

History of Christianity II 04HT5200 | Spring 2020

Dr. Brian H. Cosby

COURSE DESCRIPTION

History of Christianity II presents a survey of the Christian church from the Reformation to the 20th century. The course is designed to provide the student with a broad understanding of the major figures as well as the political, historical, and theological trends within the church and the culture during this timeframe. Special emphasis will be placed upon the development and history of the Reformed and evangelical tradition.

REQUIRED READING

1. William C. Placher and Derek R. Nelson, Eds., *Readings in the History of Christian Theology, Volume 2*, revised edition (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2017). [Selected portions will be required reading.]
2. Timothy George, *Theology of the Reformers*, revised edition (Nashville: B&H Academic, 2013).
3. John Bunyan, *The Pilgrim's Progress*, Oxford World Classics (Oxford: OUP, 2008).
4. Alec Vidler, *The Church in an Age of Revolution* (London: Pelican, 1990).
5. Douglas A. Sweeney, *The American Evangelical Story: A History of the Movement* (Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2005).

SUPPLEMENTAL READING (NOT REQUIRED)

1. Justo L. Gonzalez, *The Story of Christianity (Volume 2): The Reformation to the Present Day*, revised and updated (New York: HarperOne, 2010).
2. E.A. Livingstone, *Oxford Concise Dictionary of the Christian Church* (Oxford: OUP, 2006).

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. **Book Review**

- Write a review of *Theology of the Reformers* by Timothy George.
- The review should be between 800 and 1,000 words, Turabian or Chicago footnote style, double-spaced, Times New Roman, 12 pt. font.
- It should be well written and should include information about the author, the purpose of the book, the audience, an overview of the content, and your evaluation.

2. Research Papers

- Write three papers researching either a specific individual, a historical/theological movement, or an event. They should correspond to the time periods of the Reformation, the Post-Reformation/Early Modern, and Modern church history, respectively.
- The papers should be around 2,500 words, Turabian or Chicago footnote style, double-spaced, Times New Roman, 12 pt. font. Please include a bibliography and use reliable primary and secondary sources.
- The papers should be well written, organized, and should demonstrate your understanding of the historical/theological context and subject matter.
- Tackling a very specific theme or making an argument is encouraged.

3. Presentation

- Students will give a 10-15 minute presentation arguing a position on the “why” of an historical event (e.g., English Reformation, Puritanism, Great Awakening, rise of “liberal theology,” etc.).
- The presentation should be informative, organized, and the student should be prepared to answer a couple of follow up questions.

COURSE EVALUATION AND GRADING

Grading will be based on following the guidelines outlined above in the course requirements. The breakdown of your final grade will be as follows:

• Book Review	10%
• Research Papers (25% each)	75%
• <u>Presentation</u>	<u>15%</u>
	100%

SCHEDULE OF ASSIGNMENTS

Due on February 7–8

- Read *Theology of the Reformers* by Timothy George (revised edition)
- Book Report on *Theology of the Reformers* (see instructions above)
- In Placher and Nelson, *Readings in the History of Christian Theology*, read the following sections: “Martin Luther, *The Freedom of a Christian*”; “Council of Trent: *Decree Concerning Justification*”; “*The Five Arminian Articles*”; “*The Canons of the Synod of Dort*”

Due on March 6–7

- Read *The Pilgrim’s Progress* by John Bunyan (be sure to have the correct version, listed in the required reading above)
- In Placher and Nelson, *Readings in the History of Christian Theology*, read the following sections: “John Knox: *History of the Reformation of Religion within the Realm of Scotland*”; “George Fox: *Journal*”; “John Wesley: *The Scripture Way of Salvation*”
- Research Paper #1: Reformation (see instructions above)

Due on April 3–4

- Read *The Church in an Age of Revolution* by Alec Vidler
- In Placher and Nelson, *Readings in the History of Christian Theology*, read the following sections: “Immanuel Kant: *Religion within the Limits of Reason Alone*”; “John Winthrop: *A Model of Christian Charity*”
- Research Paper #2: Post-Reformation/Early Modern Church History History (see instructions above)

