

COURSE SYLLABUS
History of Christianity I, OHT502, 3 hours
Frank James, D.Phil.
Reformed Theological Seminary, Virtual

Professor

Dr. Frank A. James, III is Associate Professor of Church History. Dr. James received a doctorate from Oxford University and a second Ph.D. at Westminster Theological Seminary. Each summer he teaches at the Centre for Medieval and Renaissance Studies affiliated with Keble College, Oxford University. He is the author of numerous articles and co-editor with noted Reformation scholar Dr. Heiko Oberman of *Via Augustini: Augustine in the Later Middle Ages, Renaissance, and Reformation*. In addition, Dr. James has been a consultant and script writer for a historical documentary film series as well as a translator and chairman of the editorial committee of the Peter Martyr Library.

Course Objectives

This is a survey course designed to introduce the student to the history of the Christian church from the post-Apostolic to the Medieval periods (A.S. 200-1500).

Required Textbooks

Augustine of Hippo. *The Confessions*. New York: Penguin, 1961.
Bainton, Roland H. *Early Christianity*. Malabar, FL: Krieger Publishing Company, 1960.
Bede, A. *Ecclesiastical History of the English People*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1969.
Eusebius. *The History of the Church*. New York: Penguin, 1989.
Fairweather, Eugene. *Scholastic Miscellany* (LCC). Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1956.
Greenslade, S. L. *Early Latin Theology* (LCC). Louisville: Westminster Press, 1956.

All required books are available through the RTS Online Bookstore at <www.rts.edu/bookstore>.

Suggested Reading

Placher, William C., ed. *Readings in the History of Christian Theology, Volume 1: From Its Beginnings to the Eve of the Reformation*. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1988.

Course Requirements

Online Student Handbook

The Online Student Handbook is a guide that contains information for participation in this course. Needed forms may be downloaded and printed from this site. You will find it located on the RTS/Virtual website under Resources. Check here for all the latest updates.

Requirements in Brief

All work is to be completed within four months from the time that you enroll in this course.

Follow the Study Guide provided.

Listen to all recorded lectures.

Complete all readings.

Submit a research paper.

Take two examinations.

Research Paper (35%)

The research paper is a master's level paper. That means that the work needs to be done at a graduate level. The paper should include not only the raw data that you use, such as historical facts, but the paper should show that you have digested and analyzed those data, and then that the data have been evaluated. To do this, multiple sources are needed where possible. Analyze and evaluate the data at several key points, such as data sources for critical data. The analytical process that is being used should be evident. If others have already done something in the way of research on your subject, you will want to bring that in.

Length and References

The paper is to be ten to fifteen pages (no more than fifteen pages), counted without footnotes and bibliography, using a Times New Roman twelve point font or its equivalent. For a paper of this length, no less than twelve, and preferably twenty references, should be used. At least half of these should be specifically referred to or quoted in the paper and properly cited in footnotes, endnotes, or in-text citations. Any other sources also need to have been used in some way by the student in the research for the paper (as background knowledge), even if not specifically cited or footnoted. References listed in the Bibliography or Reference List may include individual chapters in books, especially when the book is an anthology, and each chapter actually constitutes a separate article. Journal articles and web sites may also be used as references. The bibliography should be one to five pages in length.

Development of the theme

The paper itself needs to develop and unfold your subject, giving enough of the background by way of introduction to show the significance of your subject and to enable your reader to ascertain your purpose in writing the paper. Develop your subject by selecting and presenting data that you have accumulated, and include any additional background that will be helpful.

Then analyze, synthesize and evaluate what you have found. Your personal interaction with the data is important, showing your line of thinking, your analysis, your synthesis and evaluation.

Submission

Submit the paper in your online portfolio, or electronically, as an attachment to a cover e-mail message, using RTF (Rich Text Format), MS Word, or Word Perfect. If you submit your paper as an e-mail attachment, notify us in the cover e-mail message what format you used in the paper. Since RTF strips away formatting, this is the least desirable way to send your papers.

You may use any one of the three forms of citation: Footnotes, endnotes, or in-text citations. Be consistent, however. If you use in-text citations, explanatory footnotes or endnotes may be used, but not as a substitute for bibliographic data used in the in-text citation and Reference List. For submitting your paper in the online portfolio, use either in-text citations or endnotes.

Style

Use *The Chicago Manual of Style* or the *MLA Style Manual and Guide to Scholarly Publishing*, Second Edition, for formatting, including Title page; Table of Contents; headings and sub-headings; and a Bibliography or Reference List. One of the criteria for evaluating the paper will be style: Is the paper written in a clear, straightforward style of academic prose? Use the guidelines in Strunk and White, *The Elements of Style*.

Examinations (Midterm, 30%, Final, 30%)

There are two examinations for this course. The mid-term examination will cover the lectures and readings from Lesson one through Lesson six. The final examination will cover the lectures and readings from Lesson eight through Lesson thirteen.

