**Church History II**

**Summer 2017**

**Instructor**: Dr. Ryan Reeves

**Contact Information:** rreeves@gordonconwell.edu

**Office Hours:**

Dr. Reeves will take questions regarding any aspect of the course via email. If I do not respond within 36 hours, please feel free to resend the email. You are not bugging me to ‘spam’ me a question to make sure I see it and respond in a timely manner—especially since emails have a tendency to get buried in Outlook.

Also, if you have a course question that is more urgent and needs a response within 24 hours, it is OK to text me or Facebook me. Depending on my schedule I am free to Skype, too, if you want to look a man in the eye when you talk church history.

**Course Dates and Times**

HIS CLASS MEETS ON FRIDAY EVENINGS (6:30 to 9:30 pm) and on SATURDAYS

(8 am - 3pm): June 23-24, July 7-8, July 21-22, July 28-29.

**Course Description:**

The Church from the Reformation is a basic introduction to the development of the Christian Church from the Protestant Reformation of the Sixteenth Century to the present time.

**Course Learning Objectives:**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

-Identify and describe the key persons, places, movements and doctrines of significance to the Christian church from the Reformation to the present.

-Explain the historical and theological developments of the period, and relate those to contemporary issues in the church.

- Understand and appreciate the rich heritage of the Church's global history in order to be able to interact more biblically and effectively in our contemporary world.

**Lesson Topics:**

This course is 14 weeks long divided into five modules as follows:

Module A: The Reformation (16th century)

Module B: Wars and Confessions (17th century)

Module C: Old Religion, New World (18th century)

Module D: From Protestant to Fundamentalist (19th century)

Module E: Local Diversity, Global expansion (20th century)

**Required Materials:**

* Bruce Shelley, *Church History in Plain Language* (second half of book, from Reformation until the end)
* Bruce Gordon, *Calvin* (entire book)
* Mark Noll, *The Rise of Evangelicalism* (entire book)
* Mark Shaw, *Global Awakenings* (entire book)

**Course Requirements:**

Achievement of the course objectives will be measured through a variety of assignments and activities as described below. The following chart indicates how various course elements proportionately relate to the overall course grade. Students will be required to watch all the lectures and read each of the assigned books. There will also be a major paper. The grade breakdown is as follows:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Course Assignment | % of grade |
|  |  |
| Midterm Essay (open book/note) | 25% |
| Reading | 15% |
| Discussion Forums | 10% |
| Final Essay Exam (open book/note) | 20% |
| Final Paper | 30% |

**Learning Activities:**

**Midterm and Final Essay Exams**

There will be two cumulative essays (midterm and final) that will both be open note and book. You will be asked to answer synthesis questions using the available materials from the course (lectures, books, etc). You will write your essay in Word and will submit the final document in Canvas.

The Midterm will be available on the July 13-18 and must be uploaded to Canvas by 11:55 pm EST.

The Final will be available on the August 10-22 and must be uploaded to Canvas by 11:55 pm EST.

The questions will focus on answering challenging questions about the periods covered, which students will then have to answer fully with the resources they have available to them (notes, books, etc.), though the notes from video lectures alone will be sufficient. Additional directions for the midterm and final will be given on the exams themselves.

**Sources of History Paper**

The paper will be an analysis paper in which you will explore a theme (or themes) in the writings of a figure from either Reformation or modern. Students may chose an author of their choice (e.g. Luther) and they are responsible for choosing which texts they will read from their author. Students should take notes on their reading for the sake of their paper.

The choice of author is important, since students should focus on classic works of an era of the church covered in the course (1500-2000 AD). You will choose one and read 275+ pages of the work for your paper. If one work is not 275+ pages you will need to choose as many sources as will be needed to read that amount

The paper will be 14+ pages (not including title page, works cited or other nonessential elements of the paper). The paper will be required to be a fair analysis of author and a careful comparison of their ideas with supporting evidence from the primary source reading. There is no need to read additional secondary sources—in fact the paper should ONLY focus on the primary source material.

The paper must be uploaded to Canvas by August 29 date at 11:55 pm EST.

**Grading Policy and Scale**

The grading policy and scale can be accessed from the Student Handbook or from the RTS website.

**Course Policies:**

**Instructor Feedback**

I will attempt to respond to questions or messages within 24-48 hours, excluding Sundays. I will also do my best to provide feedback on assignments within one week of submission and post grades on Canvas. The exception to this will be the paper, which I will provide more extensive feedback on, and which may take up to 6 weeks to grade entirely for the course.

**Document Formatting and Submission**

Assignments must be submitted electronically by posting on the Canvas site. Hard-copies will not be accepted. All written assignments must be in MS-Word format (.doc or .docx). Assignments should be double spaced with 1” margins on all sides of each page, and should be printed in Times New Roman 12 point type. Citations must be in Turabian format. Any failure to use these formatting or citation rules will result in grade reduction of half a letter grade for minor errors (e.g. wrong margins) or a full grade for major errors (e.g. wrong citations).

**Late Work**

All late work will be penalized the equivalent of one letter grade per week beyond the due date, unless arrangements are made ahead of time. Extenuating circumstances will be considered as appropriate. Work turned in later than Friday, August 7th, will normally require that an extension be approved by the Seminary. If you anticipate a problem, contact me as soon as possible.