Due on May 8–9

- Read *The American Evangelical Story* by Douglas Sweeney
- In Placher and Nelson, *Readings in the History of Christian Theology*, read the following sections: “Jonathan Edwards: *Personal Narrative*”; “Charles Grandison Finney: *Lectures on Revivals of Religion*”; “Friedrich Schleiermacher: *On Religion: Speeches to Its Cultured Despisers*”; “Charles Hodge: *Systematic Theology*”; “Karl Barth: *Church Dogmatics*”
- Research Paper #3: Modern Church History (see instructions above)
- Presentation (see instructions above)

MY CONTACT INFO

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EXTENSION POLICY

All assignments and exams are to be completed by the deadlines announced in this syllabus or in class.

Extensions for assignments and exams due within the normal duration of the course must be approved beforehand by the Professor. Extensions of two weeks or less beyond the date of the last deadline for the course must be approved beforehand by the Professor. A grade penalty may be assessed.

Extensions of greater than two weeks but not more than six weeks beyond the last deadline for the course may be granted in extenuating circumstances (i.e. illness, family emergency). For an extension of more than two weeks the student must request an Extension Request Form from the Student Services Office. The request must be approved by the Professor and the Academic Dean. A grade penalty may be assessed. (RTS Catalog p. 42 and RTS Atlanta Student Handbook p. 14)

Any incompletes not cleared six weeks after the last published due date for course work will be converted to a failing grade. Professors may have the failing grade changed to a passing grade by request. (RTS Catalog p. 42)

Course Objectives Related to MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes

Course: History of Christianity II

Professor: Brian H. Cosby

Campus: Atlanta

Date: 9/30/2019

<u>MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes</u> <i>In order to measure the success of the MDiv curriculum, RTS has defined the following as the intended outcomes of the student learning process. Each course contributes to these overall outcomes. This rubric shows the contribution of this course to the MDiv outcomes.</i> <i>*As the MDiv is the core degree at RTS, the MDiv rubric will be used in this syllabus.</i>		<u>Rubric</u> ➤ Strong ➤ Moderate ➤ Minimal ➤ None	<u>Mini-Justification</u>
Articulation (oral & written)	Broadly understands and articulates knowledge, both oral and written, of essential biblical, theological, historical, and cultural/global information, including details, concepts, and frameworks. Also includes ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.	Strong	Students are required to write a book review, three research papers, and give an oral presentation.
Scripture	Significant knowledge of the original meaning of Scripture. Also, the concepts for and skill to research further into the original meaning of Scripture and to apply Scripture to a variety of modern circumstances. (Includes appropriate use of original languages and hermeneutics; and integrates theological, historical, and cultural/global perspectives.)	Minimal	As a church history course, we will be doing little in the way of study of the biblical text and/or languages. We will, however, have devotions at the start of each class from the Scriptures.
Reformed Theology	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	Strong	This course covers the period of the Reformation to the present, which will include the historical background to Reformed Theology.
Sanctification	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	Moderate	The student of this course should grow spiritually through a greater appreciation of the Scriptures, those who have gone before us, and how God has providentially shaped history for His glory and our good.
Desire for Worldview	Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.	Moderate	This course provides the historical/biblical context through which to see the world around us.
Winsomely Reformed	Embraces a winsomely Reformed ethos. (Includes an appropriate ecumenical spirit with other Christians, especially Evangelicals; a concern to present the Gospel in a God-honoring manner to non-Christians; and a truth-in-love attitude in disagreements.)	Strong	A survey of the history of Christianity should cultivate a winsomely Reformed spirit, given the variety of ways in which the church has expressed itself through the ages.
Pastoral Ministry	Ability to minister the Word of God to hearts and lives of both church and unchurched, to include preaching, teaching, leading in worship, leading, and shepherding the local congregation, aiding in spiritual maturity, concern for non-Xns.	Moderate	This course should provide the student with a historical-theological foundation from which to provide counsel, more exact content in teach/preaching, and leadership.