

HIST-502 X: History of Christian Thought and Practice II (online)
Spring 2025

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Course Modality: Online asynchronous

Course Description

Welcome to History II. This course will introduce you to the relatively recent history of Christianity, from the late Middle Ages (beginning around 1500) to the present time. In the last 500 years, Christianity has developed a wide range of expressions, most of which still exist today. This course will help you better understand how these varied traditions took shape and how they, in turn, have shaped modern church and society. Special attention will be given to the particular contexts in which Christian thought and practice have developed.

Learning Outcomes

- To appreciate the long history of the Church and its many stories.
- To interpret the dynamics of different times and places.
- To analyze why things happened as they did (and now are as they are);
- To recognize historical trends (and to identify them when they are repeated).
- To interpret the present in light of the past, noting both similarities and differences.
- To articulate aspects of Christian history as they are relevant to particular contemporary contexts, and to interpret those aspects for lay audiences.
- To see “the Church” in all its diversity (of time, place, culture, sub-culture, rank, ordination status, ethnicity, race, gender, class, and so on).
- To employ the best resources from the past to lead the church of the future.
- To be enriched by the stories of those who have gone before.
- To develop broader empathy for people (historical or contemporary) in circumstances that are unfamiliar to us.
- To exercise our abilities to think critically and communicate clearly.

Weekly Schedule

All work for this course will be done asynchronously. That is, there is no one time during the week when students must log on. Instead, there are two days a week (Mondays and Thursdays) when assignments are due, but those assignments can be done at any time throughout the week.

The following tasks should be completed no later than 5 p.m. CST on the date listed on the syllabus for each topic: Doing the assigned reading, listening to the lecture, taking the quiz, and posting to the discussion forum.

Required Texts

- Justo González, *The Story of Christianity, Volume II: The Reformation to the Present Day* (2010). ISBN: 978-0061855894, \$27.99 at Amazon.com.
- Dale Irwin & Scott Sunquist, *History of the World Christian Movement, Volume II: Modern Christianity from 1454 – 1800* (2012). ISBN: 978-1570759895, \$50.00 at Amazon.com.
- Albert Raboteau, *Canaan Land: A Religious History of African-Americans* (2001). ISBN: 978-0195145854, \$16.99 at Amazon.com.
- Other required readings, podcasts, and links will be posted on Moodle.

Assignments & Grading

Quizzes (20%)

For each topic, students will take a quiz on Moodle over the main points of the reading(s) and any other assigned materials. Each quiz contains five multiple choice or true/false questions and must be completed within ten minutes. At the end of the ten minutes, the quiz will be submitted with the answers that have been entered. It is open-book and open-note, but you will not be able to complete it successfully if you have not done the reading before beginning the quiz. Only one attempt is allowed. Quizzes are due by 5 p.m. CST on the date listed on the syllabus for that topic. Moodle will be programmed to disallow access to the quiz at that time, so please plan accordingly. The two lowest quiz scores will be dropped.

Participation (20%)

In order to fully engage this course, it is important that you actively participate so that your classmates can learn from you and you from them. The discussion forum on Moodle will be the main avenue for this engagement. The minimum expectation for participation in the online discussion forum is one substantial post per topic

(approximately 300 words, or about 3 minutes if you are posting a video or an audio file). All posts should engage the previous posts of other students (unless, of course, you post first) and should not be constructed as stand-alone reports. Posts are due at 5 p.m. CST on the date listed for the topics. Quantity and quality will both be considered when assigning a participation grade.

Essays (30% x 2 = 60%)

Two 5-7 page essays will be required, one as a mid-term and the other as a final. They are due 5 p.m. CST on the dates listed below. Details, guidelines and rubrics for all essays will be posted on Moodle. Please see also the Style Sheet posted on Moodle for an overview of citations and other stylistic issues.

Final grades for the course are determined by the following scale:

A: 100-93%	C: 73-77%
A-: 90-92%	C-: 70-72%
B+: 88-89%	D+: 68-69%
B: 83-87%	D: 63-67%
B-: 80-82%	D-: 60-62%
C+: 78-79%	F: 59% and below

Policies and Procedures

1. *Careful language* is especially important in an online course. Because online interactions play out differently than face-to-face interactions, some extra guidelines for discussion will be helpful:
 - In an online discussion, you have fewer words with which to make your point. This makes your reflection prior to posting and your choice of words all the more important. Everyone benefits from thoughtful discussion posts, so please take the time to express yourself clearly, and please make sure that your post contributes to the flow of discussion. Also, because your spelling and grammar convey the seriousness that you bring to the task, please proof-read your posts before submitting them.
 - The online discussion is the main collaborative activity of the course, so your classmates are depending on you, and you on them. Please participate regularly, on schedule, and in response to the question and to previous postings.
 - Without the non-verbal clues we have when we talk with someone face-to-face, comments can be misinterpreted. Please make sure your posts are

clear, especially when you are making a contentious statement. We will tackle difficult topics, and we will disagree, but we must do this in a respectful and constructive manner.

