

History of Christianity II
Spring Semester 2026

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Course Number: HT5200
Meeting Times Tuesdays (6–9pm)

February 3	March 24
February 10	March 31
February 17	<i>April 14 (video lecture)</i>
February 24	April 21
March 3	April 28
<i>March 13 (video lecture)</i>	<i>May 5 (video lecture)</i>
March 17	

“What the church of Jesus Christ believes, teaches, and confesses on the basis of the word of God:
this is Christian doctrine.”

--Jaroslav Pelikan

“Many of the theological issues with which [the Reformers] wrestled seem far removed from contemporary concerns. For most modern Christians the intricacies of predestination, the precise mode of Christ’s presence in the Eucharist, and the arguments for and against infant baptism are matters of acute indifference. Concealed in such controverted points, however, are burning questions of life and death, questions about who God is, how divine revelation is imparted, and what constitutes the true church.”

--Timothy George

“The summons of death comes to us all, and no one can die for another. Every one must fight his own battle with death by himself, alone. We can shout into one another’s ears, but every one must himself be prepared for the time of death, for I will not be with you then, nor you with me. Therefore every one must himself know and be armed with the chief things which concern a Christian.”

--Martin Luther

Course Description

This course of study is an introduction to Christian life and thought from the era of the Reformation to today, focusing upon the movements, teachings, controversies, and persons who helped to define Christian faith and practice.

Course Objectives

- 1) To help each student gain a comprehensive understanding of the outline of church history from the sixteenth century to the modern era.
- 2) To help each student evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the church's faith and practice during this time period.
- 3) To help each student appreciate the importance of doctrine for church ministry by examining Reformation and modern thought especially with regard to the rise of Protestantism, confessionalism, and the spread of Christianity predominately in the West.

Course Texts

- 1) Tim Dowley, ed., *Introduction to the History of Christianity* (2nd ed.; Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2013). [from Reformation-end]
- 2) W. Robert Godfrey, *Reformation Sketches: Insights into Luther, Calvin, and the Confessions* (Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R Publishing, 2003).
- 3) Michael A. G. Haykin, *Light from the Word: Wisdom from the English Reformers & English Puritans* (Greenville, SC: Courier Publishing, 2025).
- 4) Thomas S. Kidd, *America's Religious History: Faith, Politics, and the Shaping of a Nation* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2019).

Course Requirements

- 1) **Participation (10%)** – Students are expected to attend class, read each book in its entirety, and participate in classroom discussions.
- 2) **Reflection Paper (15%)** – Carefully analyze the Godfrey, Haykin, or Kidd book. Write a 2,000-word reflection paper that includes a one-sentence thesis, a summary of the main themes of the book, and your own opinions on the book's significance for churches today.
- 3) **Sermon Presentation (15%)** – Outline a sermon from the Puritan/early American era. Present a verbal, ten-minute summary of its key doctrine, application, and importance for the Christian life.
- 4) **Midterm (30%)** – The midterm will be based on reading and lectures.
- 5) **Final (30%)** – The final is based on reading and lectures.

Zoom Policy

Your professor may allow you to Zoom into class or watch Zoom recordings for excused absences based on the professor's discretion and subject to the availability of equipment. Students should contact their professor well in advance of the class meeting. For a third absence the Registrar should be consulted. Your professor may require additional interactive assignments

to offset the absence of classroom interaction. Sync or Remote Live courses have priority for the limited Zoom equipment.

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 Registrar's Office. The request must be approved by the Professor and the Academic Dean. A grade penalty may be assessed. (RTS Catalog p. 46 and RTS Atlanta Student Handbook p. 18)

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. 49)

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 Registrar's Office. The request must be approved by the Professor and the Academic Dean. A grade penalty may be assessed. (RTS Catalog p. 46 and RTS Atlanta Student Handbook p. 18)

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AI Policy

Please refer to "Artificial Intelligence Policies for Use in Coursework" and "Penalties.

Course Objectives Related to MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes

Course: History of Christianity II
 Professor: Aaron Menikoff
 Campus: Atlanta
 Date: Springs 2026

<u>MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes</u>		<u>Rubric</u>	<u>Mini-Justification</u>
<p><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></p> <p><i>*As the MDiv is the core degree at RTS, the MDiv rubric will be used in this syllabus.</i></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Strong ➤ Moderate ➤ Minimal ➤ None 	
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.	Strong	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reflection Paper 2. Class participation
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.)	Strong	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Emphasis on history of doctrine in class discussion 2. Using the confessions as an interpreter of Scripture
Reformed Theology	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	Moderate	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Study of the key Reformation doctrines 2. Study of the worship & practice of the Reformation church
Sanctification	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	Moderate	Emphasis that the study of history is ultimately a study of God's work preserving his saints
Desire for Worldview	Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.	Moderate	Study of the attempt of Christians to develop and live out a Christian worldview
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.)	Minimal	Focus on lessons to be learned from the manner in which Christians disagreed with each other
Preach	Ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.	Minimal	1. Readings of select sermons
Worship	Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service.	Minimal	1. Consideration of Reformation worship
Shepherd	Ability to shepherd the local congregation: aiding in spiritual maturity; promoting use of gifts and callings; and encouraging a concern for non-Christians, both in America and worldwide.	Moderate	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Recognition that many of the Reformers and influential Christians were shepherds of souls 2. Study of life and doctrine
Church/World	Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.	Minimal	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Gain a better understanding of historical roots of denominations 2. Danger of church/state confusion