

SYLLABUS

HT5200R: History of Christianity II

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Office hours: By appointment.

Course Time:

This course meets remotely via Zoom on Thursdays, from 2-5p Central Time. The course begins on August 27, 2026. Zoom links will be sent each week via Canvas announcements.

Course description:

A continuation of History of Christianity I, concentrating on great leaders of the church in the modern period of church history from the Reformation to the twentieth century.

Goals:

1. The student will be *introduced* to the history of the Christian church over the past five centuries, particularly emphasizing the way certain beliefs and practices have shaped Christian identity.
2. Through the lectures, the student will be *exposed* to the cultural and political contexts of Christian thought and *develop* a greater critical appreciation for the Christian tradition.
3. Through the reading and discussions, the student will be *oriented* to key figures, beliefs, practices, and stories in the life of the Christian church and will *explore* how they relate to contemporary Christian life and ministry.
4. Through the book *For a Continuing Church*, the student will *appreciate* Presbyterian identity as a confluence of beliefs, practices, and stories, which continues to have importance in our postmodern world.
5. Through the final exam, the student will *reflect* on how Christian identity, as represented over the past five centuries, and how Presbyterian identity may have relevance for contemporary Christian life and ministry.

Required texts:

Justo Gonzalez, *The Story of Christianity, vol. 2: The Reformation to Present Day, revised edition* (New York: Harper, 2010); ISBN: 978-0061855894

Michael Reeves, *Theologians You Should Know: An Introduction from the Apostolic Fathers to the 21st Century* (Wheaton: Crossway, 2016); ISBN: 978-1433550867

Hugh T. Kerr, *Readings in Christian Thought, 2nd edition* (Nashville: Abington, 1990); ISBN: 978-0687355478

Sean Michael Lucas, *For a Continuing Church: The Roots of the Presbyterian Church in America* (Phillipsburg: P&R, 2015); ISBN: 978-1629951065

Philip Jenkins, *The Next Christendom: The Coming of Global Christianity*, 3rd edition (New York: Oxford University Press, 2011); ISBN: 978-0199767465

Requirements and Grading:

1. *Regular class attendance and online discussion participation (20%).* There will be two weeks where we will meet for online discussion. On Monday of that week, I will post a discussion question for the readings (see the schedule for which readings will be discussed each week). The student will post **twice** each week in order to receive full weekly points.
2. *Reading (35%).* The reading grade is broken into two parts:
 - a. 1 five-page response paper for *For a Continuing Church* (10%)
 - b. Final reading summary (25%)
3. *Gonzalez tests (20%).* You will have two (2) examinations on the assigned Gonzalez readings, which will be taken on Canvas. Check the syllabus for the dates.
4. *Final exam (25%).* You will have a final exam that will be completed **by Thursday, December 17, 2026.** I will give you more information on this in the syllabus video.
5. *Grading scale (standard RTS scale):*

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| 97-100 | A |
| 94-96 | A- |
| 91-93 | B+ |
| 88-90 | B |
| 86-87 | B- |
| 83-85 | C+ |
| 80-82 | C |
| 78-79 | C- |
| 75-77 | D+ |
| 72-74 | D |
| 70-71 | D- |
| Below 70 | F |

As part of our purpose to train servants of the triune God to walk with God in all of life, we expect godly integrity in the academic work done at RTS. God's covenant with His people calls for honesty and a commitment to truth (as in the 9th commandment). As we live in that covenant and in community with one another, upholding truth is an essential duty. Specifically applied to academic labors, this means that we accurately represent our work to others. In other words, neither cheating nor plagiarism is tolerated.

Instructions on particular assignments:

1. *Online discussion*
 - a. On two separate weeks (see the syllabus schedule for dates), there will be a discussion question related to course reading. Please see the course schedule for the particular reading for the week.

- b. You will need to post twice during the week: your first post will be a response to the discussion question and your second post will be a response to someone else's comment—whether a fellow classmate or the instructor.
- c. In order to receive full points for the week, you will need to post twice. If you post once, you will receive half points; if you don't post at all, you receive no points.
- d. You will only be able to post in the week for the discussion—from Monday to Sunday. No late posts will be accepted.
- e. Your posts will need to be relatively substantive—while it is in the judgment of the instructor what “substantive” looks like, it certainly looks like a good faith effort to interact with the discussion question and with your classmates.

2. Reading

- a. With your final exam, you will turn in a reading report, which will estimate how much of the reading you completed. I will also provide a form on Canvas, which will be posted two weeks prior to our final class time. You must use the provided form; failure to do so will result in a point deduction.
- b. If you do not turn in a completed reading report, you will receive no points for reading. It is **due on December 17, 2026**; no late reports are accepted.

3. Five-page response paper to For a Continuing Church

- In the first half-page, introduce your paper: mention who wrote the book, his background, his thesis, etc.
- In section one, answer the following question (2-3 pages): *Citing relevant examples, who were the significant figures and organizations and what were the major issues in the formation of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA)?*
- In section two, answer the following question(s) (2-3 pages): *What do you make of this story—is it heroic? Troubling? A mixture? In your opinion, how does this story of the PCA's origins continue to shape the denomination today?*
 - a. The response will be written with one inch margins, double-spaced, 12 point Times Roman font. Please write in complete sentences, paragraphs, etc.
 - b. The response will be due by **the end of the day on Thursday, October 15, 2026**; no late papers will be accepted.
 - c. Please email your paper to **both** email addresses listed in the syllabus prior to the beginning of class.

