Reformed Theological Seminary
HT5100 The History of Christianity I

Course information

Times: Monday through Friday 8:00am – 5:00pm
Dates: January 10 – January 14, 2022
Instructor: Dr Rufus T Burton
Phone: 304.839.1991
Email: pastorburtonfpc@comcast.net
Office hours: By appointment / Usually, I will be available after class in the library.

Course description:

This course is the general introduction to Christianity in the early and medieval periods. The focus will be on the key figures, movements and ideas that have contributed significantly to the history and doctrine of the Church. As an outcome of the course, students should have a general grasp of Christian history from the first through the fifteenth century, and with it a working knowledge of the major ecclesiastical issues and personalities of this period of church history, with particular reference to Europe and North Africa.

Goals:

1. The student will be *introduced* to the history of the Christian Church during 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 primary source readings, the student will *appreciate* catholic, and particularly Augustinian identity, as a confluence of beliefs, practices, and commitments, which continue to have importance in our world, especially as Protestants.

5. Through the Digest Papers, and Exams, the student will *reflect* on how Christian identity, and doctrine, as represented over the studied period, has relevance for contemporary Christian life and ministry.

Required texts:

Justo Gonzalez, *The Story of Christianity, vol. 1: The Early Church to the Dawn of the Reformation*, revised edition (New York: Harper, 2010); ISBN: 978-0061855887

Edward R. Hardy, ed. *Christology of the Later Fathers*, (Philadelphia: Westminster, 1954); ISBN: 978-0664241520

NB: Please note that the *Revised Edition* of the Gonzalez text is the required text. Any edition of the Hardy volume is acceptable. WJKP has reprinted the *Library of Christian Classics* several times without changes to the text.

Course Requirements

1) Reading Digests & Church History Biography 30%

Reading Digests: **(The first one is due the first day of class)**
Students will be required to submit three (3) 1750–1950 word (five to six pages typed and double spaced) digests of primary source material. One digest will be required for each of the primary source readings from Leo the Great (1), Athanasius (1), and Gregory of Nyssa (1), totalling three (3) digests.

Church History Biography: **(This is due on the last day of class)**
Students will be required to submit one (1) 500-1000 word (about one page typed and double spaced) brief biography of a figure of historical interest from the week of lectures. This biography is intended to introduce an important figure from church history to an interested member of a local congregation, and should, ideally, include three to four key dates and two or three interesting quotations.

2) Exam 60%
There will be a take-home **final** to complete during the week of 27 February to 5 March 2022. This exam should take three hours to complete and will be worth all of the exam grade. Helpful information and a study guide will be given to the students during the class meetings.

3) Attendance and Participation 10%
Students are expected to attend class and to demonstrably participate in the learning process.

Due Dates:	**Tome of Leo**	***Hardy*, pp. 359-370**	**09:00**	**10 January 2022**
	Church History Biography		**12:00**	**14 January 2022**
	On the Incarnation	***Hardy*, pp. 55-110**	**23:59**	**22 January 2022**
	An Address	***Hardy* pp. 268-326**	**23:59**	**12 February 2022**
FINAL EXAM Window:		**18:15 27 February to**	**23:59**	**5 March 2022**

RTS Grading Scale
The seminary uses the following attenuated grading system:

A	**(97-100)**	**4.00 quality points**
A-	**(94-96)**	**3.66**
B+	**(91-93)**	**3.33**
B	**(88-90)**	**3.00**
B-	**(86-87)**	**2.66**
C+	**(83-85)**	**2.33**
C	**(80-82)**	**2.00**
C-	**(78-79)**	**1.66**
D+	**(75-77)**	**1.33**
D	**(72-74)**	**1.00**
D-	**(70-71)**	**0.66**
F	**(below 70)**	**0.00**
I	**(incomplete)**	**0.00**
W,WP	**(withdraw, withdraw passing)**	**0.00**
S	**(satisfactory)**	**0.00**

The grade “I” indicates that the work required for the course was not completed. It is given only when special, extenuating circumstances (such as illness) prevent the student from completing the work or taking the examination. A written request for an extension must be submitted prior to the due date of the work concerned. If the request is granted, it remains the responsibility of the student to complete all work for the course as soon as possible. In any case, an "I" grade must be removed within the extension time granted; otherwise it will be changed to "F."

Late work:
Late work is not accepted. All assignments are due at the beginning of class. Only serious personal issues, with excuses almost always cleared in advance of the class, are given consideration. If you are traveling for some important reason and cannot attend class, please arrange to have your work delivered on time.

Incomplete work:
Given that **late work is not accepted**, students should consider submitting incomplete work rather than nothing at all.

REFORMED THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
SYSTEM

Course Objectives Related to MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes

Course: HT5100
Professor: Burton
Campus: Washington, DC
Date: Winter 2022

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.*		**Rubric** • **Strong** • **Moderate** • **Minimal** • **None**	**Mini-Justification**
Articulation (oral & written)	Broadly understands and articulates knowledge, both oral and written, of essential biblical, theological, historical, and cultural/global information, including details, concepts, and frameworks. Also includes ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.	Strong	Students will have to speak and write knowledgably about the topics at hand. There are two exams and five papers.
Scripture	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.)	Moderate	The history of Christian doctrine includes the history of exegesis.
Reformed Theology	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	Strong	The survey of the development of doctrine will strengthen understanding of key elements of Reformed theology.
Sanctification	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	Strong	Exploration of the doctrinal and devotional importance of the Trinity in the early church can only help.
Worldview	Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God. Includes ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.	Moderate	Use biblical pre-suppositions to think historically about cultural issues.
Winsomely Reformed	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.)	Strong	In lectures and discussions, model critically sympathetic engagement with other perspectives.
Pastoral Ministry	Ability to minister the Word of God to hearts and lives of both churched and unchurched, to include preaching, teaching, leading in worship, leading and shepherding the local congregation, aiding in spiritual maturity, concern for non-Christians.	Moderate	In lectures and course work model helpful pastoral habits and attitudes.

Burton **Church History I** **Winter 2022**

Reading Schedule

Before January 10

Have read, marked, and written a digest on:

The Tome of Leo ***Hardy* pp. 359-370**

Please have read the following chapters of the Gonzalez text:

Chapter 1	pp. 1-6
Chapter 7	pp. 59-68
Chapter 12	pp. 119-125
Chapter 15	pp. 157-172
Chapter 17	pp. 181-192
Chapter 24	pp. 241-252
Chapter 26	pp. 259-262
Chapter 27	pp. 269-294
Chapter 30	pp. 327-344
Chapter 32	pp. 357-386
Chapter 33	pp. 387-406

(This is roughly 160 pages of reading and slightly less than 1/3 of the Gonzalez book. These chapters will provide a more stable foundation from which to understand the lectures and the course of the class. Specific knowledge from these chapters will be assumed during the week. Knowledge will not be required until the Final Exam. We will read *On the Incarnation* together, as a class, during the classroom week.)

Before February 12

Have read and written a digest on Gregory of Nyssa's:

An Address on Religious Instruction ***Hardy* pp. 268-326**

Before February 27

Have read, marked, learned, and inwardly digested:

Justo Gonzalez*, The Story of Christianity, Volume 1*

***Gregory of Nazianzus*, "The Theological Orations"** ***Hardy*, pp. 128-214**