SYLLABUS

1HT502: History of Christianity I

Dr. Sean Michael Lucas

Office: First Presbyterian Church, Hattiesburg, MS; At RTS: Dean Center
Phone: (601) 268-0303
E-mail: sean.lucas@fpcpca.net

Course description:
The general introduction to Christianity in the early and medieval periods focuses on Christian doctrines and great leaders from Justin Martyr to Martin Luther who made contributions of lasting significance to the Christian church.

Goals:
1. The student will be introduced to the history of the Christian church in its first fifteen 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 final exam, the student will reflect on how Christian identity, as represented in the first fifteen centuries of the church, continues to have relevance for contemporary Christian life and ministry.

Required texts:

Requirements and Grading:
1. Regular attendance and class participation (10%). You will only be allowed to miss two classes without it adversely affecting your grade. I will take attendance at each class meeting.
2. Reading (40%). The reading grade is broken into three parts:
   a. 2 one-page reaction papers (each worth 5%).
   b. 1 five-page response paper for *How Africa Shaped the Christian Mind* (10%)
c. Final reading summary (20%)

3. Gonzalez tests (30%). You will have three (3) 50-question examinations on the assigned Gonzalez readings; the questions will be drawn from provided study sheets.

4. Final exam (20%). You will have a final exam during the exam week. More information on this will be given later in the semester.

5. Grading scale (standard RTS scale):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>97-100</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>94-96</td>
<td>A-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>91-93</td>
<td>B+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>88-90</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>86-87</td>
<td>B-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>83-85</td>
<td>C+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80-82</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>78-79</td>
<td>C-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75-77</td>
<td>D+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>72-74</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70-71</td>
<td>D-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Below 70</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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. One-page reading reaction papers
   a. There will be two separate reaction papers, in which you will answer a specific question on the reading. You will find the appropriate question listed in the syllabus.
   b. The reaction paper will be written with one inch margins, double-spaced, 12 point Times Roman font.
   c. The reaction paper will be due by the beginning of class time; **no late papers will be accepted**. If you will not be at the particular class time, you will need to submit your paper in advance.
   d. Please do not email your paper; it is your responsibility to get a hard-copy of the paper to the instructor.
   e. The grade is pass/fail; if you follow instructions completely (including form requirements stated in line b), you will receive the full amount of points (signified by a check mark). If you fail to follow instructions, then the instructor will determine how many points are appropriate.
2. **Five-page response paper to How African Shaped the Christian Mind.**
   - In section one, answer the following question (2-3 pages): reread the seven ways Africa shaped the Christian mind (chap. 2); *which one or two “ways” seemed truly significant to you?* Think about significance in terms of the historical story you’ve considered to this point of the class as well as your own experience of the Christian tradition.
   - In section two, answer the following question (2-3 pages): *how did Oden’s book inform, instruct, correct, or challenge your understanding of the development of the Christian tradition?*
     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 beginning of class time on **Monday, October 13, 2014; no late papers will be accepted.** If you will not be at the particular class time, you will need to submit your paper in advance.
     c. Please do not email your paper; it is your responsibility to get a hard-copy of the paper to the instructor.