

# Course Prospectus

## For THL 422: History of Christianity II

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## 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

### Course description

This course deals with the history of Christianity from the time of the Reformation to the present. Its focus is 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. There are no corequisites for this course.

### 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 ability to trace the major themes, issues, and personalities of church history from the Reformation to the present;
3. Demonstrate 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.

## YOUR INSTRUCTOR

The instructor of record for this course is Kenneth L. Frank, Jr. To contact him on course details and issues please use the email feature in the e-learning system (Populi) or [kfrank@livinguniv.com](mailto:kfrank@livinguniv.com).



Mr. Kenneth Frank was born and raised in New Jersey, USA where he attended Monmouth College (now Monmouth University) for one year majoring in history and government. Following that, he attended the three campuses of Ambassador College in Big Sandy, Texas, USA; Bricket Wood, England and Pasadena, California, USA. In the summer of 1971, he participated in an archaeological project jointly sponsored by Ambassador College and Hebrew University in Jerusalem. Upon graduation from Ambassador College with a Bachelor of Arts in Theology, he trained for the ministry in Canada and was ordained an elder in 1975. He pastored Canadian congregations in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Ontario for twenty-six years before returning to the United States where he served as a Living Church of God pastor. He is married, father of four children (one of whom is LU faculty member, Annette Triplett) and grandfather of seven. In 2014, he earned a Master of Arts degree in

Christian Studies with an Emphasis in Pastoral Ministry at Grand Canyon University. Presently, he serves at the Living University campus as instructor, Registrar and Director of Admissions.

## **COURSE PROTOCOLS**

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### **Technology access**

This course requires that students have web access and an established email 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> which can then be installed and used to access PDF documents on this site.

### **Students with disabilities**

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 by email (on the “Course Info” page, click on the instructor’s name and then select “Send E-mail”).

### **Attendance in this online course**

One of the most vital aspects of the college and university experience is attendance and punctuality in the learning environment. Regularity of attendance is necessary to maintain a satisfactory academic record and for students to derive maximum benefit from a course, whether in an online course or in an on-campus course. We have noticed that students who fall behind in their coursework typically drop out. Therefore, we highly encourage you to complete your assignments on time, as we want you to succeed. Remember Ecclesiastes 9:10: “Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might; for there is no work or device or knowledge or wisdom in the grave where you are going.”

Please be aware that all students who fall behind in an online course and do not complete twenty-five percent (25%) or more of the total assignments and other required activities for a course, on or before “Last day to withdraw from a course” as set forth in the University Academic Calendar, will receive a grade of “W” for it. After that date, the grade will be a “WF” and counted in a student’s GPA. Moreover, an instructor may drop a student from a course whenever the instructor concludes that a student’s class attendance or punctuality endangers the student’s success or places other students at risk.

### **Withdrawing from or dropping this course**

It is the responsibility of a student to drop a course if he or she cannot meet the requirements of the course. Any student who stops attending a course without officially withdrawing from it risks receiving a punitive grade for that course. A student who finds it necessary to drop a course after the Late Registration (Drop/Add) Period must notify the Registrar’s Office in writing. Please note the following:

- If a student drops a course on or before the “Last day to withdraw from a course without a grade penalty” as published in the University Academic Calendar, even if his or her work is not of a passing grade, then a “W” is recorded.
- If a course is dropped after that date, but before the last 21 calendar days of the semester, then the instructor determines the grade. The faculty member will at this time record a grade of “W” if passing (not computed in GPA) or “WF” if failing (computed in GPA).
- Students who drop a course, yet remain in one or more other courses during the last 18 calendar days of the semester, will receive a grade of “WF.”
- Students who completely withdraw from the University at any time during the semester may be given a grade of “W” on all courses.

If students do not initiate the withdrawal process, the instructor is required to initiate the administrative process and to record a grade of “W” or “WF” for the course, depending on the date the faculty member drops the student from the course. Students who register for a course as an audit, but then withdraw, will be assigned a grade of “W” for the course.

## TEXTBOOKS

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The textbook for this course is:

Gonzalez, Justo L. *The Story of Christianity: The Reformation the Present Day*. Vol. 2. San Francisco: HarperOne, 2010. (ISBN: 9780061855894)

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*. Cambridge, UK: James Clarke and Co., 2009. (ISBN: 9780227173114)

McGoldrick, James E. *Baptist Successionism: A Crucial Question in Baptist History*. Lanham, MA: Scarecrow Press, Inc., 2000. (ISBN: 9780810836815)

Jenkins, Philip. *The Next Christendom: The Coming of Global Christianity*. 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed. USA: New York: Oxford University Press., 2011. (ISBN: 9780199767465)

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.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

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### Due dates and extensions

Submit assignments on or before the due dates or late penalties will apply. Students must complete the course by the last official day of instruction as set forth in the academic calendar.

