIS COURSE

This course deals with the history of Christianity from the time of the Reformation to the present. Focuses on the Protestant Reformation, Roman Catholic reform, Protestant liberalism and fundamentalism, the ecumenical movement, Christianity in developing countries, and the Christian decline of the industrialized West. Upon completion, students should be able to explain the modern history of Christianity as a global religion and to show the diversity of its beliefs and practices..

PREREQUISITES AND COREQUISITES

THL 421 or consent of instructor.

COURSE CREDIT

Three (3) semester hours.

Instructional objectives

On successful completion of this course, a student should be able to:

1. Define basic terms and develop basic research skills in the field of Christian history;
2. Demonstrate trace the major themes, issues, and personalities of Church History from the Reformation to the present;
3. Knowledge of the main events and persons in the course of church history from the Reformation to the present day;
4. Show understanding of the development of Christian thought and the formulation of doctrine; and
5. Demonstrate the skill of applying church history to contemporary ideas and issues.

Instructional objectives

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation

requires that all students with disabilities have a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. Students having a disability requiring an accommodation should inform the instructor through the “Contact Instructor” link on the course home page.

Technology access

This course requires web access and the student has to have an established e-mail account. The Adobe Acrobat Reader is necessary to view documents that are PDF files. One can download the reader free at <http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html>.

Course evaluation

Student input is welcome for improving this course. Making suggestions by e-mail is helpful. Our goal in this course is to facilitate the successful achievement of all instructional objectives by all students. At the end of the course students have the opportunity of assessing the course. We want to make e-learning courses as effective as we can. We may also ask some other questions concerning a student’s experience in distance learning to help us improve our program. We appreciate students letting us know how we can improve our products and services for them and other distance learners.

Textbooks

The textbook for this course is:

GONZÁLEZ, JUSTO L. THE STORY OF CHRISTIANITY: THE REFORMATION TO THE PRESENT DAY. VOL. I I. SAN FRANCISCO: HARPER & ROWE PUBLISHERS, 1985.

The three books you are to review in this course are provided below.

Ball, Bryan W. *The Seventh-Day Men: Sabbatarians and Sabbatarianism in England and Wales, 1600-1800*. OXFORD: CLARENDON PRESS, 1994.

MCGOLDRICK, JAMES E. BAPTIST SUCCESSIONISM: A CRUCIAL QUESTION IN BAPTIST HISTORY. ROWMAN & LITTLEFIELD PUBLISHERS, INC., 2000.

JENKINS, PHILIP. THE NEXT CHRISTENDOM: THE COMING OF GLOBAL CHRISTIANITY. OXFORD: OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS, 2002.

Students may order these through the University Bookstore.

The books used in this course are commercial publications. They represent the views and ideas of their authors, editors, and publishers. Living University does not endorse these texts nor vouch for their accuracy. We simply employ them in helping you master the content of the course.

Icebreaker assignment

To begin this course, students must complete an icebreaker assignment to introduce themselves to their classmates through the posting of a short autobiography on the course Forum. The icebreaker assignment is due by the eighth day of the semester. Students post their biographies as a reply to the "Bios" topic on the course forum. A student can earn 25 bonus points in this course by doing so “on time.” As there are people from all over the world enrolled in this course each autobiography will help all know, understand and appreciate each other. Students are to read and comment on each other's bios throughout the first week of class.

Course requirements and grades

DUE DATES AND EXTENSIONS

Students must complete the course by the last official day of instruction as set forth in the academic calendar.

READING AND WRITING EXERCISES

Refer to “Course outline and assignments” section for reading assignments. When you undertake your critical book reviews you may find the reviews of these titles on Amazon.com helpful.

FILING WRITING ASSIGNMENTS

For instructions in how to post assignments, visit the Frequently Asked Questions pages through the link on the course homepage.

STUDY TIPS

Distance learning emphasizes self-motivation. The instructor functions as a facilitator with the student as the driving force in mastering course content. Students are encouraged not to put off completing their readings and assignments.

Grading

A course grade will be determined based on the number of points a student has earned over the semester as follows:

Writing Assignments (four, each worth 150 points, for a total of 600 points)

Exams (four, each worth 100 points, for a total of 400 points]

TOTAL 1,000 points

Posting the autobiography on time can earn a student 25 bonus points. These points could make the difference between an A or a B, or passing or not passing.

Grades are in the traditional American style of an A, B, C, D, or F. In distance learning, we believe that the measure of mastery of course subject matter is completion of 80% of the objectives for a course. That means that we want students to earn at least 800 points in this course. If they do not do so then they have not achieved the level of the mastery we would like them to have.

We want this course to be competency-based and so it is possible for the entire class to receive an A or a B. There is no artificial curving of scores in the assignment of grades (if you do not know what that means, do not worry about it). Mastery of the material is what one's goal should be.

Grades, assigned by points, are as follows:

A 900-1000 points

B 800-899 points

C 700-799 points

D 600-699 points

F Below 600 points

Academic irregularity

Students have the responsibility for conducting themselves in such a manner as to avoid any suspicion that they are improperly giving or receiving aid on any assignment or examination. An academic irregularity not only includes cheating but also includes plagiarism (taking another's ideas and/or words and presenting them as if they were the writer's own) and the submitting of the same paper in separate courses without prior consent from the faculty members concerned.

In cases of suspected academic irregularity, faculty members may refuse to grade such papers, completely or in part, or examinations, and to record each of them as a failure.

If an academic irregularity is sufficiently serious, the University may take one or more of, but not limited to, the following actions:

1. Drop the student from the course with a grade of F;
2. Place the student on academic probation; and/or
3. Dismiss the student from the University.

Course calendar

Part 1 The Reformation (January 14-February 6)

Assignments

Topics 1-13

González 6-124

Writing Assignment 1 (Analysis of a Significant Individual) due February 6

Exam 1 due February 6

Part 2 Orthodoxy, Rationalism, and Pietism (February 7-March 12)

Reading Assignments

Topics 14-24

González 132-230

Writing Assignment 2 (Critique of *The Seventh-Day Men: Sabbatarians and Sabbatarianism in England and Wales, 1600-1800* by Bryan W. Ball) due March 12

Exam 2 due March 12

Part 3 The Nineteenth Century (March 13-April 17)

Reading Assignments

Topics 25-30

González 330-398

Writing Assignment 3 (Critical Book Review of *Baptist Successionism: A Crucial Question in Baptist History* by James E. McGoldrick) due April 17

Exam 3 due April 17

Part 4 The Twentieth Century (April 18-May 11)

Reading Assignments

Topics 31-36

González 330-398

Writing Assignment 4 (Critical Book Review of *The Next Christendom: The Coming of Global Christianity* by Philip Jenkins) due May 11

Exam 4 due May 11