2. *Late papers and other assignments* will be accepted without penalty only in severe and documented situations. Please plan your work so that an acute emergency (e.g. brief illness, computer problems, pastoral emergency) does not interfere with submitting your work on time. Unexcused late assignments will be docked a full letter grade (i.e., 10 percentage points) for every day they are late. Any portion of a day late counts as a full day, so if a paper is due at 5 p.m. and you submit it at 5.30 p.m., your grade will be docked by one full letter grade (e.g., 90% becomes 80%). *Quizzes* must be completed according to schedule as Moodle is programmed to make them unavailable after the due date. Any quizzes not taken on time will receive a score of zero.
3. *Regarding plagiarism*, please familiarize yourself with Garrett-Evangelical policies as found in the Academic Handbook. It is especially important to make sure you understand what constitutes plagiarism so that you do not inadvertently violate the policy. All written work will undergo an online plagiarism check.

Overview of Garrett-wide Academic Policies

All students are required to abide by the academic policies detailed in the [Academic Handbook](#) for the current academic year. The following policies are of particular importance to the successful completion of one's coursework:

Writing:

- Academic integrity and [plagiarism](#): (See 19-20 Handbook, 12, 78-83) All professors are required to respond to all suspected incidents of academic dishonesty, especially plagiarism. Repeated incidents of plagiarism or academic dishonesty may result in dismissal from the school.
- Writing and citations: The Turabian Manual for Writers and the Chicago Manual of Style footnote/bibliography format provide the standard formats for all introductory courses. Basic information on these formats is available online [here](#). In advanced courses an instructor may require another style guide appropriate to the discipline (such as APA). (19-20 Handbook, 84)
- Writing Support: The Writing Center at Garrett-Evangelical offers programs to support all students' theological research and writing. See <https://www.garrett.edu/studentlife/student-services> "Writing Center" for more detailed information.

Attendance and Class Participation:

- Inclusivity/Diversity: The basic commitments of the seminary to mutual love and searching for the truth in Christ lead to a principle that in the classroom and in course assignments, persons are always to be respected and ideas are to be freely discussed.... All participants in the teaching-learning process have an obligation to honor and respect varying perspectives on relevant issues.

(See 19-20 Handbook, 9)

- Attendance and lateness policies: Attendance is required. Students who miss more than 20% of the class sessions (e.g., more than 2 classes in the weekly schedule, a proportionate amount for other class formats) should not expect to pass the class. (19-20 Handbook, 19)
- Some faculty may limit on the usage of electronic devices such as cell phones during class. At the least, all cell phones should be silenced during the whole of a class session.

Academic Accommodations:

- Garrett-Evangelical is committed to providing the most accessible learning environment possible for students with disabilities by making reasonable accommodations as needed.
- Should you anticipate or experience disability-related barriers in the academic setting, please contact the Director of Academic Support and Student Thriving (melanie.baffes@garrett.edu or 847-866-3869) to get started with the established accommodation process.
- If you are a continuing student who has already established accommodations with Student Access, you should receive a copy of your access letter at the start of the semester when it is emailed to the faculty member of each course you are enrolled in.
- Disability information, including academic accommodations as part of a student's educational record, is confidential under FERPA regulations, so no one other than the access coordinator and your professors will see your accommodation letter.
- Please note that accommodations cannot be retroactive; they begin only after documentation is received and reasonable time for the development of accommodations has been allowed.

COURSE SCHEDULE

January 27:

Course Introduction

January 30:

Reform in the Late Middle Ages

16th & 17th Centuries

February 3:

Reformation Overview: Movements, Countries, and Denominations

February 6:

The Reformation & Christian Practice

February 10:

Reformation Theology

February 13:

Reformation Social Ethics

February 17:

Christianity in the Americas

February 20:

Christianity in Africa

February 24:

Christianity in Asia

February 27:

Christianity in the North American Colonies

March 3: Mid-term Paper Due

18th & 19th Centuries

March 6:

South America and the Caribbean in the Age of Revolution

March 10:

The Enlightenment and Deism

March 13:

The Great Awakenings and the American Revolution

March 17:

Slave Christianity and Protest

March 20:

The Debate over Slavery

March 24 – 28: Spring Break

March 31:

The Protestant Missionary Movement

April 3:

Home Missions & Women's Roles

20th Century

April 7:

The Fundamentalist – Modernist Controversy

April 10:

Ecumenism and Vatican II

April 14:

Post-colonial Movements

April 17: Maundy Thursday, no class

April 21:

Religion in the Civil Rights Movement

April 24:

Liberalism and Pluralism in Modern America

April 28:

Contemporary Evangelicalism

May 1:

Eastern Orthodoxy and other Eastern Churches

May 5: Final Paper Due