SYLLABUS

1HT504: History of Christianity II

Dr. Sean Michael Lucas

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Course description:
A continuation of 1HT502, 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 On Being Presbyterian, 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:

^also used for 1HT502 History of Christianity I
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. If you plan on missing a class, it would help greatly to notify the instructor in advance.

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 *For a Continuing Church* (10%)
   c. Final reading summary (20%)

3. **Gonzalez tests** (30%). You will have three (3) examinations on the assigned Gonzalez readings, drawn from provided study sheets.

4. **Final exam** (20%). You will have a final exam that will be taken during the final exam schedule.

5. **Grading scale (standard RTS scale):**

| 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. **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 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 beginning of class time on Monday, March 14, 2016; 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. You may place your hard copy in the instructor’s box prior to class if you will not be in class when it is due.

Schedule of Assignments and Probable Lecture Schedule

This will be distributed on the first day of class.