

CH501: The Church to the Reformation

Web-Enhanced Course Taught By: Ryan M. Reeves - Spring 2019

Spring Semester: January 22 – May 13, 2019

Dr. Reeves' Contact Information: rreeves@gordonconwell.edu

Dr. Reeves' TA is Kate Hendrickson: Email: khendrickson@gordonconwell.edu

You should copy Kate at all times when writing Ryan about any academic matter. Kate alone has authority to answer questions on behalf of Ryan for academic issues, course matters, etc. If Ryan is unavailable for immediate response, Kate is often much faster to respond. Also Kate received her M.Div. from the GCTS-Jax program and can help ANYONE with navigating courses as a student.

Schedule:

This residency portion of this web-enhanced course will meet in the Salem Classroom. Please note these dates and times:

- Thursday February 28, 5:30pm – 9:30pm
- Friday, March 1 and Saturday March 2: 8:30am – 4:30

The semester is from January 22 to May 13, with residency on the above dates. You are expected to begin your reading on January 22. Also, **see page three** of this syllabus for the extra reading you will need to do for the theologian you will write about.

Office Hours: I often am in the office and available for drop-in meetings before class on Friday afternoons. If you're on campus then and I am in my office, do not hesitate to knock. Otherwise, please email Kate to make appointments: khendrickson@gordonconwell.edu

OBJECTIVES:

This is a survey course to introduce the student to the history of the Christian church in the early and medieval periods (100 -- 1500 A.D.) The course objective is to thoroughly acquaint the student with the historical and theological development of key figures, movements and doctrines. Special emphasis will be on reading the primary sources.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Students will be required to read **ALL** the following:

- Philip Jenkins, *The Lost History of Christianity*
- Bruce Shelly, *Church History in Plain Language* **only half – up to the Reformation**
- St. Gregory, *The Book of Pastoral Rule*
- St. Athanasius, *On the Incarnation*

VIDEOS: In this course there are a series of 20 to 30-minute video lectures that will carry us through parts of the early church background and medieval world. Assigned dates and links for watching each video will be distributed the first day of class. **The material from the videos is testable material on the midterm and final, so notes should be taken on them.**

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

EXAMS: There will be a midterm and final exam each worth 30% of your grade (60% combined)

Please note: exam dates

- The mid-term will be due **March 29**
- The final will be emailed to you a few weeks in advance of the due date: **May 6**. Please email both the mid-term and final to khendrickson@gordonconwell.edu

NOTE: the midterm and final exams are open book and open note. However, the focus of the exams is not in memorization but on processing material. The questions asked on the exam are not obvious and require thought and judgment, which means students may use everything at their disposal: notes, books, videos, etc. Citation of printed materials (books) do not have to be footnoted, but the exams will be in long form, essay format.

Sample of a midterm/final type question: ‘Was Luther too extreme in his views on salvation? Describe your view historically and defend biblically.’

You will be graded 1/3 for your writing style/execution and 2/3 on the substance of your reflections. Students are to be reflective, engaging their readings in the light of scripture and the modern world.

PAPER:

The paper will be worth 30% of your final grade. It will be 14+ pages. The paper will be due **May 13**. This is the last day to submit written work for the semester. You must email the paper to Kate at khendrickson@gordonconwell.edu.

See pages 3-4 of this syllabus for Paper Format and Criteria.

READING REPORT:

The reading report will make up 10% of the final grade. Your reading grade will be determined by the percentage you read. If your average of the total completed reading is 50% of the assigned reading, then you will receive an F on this portion of your grade. If your average is 80% you will receive a B-, and so on. Please consult the grading scale at the end of the syllabus. You are on your honor. Whatever percentage you say you completed will be worth 10% of your final grade. **Please email your reading report by May 6 to khendrickson@gordonconwell.edu**

LATE WORK POLICY:

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 the due date will require that an extension be approved by me or Kate. If you anticipate a problem, contact either one of us as soon as possible.

Paper Format & Criteria for Evaluation of the Class Paper:

GOAL:

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. To be clear: I want you to graze through the writings of just one of these great Christian thinkers: I do not want this to be superficial reading assignment or an exercise in abstract thinking.

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. Christian pastors and missionaries have read these works for centuries as part of their devotional and spiritual diet. If I can get you hooked on just one, I will have done my job!

