

CH 2A03: HISTORY OF CHRISTIANITY 2

McMaster Divinity College

Winter Semester, 2012
Wednesday, 8:30-10:20am

Instructor: Dr. Gordon L. Heath
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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

A historical analysis of church history focused on the European Reformations, Protestant and Catholic, and the evolution of confessional Christianity. Consideration will also be given to the evangelical revival and ecumenism.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Knowing

- to provide students with an understanding of how the church has grown and developed over the centuries
- to examine various ways in which the church has attempted to live in and engage with the wider culture
- to help students understand the process of theological development

Being

- to explore (and ultimately appreciate) the different expressions of spirituality as practiced by the church throughout history
- to create an awareness of the breadth and diversity of the church, and provide a sense of “place” within the many church traditions

Doing

- to develop in each student an ability to assess documents and situations from an historical perspective

TEXTS:

- Gonzalez, Justo L. *The Story of Christianity: Volume 2*. San Francisco: Harper, 1985. (Reading G – refers to chapters)
- Bettenson, Henry & Chris Maunder, eds. *Documents of the Christian Church*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1999. (Reading B – refers to pages) (note: this book will be used for History of Christianity 1 & 2)
- Gordon L. Heath. *Doing Church History: A User-friendly Introduction to Researching the History of Christianity*. Toronto: Clements Publishing, 2008. (note: this book will be used for History of Christianity 1 & 2)
- Thomas A’ Kempis, *The Imitation of Christ* (any publisher, but a recent translation would be helpful) (note: this book will be used for History of Christianity 1 & 2)

- Jenkins, Philip. *The Next Christendom: The Coming of Global Christianity*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, revised version 2007.
- Bonhoeffer, Dietrich. *Letters and Papers from Prison*. New York: Touchstone, 1997.

All required textbooks for this class are available from the College's book service, READ On Bookstore, Room 218, McMaster Divinity College. Texts may be purchased on the first day of class. For advance purchase, you may contact READ On Bookstores, 304 The East Mall, Suite 100, Etobicoke, ON M9B 6E2: phone 416-620-2934; fax 416-622-2308; e-mail books@readon.ca. Other book services may also carry the texts.

ASSIGNMENTS:

- **Research Paper:** Each student will write a five-page paper on an important event in the church. See "History Research Paper" for more detailed information on the writing of this paper.
- **Post-Vatican Two Interview:** Each student is to interview a Roman Catholic priest about the impact of Vatican Two upon the church, and write a three-page summary of the interview. See "Post-Vatican Two Interview" for more detailed information on the writing of this paper.
- **Primary Source Book Review:** Students will be required to write a three-page summary of Bonhoeffer's *Letters and Papers from Prison*. See "Primary Source Book Review" for more information on the writing of this review.
- **Final Exam:** There will be a take-home final exam.
- **Recite Apostles Creed:** Each student will be required to memorize and recite the Apostles Creed.

GRADING:

- Research Paper: 30%
- Post-Vatican Two Interview: 20%
- Primary Source Book Review: 15%
- Final Exam: 30%
- Participation: 5%
- Recite Apostles Creed: pass/fail (this must be passed in order to pass the class)

GENERAL COMMENTS:

- Academic dishonesty is a serious offence that may take any number of forms, including plagiarism, the submission of work that is not one's own or for which previous credit has been obtained, and/or unauthorized collaboration with other students. Academic dishonesty can result in severe consequences, e.g., failure of the assignment, failure of the course, a notation on one's academic transcript, and/or suspension or expulsion from the College. Students are responsible for understanding what constitutes academic dishonesty. Please refer to the Divinity College Statement on Academic Honesty ~ www.madciv.ca/regs/honesty.php.
- McMaster Divinity College uses inclusive language for human beings in worship services, student written materials, and all of its publications. In reference to biblical

texts, the integrity of the original expressions and the names of God should be respected. The NRSV and TNIV are examples of the use of inclusive language for human beings. It is expected that inclusive language will be used in chapel services and all MDC assignments.

- Essays must be handed in at the beginning of the class on the day they are due. All other essays will be considered to be late. Students may be exempted from the late penalty of 3% per day (not including weekends) if they attach to their essay a letter explaining the genuine emergency that delayed them. Late assignments (even ones with an extension) will not receive comments and constructive criticism from the professor.
- The essay should be handed directly to the instructor. To avoid any potential problems, students are advised to keep their working notes and a copy of their paper until a final mark has been received.
- Unless noted otherwise, all written work must conform to the *McMaster Divinity College Style Guidelines for Essays and Theses*.
- Please turn off your cell phone and/or pager before the class begins.
- Please do not attend class if you are ill and contagious (e.g. the flu).

COMMENTS ON ASSIGNMENTS

- **History Research Paper (Due 29 February)**

This five-page typed, double-spaced, 12 point font, 1¼ inch margins, and Chicago-style endnotes paper is concerned with trying to gain an understanding of why a particular event in the church occurred. A clearly stated and argued thesis is central to this assignment. In order to do this, you must not only study primary sources, but also secondary sources. As you study the relevant secondary sources you will come to realize that different authors may have opposing interpretations as to why a particular event occurred. These differences are important to note and understand. See *Doing Church History* for further instructions.

