HYBRID COURSE SYLLABUS

02HT502 HISTORY OF CHRISTIANITY I
Ryan M. Reeves, Ph.D.
Summer 2014
PROFESSOR’S CONTACT INFORMATION

NAME: Ryan M. Reeves, Ph.D.
EMAIL: rreeves@gcts.edu
PHONE: 205-305-8968 (texting is often easier than calling)

COURSE DATES

Course Dates: June 2 – July 18, 2014
Online Dates: June 2 – July 11
In Class Dates: July 14 - 18
Course Completion Date: August 1, 2014

Summary of Due Dates:

- June 4 at 4pm
  - Discussion Post 1
- June 6 at 4pm
  - Week 1 Timeline
  - Quiz 1
- June 11 at 4pm
  - Discussion Post 2
- June 13 at 4pm
  - Week 2 Timeline
  - Quiz 2
  - Reflection Paper 1 due
- June 18 at 4pm
  - Discussion Post 3
- June 20
  - Quiz 3
  - Week 3 Timeline
- June 25 at 4pm
  - Discussion Post 4
- June 27
  - Week 4 Timeline
  - Quiz 4
  - Reflection Paper 2 due
- July 2
  - Discussion Post 5
- July 4
  - Week 5 Timeline
  - Quiz 5
- July 9
  - Discussion Post 6
- July 11
  - Week 6 Timeline
  - Quiz 6
- July 26 at 4pm
  - Exam
  - Reading Report due
  - Timeline Workbook due
- July 31
  - Primary Source Paper due
COURSE OVERVIEW

DESCRIPTION
This course introduces students to the history and theology of the church from the time of the apostles until the end of the Middle Ages. The video lectures before the class focus extensively on the story surrounding the church and the classroom will focus on theology, the church, and discussions of pastoral ministry throughout history.

PURPOSE
To encourage you in grasping the great tradition of the church that has suffered much, succeeded often, and proclaimed the Gospel from generation to generation for two-thousand years.

GOALS:
Comprehension
- To increase your knowledge of the ancient and medieval church history
- To increase your knowledge of theology, creeds, and pastoral ministry during ancient and medieval history.

Competence
- To sharpen your ability to understand your own context by becoming better aware of how the church has been shaped by its context over the centuries
- To sharpen your ability to grasp the creedal and confessional truth that has been proclaimed by all Christians throughout history.

Character
- To grow in humility that we are not the first to have served Christ with confidence.
- To grow in wisdom as you learn from the saints that have gone before us.
- To grow in your love for God, others, and self.

SUPPORT:
Canvas offers several ways of interacting with Dr. Reeves. One is Ask the Professor. Ask the Professor is the primary place for posting questions and has the benefit of allowing classmates to profit from the dialog. Tow is Inbox. Inbox functions like email and can be used if you have a personal question, for example, a question about a grade. Three is Conferences. Conferences allows for video conferencing, share screening, etc., and can be used in place of traditional office hours.

Canvas also allows for interaction with classmates. You can interact with classmates via the Student to Student forum or Conferences. Students can study together for exams, for example, using this tool.
See FAQ on the Home Page or at Modules > Course Resources for instructions on various Canvas features.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

**Reading in Textbooks:**

Bruce Shelley, *Church History in Plain Language* (978-0849938610), students will read the first half of the book until the Reformation chapter begins.

Philip Jenkins, *The Lost History of Christianity* (978-0061472817) Students will read all

Carl A Volz, *The Medieval Church* (978-0687006045) Students will read all

St Gregory, *The Book of Pastoral Rule* (978-0881413182). Students will read all

Athanasius, *On the Incarnation* (978-1490388373) Students will read all, including the introduction by C.S. Lewis.

Assessment information:

The reading in total is worth 10% of your final grade (100 points). You receive the 10% by completing all the required reading at your own pace, so long as you complete all the reading by the assigned date above. You will send notice that you completed the reading only, and no lesser percentage than 100% of the reading will be accepted. Go to Modules > Course Completion or Quizzes or Assignments.

**Timeline Workbook:**

You will create a Timeline Workbook each week during the videos with the template provided. You will chronicle key figures, events, texts, and issues on the timeline during a week’s set of videos. You will then use the same pages from the material covered in the live lectures to add additional elements to the videos, creating a comprehensive synopsis of the historical periods covered.

File protocols:

- Upload your reflection workbook to Canvas as a PDF at Modules > Course Completion or Assignments.
- Use the following name protocol for your file: LastName_FirstName_TimelineWorkbook, e.g. Reeves_Ryan_TimelineWorkbook.

Assessment information:

- The timeline is worth 20% of your final grade (200 points), and will be graded according to thoroughness of your work.
**Reflection Papers:**

You will write two reflection papers:

- One on *On the Incarnation*
- One on *Book of Pastoral Rule*

Each paper must be 4 pages in length, double-spaced, with 1 inch margins all around.

These are not historical papers but reflections on the pastoral and theological implications of these texts on ministry today. The focus of your reflection should be on how each of these texts addresses problems common today (importance of orthodoxy, importance of pastoral ministry) and how they encourage, shape, convict you in your call to ministry.

**File protocols:**

- Upload your reflection workbook to Canvas as a PDF at Modules > Course Completion or Assignments.
- Use the following name protocol for your file:
  LastName_FirstName_ReflectionPaper1/2, e.g. Reeves_Ryan_ReflectionPaper1 or Reeves_Ryan_ReflectionPaper2

**Assessment information:**

- Each paper is worth 50 points (100 points total) for 10% of your final grade, and will be graded according to the thoroughness of your engagement with the text and your description of how it impacts your calling.