METHOD:

Throughout the semester (**which begins January 22nd**—choose one figure (e.g. Augustine). Use the resources in the library to find modern translations of his works. You might, for example, choose his sermons or several of his theological texts. You may also choose to read portions of each of these areas. I am always available to discuss this with students (particularly if you are uncertain who to read).

You should be sure to begin with some biographical work on your source. The assigned texts for this course have short biographies of every major figure, but you may also consult other reference works that sketch historical biographies.

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 275 pages in a modern edition.

PAPER FORMAT:

PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE, SAVE YOUR PAPERS AS: (LAST NAME, FIRST INITIAL, CH501 Paper #. Here's an example: **Hendrickson, K, CH501 Midterm**). If you don't I will have 30 papers that all have the same title.

- The paper will be emailed to Kate in **Word format only, 1" margins 12 pt. Times New Roman font, with bibliography**
- *The cover page and bibliography will not count towards the 14-page count.*
- Citations will be in footnotes, Turabian style.

I. Grammar and Style

- * Is the text clean of spelling mistakes? Is the text punctuated correctly?
 - * Does the sentence structure consistently adhere to basic rules of good grammar?
 - * Does the footnote/bibliographic apparatus follow Turabian?
 - * Is the paper written in clear, straight-forward style of academic prose.
- #### Organization
- * Does the subject correspond to what was assigned?
 - * Does the paper have a well-designed thesis statement and outline?
 - * Does the running text of the paper adhere to the outline, and are the larger divisions of the paper clearly signposted?
 - * Are the sentences and paragraphs of the text linked together clearly and in such a way that the thought of the student builds throughout the paper with continuity and coherence?

II. Clarity and Force of Argument

- * Where the student provides exposition or summary, does she/he do so succinctly and objectively?
- * Are opposing viewpoints treated fairly?
- * Is there evidence of reflection on the subject matter?

III. Research

- * Does the paper draw well on sources for its main evidence?
- * Are the sources selected and used judiciously?
- * Does the paper demonstrate sufficient depth and breadth of research, given the nature and level of the assignment?

SOURCES:

In addition to standard printed versions of primary texts, there are several approved online sources for your readings. For print versions, use either the Schaff edition or any of a dozen standalone printings of individual Fathers. Please contact the **Aldo Mondin** at amondin@gordonconwell.edu (our student research librarian) for print versions of these texts, or speak to the professor about which versions you may wish to purchase.

New Advent: <http://www.newadvent.org/fathers> New Advent is a Catholic site that maintains a database of nearly every text from the early church. The texts are easy to read, the biblical citations are hyperlinked in, and they even tell you if a text is ‘spurious’ or ‘authentic’. This site, in particular, is highly recommended.

CCEL: <http://www.ccel.org/fathers.html> Another popular site, though I find their page layout to be frustrating and difficult to read. Others love the convenience of being able to pay a bit for a downloadable pdf version of a text.

Christianity after the Apostles

Letters of Clement (compare 1 Clement to the book of Hebrews)

Letters of Ignatius

The Letter of Polycarp to the Philippians

The Epistle of Barnabas

The Shepherd of Hermas

Melito of Sardis- *On Pascha [Easter]*

Early Christian Devotional Literature

Martyrdom Narratives

The Martyrdom of Polycarp

Letter from the Churches of Vienna and Lyons

The Passion of Perpetua and Felicity

Prayer Guides

Three Works on Prayer by Tertullian, Cyprian, and Origen (available as one volume in the Popular Patristic Series volume titled “On the Lord’s Prayer”)

Early Church Orders

The Didache

The Apostolic Tradition

The Apostolic Constitutions (Books 1-7)

Early Christian Apologies

The Epistle to Diognetus

Justin Martyr’s First and Second *Apologies*

Athenagoras of Athens- *Plea for the Christians* (part one of two)

Athenagoras of Athens- *On the Resurrection of the Dead* (part two of two)

Tertullian- *Apology*

Irenaeus of Lyons, the first great theologian

Against Heresies, Books 3 and 4

On Apostolic Preaching

Christian Engagement with Judaism

The Epistle of Barnabas

Justin Martyr- *Dialogue with Trypho*

Melito of Sardis- *On Pascha [Easter]*

Hippolytus of Rome- *Expository Treatise against the Jews*

Tertullian, Dogmatic works

On the Flesh of Christ (part one of two)

On the Resurrection of the Flesh (part two of two)

Against Praxeaus, on the Trinity

Tertullian, Moral Works

On Prayer (De Oratione)

To My Wife, on Widowhood and Remarriage (Ad Uxorem) (in two parts)

On Repentance (De Poenitentia)

On Baptism (De Baptismo)

On the Shows (De Spectaculis)

On Purity (De Pudicitia)

NOTE: the following works are in their probable chronological order spanning over thirty years. Taken together in this order, they show Tertullian's increasingly uncompromising moralism, especially after he embraced the Montanist sect in around 207 (*On the Shows* and especially *On Purity*).

