Course Description
The RTS catalog says: “The general introduction to Christianity in the early and medieval periods focuses on key Christian doctrines and great leaders from Justin Martyr to Martin Luther who made contributions of lasting significance to the Christian Church.”

The approach of the course will be a combination of church history and historical theology. The student will receive an overview of main figures, events, movements, doctrinal controversies and developments in the ancient and medieval eras of the Church’s history.

Course Objectives
To assist the student in obtaining a knowledge of the historical development of Christian theology, and the influence upon it of secular history and philosophy. To strengthen the student’s commitment to historic Christian theology and to assist in preparing the student to engage intelligently and charitably, but convictionally, with the claims of the various Christian theological and ecclesiastical traditions. To move the student to obedience and worship of the God who preserves His church, and Who created and redeemed him.

The student should gain (1) a knowledge of the main events and people in the course of church history from early Christianity to just before the time of the Lutheran Reformation; (2) an understanding of the development of Christian thought and the formulation of doctrine; (3) an appreciation for God’s providence in the history of the church; (4) competency in the skill of applying church history to contemporary ideas, claims, theologies and issues.

Course Requirements
Required Texts:
Geoffrey Bromiley, *Historical Theology: An Introduction* (Eerdmans/Wipf and Stock)

Primary Reading:
*The Apostolic Fathers* (trans. Lightfoot, Harmer, and Holmes)
Athanasius, *On the Incarnation* (with introduction by C.S. Lewis)
Augustine, *On Nature and Grace & On the Predestination of the Saints*
Cyprian, *The Unity of the Church*
Eusebius, *Ecclesiastical History*
Hilary, *On the Trinity*
Irenaeus, *Against Heresies* (selections)
Justin Martyr, *Apology* and *Dialogue with Trypho*
Tertullian, *Against Praxeas, Apology, Prescription Against Heretics*

Recommended Reading:
Louis Berkhof, *The History of Christian Doctrines*
Geoffrey Bromiley, "Promise of Patristic Studies" from *Toward a Theology for the Future*, Pinnock & Wells, eds.
Colin Brown, *Christianity and Western Thought, Volume 1*
David W. Bebbington, *Patterns in History*
F.F. Bruce, *The Spreading Flame*
W. Cunningham, *Historical Theology*
Everett Ferguson, *Backgrounds of Early Christianity* (3rd ed.)