**Quizzes:**

There are six online quizzes, one on each Friday after a week’s worth of lectures have been watched. Each quiz will cover the content of the videos watched that week. Go to Canvas > Modules or Quizzes or Assignments.

**Assessment information:**

- Each quiz is worth 10 points (60 total) for 6% of your final grade.

**Discussion Posts and Replies:**

There are six discussion posts and six replies, one post and reply for each week and a half of the video lectures. Each post should begin with a post of at least one long paragraph about what in the recent lectures is helpful for understanding better how to serve Christ today, and a second long paragraph on what has been the most problematic element of the period covered that warns us about the pitfalls of ignoring the Gospel and following our own desires. You will defend your reasoning on both points. You will also offer one reply to a fellow student’s post of at least one long paragraph. You may and are encouraged to interact beyond the required post and reply. Go to Canvas > Modules or Discussions or Assignments.

**Assessment information:**
• Each post is worth 5 points and each response is worth 5 points (total of 60 points) for 6% of your final grade.

**PRIMARY SOURCE PAPER:**

The goal of this paper is for students to immerse themselves in the writings of one theologian or major church figure from the lectures. The essay assignment that goes along with this reading is a reflective, critical examination of the spiritual and theological substance of your reading.

Your assignment is to engage with one figure – perhaps a church father you always wanted to learn more about – and really pour over his devotional, biblical, and theological works. Take notes on things that inspire you, ponder things that challenge you, and question things that trouble you. It is preferred that you read these works regularly throughout the semester rather than in one or several sittings. By the end of the semester, you must have read an equivalent of 325 pages in a modern edition.

Students will then write a 14 page paper on their primary reading only. No secondary sources are to be used, as this is an assignment about primary source engagement. The paper should be 50% focused on describing the theology and pastoral insights of the person you read, and 50% your reaction or critique to this theology. This is not a pure history paper, then, but a critical reflection on a significant primary source (e.g. Augustine’s *Confessions*).

The paper must be in Times New Roman, 12pt font, double-spaced, 1-inch margins, and in Word format.

**File protocols:**

• Upload your reflection workbook to Canvas as a PDF at Modules > Course Completion or Assignments.

• Use the following name protocol for your file: LastName_FirstName_PrimaryPaper, e.g. Reeves_Ryan_PrimaryPaper

**Assessment information:**

• The paper is worth 240 points for 24% of your final grade, and will be graded according to quality of writing and how well you balance engagement with the text versus your critique of the text. Also, any paper shorter than 14 pages will be assessed a penalty for not meeting the requirement.

**EXAMS:**

There is one comprehensive exam (closed book, closed notes), that includes video lecture material and live lecture material. Go to Modules > Course Completion or Quizzes or Assignments.

**Assessment information:**

• The exam is worth 240 points for 24% of your final grade.
Grading Policy:
Late work will be penalized 1 letter grade per day, unless prior permission for late submission is granted. The published RTS grading scale is used in this course. See the Catalog, page 47.

Course Schedule

Online Schedule:
Week of June 2 – 6
- Videos 1-5
- Read
- Complete

Week of June 9 – 13
- Videos 6-10
- Read
- Complete

Week of 16 – 20
- Videos 11-15
- Read
- Complete

Week of June 23 – 27
- Videos 16-20
- Read
- Complete

Week of June 30-July 4
- Videos 21-25
- Read
- Complete

Week of July 7-11
- Videos 25-30
- Read
- Complete
IN CLASS SCHEDULE:
June 14
  • The Theology of the Church Fathers
June 15
  • The Creeds
June 16
  • Augustine and Early Medieval Theology
June 17
  • Aquinas and High Medieval Theology
June 18
  • Ockham and Late Medieval Theology

FURTHER READING

A comprehensive list of further readings will be posted on the Canvas site or distributed in class. The list is not necessary or even relevant to the class, and would be useful for the student as a list of future readings on any topic from the class that they find interesting.
### MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes

In order to measure the success of the MDiv curriculum, RTS has defined the following as the intended outcomes of the student learning process. Each course contributes to these overall outcomes. This rubric shows the contribution of this course to the MDiv outcomes.

*As the MDiv is the core degree at RTS, the MDiv rubric will be used in this syllabus.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes</th>
<th>Rubric</th>
<th>Mini-Justification</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Articulation (oral &amp; written)</strong></td>
<td>Broadly understands and articulates knowledge, both oral and written, of essential biblical, theological, historical, and cultural/global information, including details, concepts, and frameworks.</td>
<td>Strong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Scripture</strong></td>
<td>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.)</td>
<td>Minimal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Reformed Theology</strong></td>
<td>Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.</td>
<td>Minimal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sanctification</strong></td>
<td>Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student’s sanctification.</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Desire for Worldview</strong></td>
<td>Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.</td>
<td>Strong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Winsomely Reformed</strong></td>
<td>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-Christians; and a truth-in-love attitude in disagreements.)</td>
<td>Strong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Preach</strong></td>
<td>Ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Worship</strong></td>
<td>Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service.</td>
<td>Minimal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Shepherd</strong></td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>Minimal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Church/World</strong></td>
<td>Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.</td>
<td>Strong</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>