Tertullian, Polemical Works

Five Books against Marcion

Prescriptions against Heretics

Cyprian of Carthage

Select Letters on the Church

(Popular Patristics Series, sections 1 and 2)

Select Treatises on the Church

(Popular Patristics Series, *On the Lapsed, On the Unity of the Church*)

Clement of Alexandria- *The Teacher (Paedagogus)*

Origen of Alexandria- *On First Principles*

Eusebius- *The Church History* (strictly speaking a post-Nicene work, though it mostly covers the ante-Nicene period)

Creeds, Councils, and Theologians

Athanasius of Alexandria- *Against the Arians*, books 1-3

Popular Patristics Series, "Works on the Spirit"

Didymus the Blind- *On the Holy Spirit*

Athanasius of Alexandria- *Letters to Serapion on the Holy Spirit*

Basil of Caesarea- *On the Holy Spirit*

Cyril of Jerusalem- *Catechetical Lectures* (especially the last five so-called *Mystagogical Lectures*)

Ephrem the Syrian- *Hymns* (Classics of Western Spirituality)

Gregory of Nyssa- *Address Concerning Religious Instruction*

Gregory of Nazianzus, *On God and Christ* (Popular Patristics Series)

Five Theological Orations, on the Trinity
Two Letters to Cledonius, on the nature of Christ
 Gregory of Nazianzus, *Festal Orations* (Popular Patristics Series)
 various sermons delivered on principle feasts of the church (Christmas, Easter, etc)
 Ambrose of Milan- *Five Books on the Christian Faith*
 Jerome- *Letter 22 to Eustochium, on Virginity*
 Hilary of Potiers- *On the Councils (De synodis)*
 John Chrysostom- *Six Books on the Priesthood*
 John Chrysostom, *On Marriage and Family Life* (Popular Patristics Series)
 select sermons and letters on marriage
 John Chrysostom, *On Wealth and Poverty* (Popular Patristics Series)
 a sermon series on the Parable of Lazarus
 John Chrysostom- *Eight Sermons on the Book of Genesis*
 John Chrysostom- *Baptismal Instructions*
 Augustine of Hippo- *On Catechizing the Uninstructed (De Catechizandis Rudibus)*
 Augustine of Hippo- *On Christian Doctrine*
 Augustine of Hippo- *The Enchiridion, or Handbook on Faith, Hope, and Love*
 Augustine of Hippo- *On the Trinity, books 1-8 and 15*
 Augustine of Hippo- *Tractates [Sermons] on the Gospel of John*
 Augustine of Hippo- *Expositions on the Psalms*
 Augustine of Hippo- *On Baptism, against the Donatists*
 Augustine of Hippo- *On Nature and Grace*
 Augustine of Hippo- *On Grace and Free Will*
 Cyril of Alexandria, various works in John McGuckin's *Saint Cyril of Alexandria and the Christological Controversy*
 Cyril of Alexandria- *On the Unity of Christ* (Popular Patristics Series)
 John Cassian- *Conferences*

Early Middle Ages

Transition in the West

Augustine of Hippo- *The City of God, against the Pagans*, select books of interest

Book 1: the intertwining of the Cities of God and Man

Book 5: the true origins of Rome's prosperity

Book 8: Plato the closest of the pagan philosophers to Christian truth

Book 11: the origins of the two cities, a treatment of the Genesis creation account

