

HISTORY OF CHRISTIANITY II
HT5200 – Spring 2026, 3 Credit Hours

MEETINGS: Feb 20-21, Mar 20-21, April 17-18; Fri. 2pm-8:30pm / Sat. 9am-3:30pm

INSTRUCTOR: Peter James Yoder, Ph.D.
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COURSE CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

A continuation of HT5100, this general introduction to Christianity from the Reformation to the twentieth century focuses on key Christian doctrines, movements, and significant leaders, who made contributions of lasting significance to the Christian Church.

REQUIRED SECONDARY TEXTS:

- Steven Ozment, *The Age of Reform 1250-1550* (Yale)
- Mark Noll, *The Old Religion in a New World* (Eerdmans)
- *Oxford Handbook on Presbyterianism*, chapters 3-6 (on canvas)

REQUIRED PRIMARY TEXTS (some provided on Canvas):

- Martin Luther, *Three Treatises* (Fortress) (individually on canvas)
- John Calvin, *Instruction in Faith* (1537) (John Knox Press)
- Selections from *Canons of the Council of Trent* (on canvas)
- Philipp Jakob Spener, *Pia Desideria* (on canvas)
- Barth, “Evangelical Theology in the 19th Century” (on canvas)

PURPOSE OF THE COURSE:

The purpose of this course is to offer a general introduction to the various historical-theological developments in early modern and modern Christianity. Special emphasis will be placed on key figures, movements, creeds, rules, confessions, and the relationship between Christianity and the various cultures it encountered.

EVALUATION COMPONENTS AND GRADING SCALE:

Book Review:	20%
Course Readings:	10%
Exam:	35%
Research Paper:	35%

Book Review:	This grade is comprised of a 3-page reflection on the chapters assigned from the <i>Oxford Handbook on Presbyterianism</i> . Further requirements will be given on the first day of class.
Course Readings:	This grade is comprised of completing readings assigned for the semester
Exam:	This grade is comprised of a cumulative final exam.
Paper:	Requirements for formatting and expectations for each paper will be provided in class.

METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:

Instruction will occur in the form of both lectures and discussions.

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

It is RTS policy that students be present for all class sessions. The professor must be notified if a situation is encountered that requires a student to be absent from class.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:

No laptops, cell phones, or electronic devices (outside of those appropriate for health issues/learning disabilities) are allowed. In no case will academic dishonesty be tolerated. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to the following: plagiarism, cheating, unauthorized collaboration, fabrication, multiple submissions, and aiding and abetting. Plagiarism is the type of academic dishonesty most relevant to this course. It involves submitting material that in part or in whole is not the student's own work, without properly attributing the source(s) of its content. Academic dishonesty as listed above will result in a failing grade for the assignment.

SCHEDULE OF LECTURES, TOPICS, AND SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS:

Topics, readings, and themes may be altered in light of the progress of the course.

1. Late-Medieval Thought
2. Luther and Lutheranism
3. Zwingli and the Swiss Reformation
4. The Radical Reformation and Anabaptism
5. Calvin and Calvinism, Part 1
6. Calvin and Calvinism, Part 2
7. Reformation in England
8. Catholic Reformation
9. 17th and 18th Centuries- Orthodoxy and "Experimentalism"
10. 19th Century American Protestantism in a Global Context
11. 20th Century American Protestantism in a Global Context

Exam and Papers due Friday, May 1

Course Objectives Related to MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes

Course: HT5200 History of Christianity II
 Professor: Dr. Peter James Yoder
 Campus: Houston
 Date: Spring 2026

MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes <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>		Rubric • Strong • Moderate • Minimal • None	Mini-Justification
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	1. Development of doctrine 2. Recognition of important periods of history 3. Biographical studies
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	1. Application of Scripture to historical context 2. Interest in Church's interpretation of Scripture
Reformed Theology	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	Minimal	1. Interest in development of key Reformed doctrines in pre-Reformation church
Sanctification	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	Strong	1. Reformation Spirituality 2. Devotional Writings 3. Piety and Practices of the Protestant Church
Worldview	Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God. Includes ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.	Minimal	1. Recognition of broad development of systems of thought and practice
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	1. Emphasis on catholic Christianity 2. Care for Church history that belongs to all Christians 3. Ecumenical Creeds
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-Christians.	Moderate	1. Insight into perennial ecclesiastical concerns 2. Church liturgy 3. Missions 4. Cultural engagement