All exams are to be requested online (<http://virtual.rts.edu/>). All exams are proctored. Upon completion, please follow all instructions on the Exam Request page concerning how to submit your exam to RTS/Virtual.

Mentor Report/Course Application Paper (5%)

Each MA Distance student is required to have his mentor submit a report at the end of the course. This report will contribute to 5% of the student's grade. For students who are not registered in the MA program, you are asked to write a 200 word summary of how you perceive what you have learned in this course will fit into the objectives you have for your ministry, your educational goals, or other objectives you wish to achieve in life.

Assignments

All Assignments are due the last day of the course (See start letter), unless stipulated otherwise in this syllabus. Any student who needs an extension must get approval from the Virtual Campus before the deadline. Assignments are to be submitted as e-mail attachments. Please place course title in the subject heading (E-mail: vcstudentservices@rts.edu).

Time Limit

All course work, including exams, papers, reading requirements, is to be completed within four months from your course start date.

Contact Information

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COURSE OUTLINE
History of Christianity I, OHT502, 3 hours
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Lesson One

Introduction
Early Church Life
Apostolic Fathers

Lesson Two

Persecutions

Lesson Three

Perversions and Heresies

Lesson Four

Greek Apologists
Early Theologians

Lesson Five

Tertullian
Cyprian

Lesson Six

Biblical Authority
New Testament Canon
Trinity

Lesson Seven

Mid Term Examination

Lesson Eight

Arian Controversy

Lesson Nine

Theological Controversies (cont.)

Lesson Ten

Eutychian Controversy
Augustine

Lesson Eleven

Augustine (cont.)

Lesson Twelve

Augustine's Theology
The Pre-Scholastic Period
Anselm

Lesson Thirteen

Anselm (cont.)
Scholasticism - 11th to 16th Century
Aquinas

Lesson Fourteen

Final Examination

PAPER TOPICS
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1. What did the early church teach on baptism?
2. How did the Papacy develop?
3. What was the historical development of the New Testament canon?
4. Compare Aquinas and Augustine on predestination.
5. How did the Medieval view of the Eucharist develop?
6. Compare Augustine, Aquinas, and Pelagius on original sin.
7. Compare Anselm, Abelard, and Aquinas on the atonement.
8. Did charismatic gifts cease to exist in the early church?
9. Discuss Aquinas on atonement.
10. Discuss the early developments in Christology.

COURSE BIBLIOGRAPHY
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- Berkhof, Louis. *The History of Christian Doctrines*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1975.
- Bury, J., [et al], eds. *The Cambridge Ancient History*. Cambridge [Eng.]: Univ. Press, 1924-1939, 12 vols.
- Case, S. J., [et al], eds. *A Bibliographical Guide to the History of Christianity*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1931.
- Chadwick, Owen. *The History of the Church: A Select Bibliography*. London: Historical Assn., 1962.
- Cunliffe-Jones, Hubert. *A History of Christian Doctrine*. Edinburgh: T. & T. Clark, 1978.
- Douglas, J. D., ed. *New International Dictionary of the Christian Church*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1974.
- Douglas, J. D., Robert Clouse, [et al], eds. *The New 20th Century Encyclopedia of Religious Knowledge*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1991.
- Ferguson, Everett, ed. *The Encyclopedia of Early Christianity*. New York: Garland Pub., 1990.
- Strayer, J. R., ed. *Dictionary of the Middle Ages*. New York: Scribner, 1982-1989.
- Kepple, Robert J. *Reference Works for Theological Research*. Deerfield, IL: Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, 1978.
- The New Catholic Encyclopedia, 17 Vols*. New York: McGraw-Hill, 1967-1979.
- The Oxford History of the Christian Church*. Oxford: Oxford Univ. Press, 1979-
- Paetow, L. J. *A Guide to the Study of Medieval History*. Rev. and corrected by G. C. Boyce. Millwood, NY: Kraus Reprint, 1980.

The Pelican History of the Church. 6 Vols.

1. Chadwick, Henry. *The Early Church*. Grand Rapids, Eerdmans, 1968.
2. Chadwick, Owen. *The Reformation*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1965.
3. Southern, Richard William. *Western Society and the Church in the Middle Ages*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1970.

- Pelikan, Jaroslav. *The Christian Tradition: A History of the Development of Doctrine, 4 Vols*. Chicago, Univ. of Chicago Press, 1971-1983.
- Seeberg, Reihnold. *Textbook of the History of the Doctrines*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1958, 1964.
- Schaff, Philip. *The Creeds of Christendom, 3 Vols*. Translated by Charles Hay from the German, 1895. Reprint, 1898.
- Schaff, Philip, *History of the Christian Church, 8 Vols*. New York: Scribners, 1910. Reprint, Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1986.

Periodicals and Serials

Index to Book Reviews in Religion
Religious and Theological Abstracts
Religion Index One: Periodicals

Journals

Church History
Journal of Early Christian Studies
Journal of Ecclesiastical History
Medieval Studies
Medium Aevum
Speculum
Traditio
Vivarium