Book 13: the nature of the fall and the curse

Book 17: prophecies concerning the coming of Christ

Book 19: the end, or purpose, of the two cities

Book 20: the last judgment

Book 21: the eternal punishment of the damned, the fate of the City of Man

Book 22: the glorification of the City of God in eternity

Prosper of Aquitaine- *Calling of the Nations*

Prosper of Aquitaine- *Defense of St. Augustine*

Vincent of Lerins- *Commonitory (Commonitorium)*

Boethius- *On the Consolation of Philosophy*

Isidore of Seville- *Etymologies*, esp. books 6 - 8

Isidore of Seville- *The Church Offices (de Ecclesiasticis Officiis)*
 Early Medieval Monastic Rules
 Augustine of Hippo- *Rule of St. Augustine*
 Benedict of Nursia- *Rule*
 Early Medieval “Lives”
 Sulpicius Severus- *Life of Martin of Tours* (in Penguin’s “Early Christian Lives”)
 St. Patrick- *Confession*
 Gregory the Great- *Life of Benedict* (in Penguin’s “Early Christian Lives”)
 Adomnan of Iona- *Life of Saint Columba*
 Willibald of Mainz- *Life of Saint Boniface*
 Venerable Bede- *History of the English Church and People*
 Venerable Bede- *On the Song of Songs and Selected Writings* (Classics of Western Spirituality)
 Eastern Theology and Spirituality in the Middle Ages
 Pseudo-Dionysius- *The Complete Works* (Classics of Western Spirituality)
 Maximus the Confessor- *On the Cosmic Mystery of Jesus Christ*
 Maximus the Confessor- *Selected Writings* (Classics of Western Spirituality)
 John of Damascus- *Exposition of the Faith*
 John of Damascus- *Three Treatises on the Divine Images*
 Symeon the New Theologian- *Discourses*
 Gregory Palamas- *The Triads*
 Gregory Palamas- *Homilies*
 Various Authors- *The Philokalia*, 4 volumes
The Medieval West and Medieval Theologians
 Various Medieval Penitentials from *Medieval Handbooks of Penance*, tr. by McNeill and
 Gamer
 Part 1: Early Irish Penitential Documents, esp. the “Penitential of Cummean”
 Part 3: Penitentials of the Anglo-Saxon Church, esp. the “Penitential of Theodore”
 Part 4: Penitentials by Irish Authors, esp. the “Penitential of Columban”
 and other material from Parts 1 – 7 as desired
 Hildegard of Bingen- *Selected Writings* (Penguin Classics)
 Anslem of Canterbury- *Cur Deus Homo*
 Anslem of Canterbury- *Proslogion*
 Anslem of Canterbury- *Monologion*
 Peter Abelard- *The Story of My Misfortunes*
 Peter Abelard- *Commentary on the Epistle to the Romans*
 Peter Abelard- *Sic et non*
 Peter Abelard- *Ethics*
 Peter Abelard- *Dialogue between a Philosopher, a Christian, and a Jew*
 Peter Lombard- *The Sentences*
 Book 1: The Mystery of the Trinity
 Book 2: On Creation
 Book 3: On the Incarnation of the Word
 Jocelyn de Brakelond- *Chronicle of the Abbey of Bury St. Edmunds*
 Bernard of Clairvaux- *The Steps of Humility and Pride*
 Bernard of Clairvaux- *Sermons on the Song of Songs*
 Bernard of Clairvaux- *On Loving God*

Penguin's *Chronicles of the First Crusade*
Penguin's *Chronicles of the Crusades*
Geffroy de Villenhardouin- *The Conquest of Constantinople* (4th Crusade)
Jean de Joinville- *The Life of St. Louis* (7th Crusade)
Anonymous- *The Song of the Cid* (about a hero of the Spanish Reconquest)
The Fourth Lateran Council- *Canons* (in "Readings in Medieval History," ed. by Geary)
Albert the Great- *On Cleaving to God*
Francis and Claire of Assisi- *Complete Works* (Classics of Western Spirituality)
Bonaventure- *The Soul's Journey into God*
Bonaventure- *The Tree of Life*
Bonaventure- *The Life of St. Francis*
Duns Scotus- *Philosophical Writings* (various works in one volume tr. by Allan Wolter)
Duns Scotus- *A Treatise on God as First Principle*
Meister Eckhart- *Selected Writings* (Penguin Classics)
Thomas Aquinas- *Summa Contra Gentiles*, Books 1, 2, 3, 4
Thomas Aquinas- *Summa Theologica*
Catherine of Siena- *The Dialogue of Catherine of Siena*
William of Ockham- *Summa Logicae*
Julian of Norwich- *Showings of Divine Love*
Margery Kempe- *The Book of Margery Kempe*
Anonymous- *The Cloud of Unknowing*
Erasmus of Rotterdam- *In Praise of Folly*