- Choose an event that interests you (and one that you will be able to find enough research material).
- Use endnotes (not footnotes).
- Please include at the very end of the paper (after the bibliography) a one page “personal reaction” to the person you are studying. It does NOT count towards the five page total page count. This reaction can be as personal as you like, and is intended to give you a chance to react to the person outside of your more formal research paper. These comments will not be “graded.”
- Please follow the format noted below:

Title Page	Page #1	Page #2	Page #3	Page #4	Page #5	End notes	Biblio	Pers Reflec
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- **Primary Source Paper (Due 1 February)**

This three-page typed, double-spaced, 12 point font, 1¼ inch margins, and Chicago-style endnotes review should answer questions such as: What do these letters reveal (and not reveal) about Bonhoeffer that a more formal book written by him would not? What are the problems associated with this type of primary source? What is the value of reading *Letters and Papers from Prison* today? See *Doing Church History* for further instructions (especially ch.7).

- **“Post-Vatican Two” Interview (Due 21 March)**

Each student is to interview a Roman Catholic priest (or bishop) or nun and ask about the following topics: general impressions of Vatican Two (especially if the priest was alive at the time), changes in Roman Catholic practices since Vatican Two, the response of Roman Catholics to Vatican Two, the attitude of Roman Catholics to Protestants (& Eastern Orthodox and Jews) pre and post Vatican Two, the growth of the Roman Catholic Church around the world since Vatican Two, the challenges that the Roman Catholic Church (and the church in general) faces in the 21st century (and how Vatican Two has helped – or hindered- the church’s ability to face these challenges). The focus of the discussion should be on the general impact of Vatican Two on the Roman Catholic Church.

A three-page summary of the interview is to be submitted. The paper must be typed, double-spaced, 12 point font, 1¼ inch margins. Please attach to the paper a bulletin or brochure from the priest’s local church.

- **Final Exam (Due 11 April)**

There will be a take-home final exam. Details of the exam and its format will be made available later in the semester.

- **Recite Apostles Creed (Due 4 April)**

All students are required to memorize and recite the Apostles Creed. This can be done at any time during the semester, and is to be recited to the professor. This assignment is a “pass/fail” assignment – it must be passed in order to pass the class.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

The following is a brief bibliography of books covering the two thousand year span of church history. These books are more general and survey in nature.

Bainton, Roland. *Christianity*. Boston: Houghton and Mifflin Company, 1987.

Bokenkotter, Thomas. *A Concise History of the Catholic Church* (revised and expanded version). New York: Doubleday, 1990.

Cairns, Earle E. *Christianity through the Ages: A History of the Christian Church*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1981.

Dowley, Tim, ed. *Introduction to the History of Christianity*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1995.

Gonzalez, Justo L. *The Story of Christianity: The Early Church to the Dawn of the Reformation (Vol.1)*. San Francisco: HarperCollins, 1985.

Gonzalez, Justo L. *The Story of Christianity: The Reformation to the Present Day (Vol.2)*. San Francisco: HarperCollins, 1985

Johnson, Paul. *A History of Christianity*. London: Penguin Books, 1988.

Kee, Howard C., Emily Albu, Carter Lindberg, J. William Frost, and Dada L. Robert, eds. *Christianity: A Social and Cultural History*. Upper Saddle River: Prentice Hall, 1998.

Latourette, Kenneth. *A History of Christianity: Beginnings to 1500 (Vol.1)*. San Francisco: Harper and Row, 1975.

Latourette, Kenneth. *A History of Christianity: Reformation to the Present (Vol.2)*. San Francisco: Harper and Row, 1975.

Peterson, R. Dean. *A Concise History of Christianity*. Belmont: Wadsworth Publishing Company, 2000.

CLASS SCHEDULE:

- Jan. 4 **Introduction to Class**
- Jan. 11 **Martin Luther & Lutheranism**
 Readings: G. 1-4, 9, 19 (*Revised Version 1-4,9,20*)
 Readings: B. 202-236
- Jan. 18 **John Calvin & the Reformed Movement, English Reformation, Radical Reformation**
 Readings: G. 5-8, 10-11, 17, 20 (*Revised Version 5-8,10-11,13-14,17-18,21*)
 Readings: B. 236-275
- Jan. 25 **Roman Catholic Reforms**
 Readings: G. 12-16, 18 (*Revised Version 12,15-16,19*)
 Readings: B. 275-282
- Feb. 1 **Christianity in the Americas and Asia**
 Readings: G. 24-25 (*Revised Version 25-27*)
 Primary Source Paper Due
- Feb. 8 **The Enlightenment**
 Readings: G. 26-29 (*Revised Version 22-23,28,32*)
- Feb. 15 **Pietism, Methodism and Evangelicalism**
 Readings: G. 21-23 (*Revised Version 24*)
 Readings: B. 349-359
- Feb. 22 **Reading Week**
- Feb. 29 **Protestant Missions & Social Reform**
 Readings: G. 30-31 (*Revised Version 29,33*)
 Research Paper Due
- Mar. 7 **Fundamentalism**
 Readings: G. 35 (*Revised Version 31*)
- Mar. 14 **The Trials of Orthodoxy**
 Readings: G. 32 (*Revised Version 30*)
- Mar. 21 **Roman Catholicism & Vatican Two**
 Readings: G. 33 (*Revised Version 34-36*)
 Readings: B. 359-369
 Post-Vatican Two Interview Summary Due
- Mar. 28 **Pentecostalism**
 Readings: G. 34,36 (*Revised Version 37-38*)
- Apr. 4 **Global Christianity**
 Readings: B. 369-451
 Jenkin's Book Read
- Apr. 11 **Final Exam**
 Exam Due

This syllabus is for information only and remains the property of the respective professor. This syllabus is prepared with the best information available, but the professor reserves the right to change the content and format of the course.