### Icebreaker assignment

To begin this course officially, you must complete an icebreaker assignment by which you introduce yourself to your classmates through posting a short autobiography on course Icebreaker discussion forum. A student can earn **30 points** by posting the Icebreaker assignment on time. These points could make the difference between an A or a B, or passing or not passing this course.

- The icebreaker assignment must be submitted not later than the eighth day of the semester.
- Post your biography as a reply to the "Icebreaker" discussion forum associated with the "Welcome and Overview" lesson.
- Please read and comment on at least two other bios by the due date in order to get credit.
- Full credit for this assignment will only be given if all three of the above requirements are met.

Do NOT create a NEW discussion. Simply tell the class about yourself and your goals. This is not the place for a profession of faith, or the details of your conversion experience, or problems you have had with previous fellowships, as that information is more of a private nature. Here you are to inform your classmates what you would like them to know about you. As we have people from all over the world enrolled in this course, each autobiography will help us to know, understand and appreciate each other.

### Reading assignments

Refer to "Course Outline" section for reading assignments. When you undertake your critical book reviews, you may find the reviews of these titles on Amazon.com helpful.

### Discussion forums

There are ten (10) discussion forums in this course, consisting of two types of discussions. Each of the five (5) lessons in this course will consist of a lesson discussion topic (worth **15 points**) and a research discussion topic (worth **20 points**). Each discussion will require one original response to the instructor's question, and two reply posts to fellow students. In order to earn full credit, all three posts must be made by the deadline, and all word count minimums must be satisfied.

### Writing assignments

There are two (2) essay assignments and three (3) book critiques due in this course. All writing assignments in this course should follow the MLA style as set forth in *Writing Research Papers: A Complete Guide* by Lester & Lester. Please cite your sources and use quotation marks where needed. To submit your work, select the appropriate assignment from the Assignments tab to go to the Assignment Submission page. Use the Attach a File feature below the textbox to upload your WORD document. Please do not use the textbox to “post” your assignment: the textbox is used for student/instructor communication only, pertaining to the assignment. Each writing assignment is worth **75 points**.

### Quizzes and examinations

There are five (5) exams in this course. Each exam is closed book and closed notes. Only Exam 5 requires a proctor. A proctored exam is one that is overseen by an impartial individual (called a proctor) who monitors or supervises a student while he or she is taking an exam. The proctor ensures the security and integrity of the exam process. In order for a proctored exam grade to be recorded, a signed Proctor’s Signature Form (PSF) must be sent to the University. Be sure to see your course syllabus for information about your proctoring options. Each exam is worth **80 points**.

### Course evaluation

Student input is welcome for improving this course. Making suggestions by email 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 to assess 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. This survey is worth **25 points**.

## GRADING

Your course grade will be determined based on the number of points you have earned over the semester as follows:

- Icebreaker Assignment (30 points)
- Writing Assignments/Book Critiques (5, each worth 75 points, total of 375 points)
- Lesson Discussion Forums (5, each worth 15 points, total of 75 points)
- Research Discussion Forums (5, each worth 20 points, total of 100 points)
- Exams (5, each worth 80 points, total of 400 points) [closed book, **Exam 5 must be proctored**]
- Course Evaluation (20 points)
- TOTAL 1,000 points**

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. 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 or examinations, completely or in part, 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 OUTLINE

Below are the lesson sections, topics and assignments pertaining to each lesson for the duration of the course:

### Lesson 1 The Reformation - Part 1, Section 1

#### Reading Assignments

#### Topics 1-6

González 7-76

Icebreaker

Writing Assignment 1 (Analysis of a Significant Individual)

Research Discussion 1

Lesson Discussion 1

Exam 1

### Lesson 2 The Reformation – Part 1, Section 2

#### Topics 7-14

González 77-166

Writing Assignment 2 (Analysis of Michael Servetus' Trinity Doctrine)

Research Discussion 2

Lesson Discussion 2

Exam 2

### Lesson 3 Orthodoxy, Rationalism, and Pietism - Part 2

#### Topics 15-25

González 167-291

Writing Assignment 3 (Critique of *The Seventh-Day Men: Sabbatarians and Sabbatarianism in England and Wales, 1600-1800* by Bryan W. Ball)

Research Discussion 3

Lesson Discussion 3

Exam 3

### Lesson 4 Beyond Christendom – Part 3, Section 1

#### Topics 26-31

González 293-398

Writing Assignment 4 (Critical Book Review of *Baptist Successionism: A Crucial Question in Baptist History* by James E. McGoldrick)  
Research Discussion 4  
Lesson Discussion 4  
Exam 4

**Lesson 5 Beyond Christendom – Part 3, Section 2**

**Topics 32-38**

González 399-532

Writing Assignment 5 (Critical Book Review of *The Next Christendom: The Coming of Global Christianity* by Philip Jenkins)  
Research Discussion 5  
Lesson Discussion 5  
Exam 5 **[PROCTORED]**  
Course Evaluation