SCHEDULE OF ASSIGNMENTS AND PROBABLE LECTURE SCHEDULE

Prior to the first meeting time

Please watch the Syllabus Video, which can be found on Canvas under “Files/Uploaded Videos.”

27 August 2026

Luther: Man Between God and the Devil

Readings:

Gonzalez, 7-76

Kerr, 135-57, 179-82

Reeves, 151-71

Lucas, "Lutheran Theology after Luther" (uploaded on Canvas)

3 September 2026

Calvin: Man Between Heaven and Earth

Readings:

Gonzalez, 77-134

Kerr, 157-69

Reeves, 175-200

10 September 2026

Online discussion #1: re-read Kerr 157-69 to prepare for a Calvin discussion question

Christ's Churches Purely Reformed: The Reformed Faith in the 16th Century (Zurich, Strasbourg, Geneva)

Readings:

Gonzalez, 135-66

Kerr, 169-79

17 September 2026

The Women of the Reformation: Paying Attention to Unsung Heroes and Vital Leaders

The Reformed Church Always Being Reformed: The International Reformed Faith in the 16th Century

Readings:

Gonzalez, 173-236

Kerr, 182-86

24 September 2026

Protests, Puritans, and Presbyterians: The development of Reformed Orthodoxy

Readings:

Gonzalez, 237-290

1 October 2026

Gonzalez Test #1 (pp. 1-290) (taken on Canvas between September 28-October 9, 2026)

The Religion of the Heart: Pietism's Impact on the 17th and 18th Centuries

Readings:

Gonzalez, 301-348

Kerr, 186-204

Reeves, 201-52

8 October 2026

FALL BREAK

15 October 2026

For a Continuing Church paper due

No lecture on October 15

22 October 2026

The Rise of Modern Theology in the 19th Century: Deism, Kant, Schleiermacher

Readings:

Gonzalez, 349-384

Kerr, 207-228

Reeves, 253-74

29 October 2026**Online discussion #2: re-read Kerr, 212-22 to prepare for a Schleiermacher question**

Christian Comprehensiveness: Modern theology in the 19th Century—Higher Critics, Bushnell, Princeton

Readings:

Gonzalez, 385-415

Kerr, 229-249

5 November 2026

“Divided by Faith”: Race and American Christianity, 1800-2000

12 November 2026

“The Christian Century”: Mission and Christianity in the 19th Century

Readings

Gonzalez, 417-455

Kerr, 250-282

19 November 2026**Gonzalez Test #2 (pp. 301-530) (taken on Canvas between November 16-27, 2026)**

“Christianity Today”: Mission and Christianity in the 20th Century

Readings:

Gonzalez, 457-530

Kerr, 282-315

Reeves, 275-296

3 December 2026

Between the Times: Modern Theology in the 20th Century

To the Ends of the Earth: Global Christianity into the 21st Century

Readings:

Kerr, 321-57

Reeves, 297-316

FINAL EXAM DUE 17 DECEMBER 2026 with reading report

REFORMED  THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
SYSTEM

**Course Objectives Related to MDiv Student Learning Outcomes
With Mini-Justification**

Course: History of Christianity II
 Professor: Dr. Sean Michael Lucas
 Campus: Remote Live
 Date: Fall 2026

| <u>MDiv Student Learning Outcomes</u> | | <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. | Strong | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Two short reflection papers based on primary sources 2. One moderate length essay that requires interaction with multiple sources 3. A case study-based exam that require integration of these themes |
| 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 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Discusses use/misuse of Scripture by various theologians |
| Reformed Theology | Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards. | Minimal | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Various theologies contrasted with confessional Reformed views of theological loci |
| Sanctification | Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification. | None | |
| Desire for Worldview | Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God. | Moderate | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Demonstrates biblical presuppositions for thinking historically, culturally about issue 2. Emphasizes consequences of low view of doctrine for subsequent theology |
| Winsomely Reformed/ Evangelistic | 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- | Strong | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In lectures, model sympathetically critical engagement with other perspectives, especially liberal, Pentecostal, etc. |

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| | Christians; and a truth-in-love attitude in disagreements.) | | 2. In writing assignments, emphasize the importance of winsome engagement of other positions with which one disagrees. |
| Preach | Ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm. | None | |
| Worship | Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service. | Moderate | 1. Provide overview of worship practices in the Reformation and modern periods with reflection on contemporary development |
| 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. | Strong | 1. In case study exams, repeatedly focus on integration and how material applies pastorally 2. With Jenkins reading, focus on effects of globalization, how impacts local church |
| Church/World | Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues. | Moderate | 1. Consider the development of Reformed/Presbyterian tradition from its roots in catholic Christianity; provide basis for meaningful ecumenical dialogue. |