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13-502 History of Christian Thought and Practice, II
Spring, 2020

Rationale, Assumptions

We engage in the study of the history of Christianity in order to understand the heritage of the Church so that our ministry to the present might be informed, illumined, and enriched. Such study must recognize the ethnic and cultural diversity of the Church in all ages. It must also explore the interplay of the Church's thought and practice with its historical, social, and cultural settings. Thus, this course proceeds from the assumptions that, first, the Church is broader than any one denominational, geographic, or ethnic strand of development; secondly, that no one strand can accurately or adequately be understood apart from its relation to the whole. Yet, the time constraints of an academic course require the selection for study of strands that are both representative and also more immediately pertinent to the areas in which the ministries of most of us will unfold.

Objectives

- To survey the expansion of Christianity from Europe to the continents of Asia and Africa and to the Americas (South, Central, and North).
- To identify key historical developments, themes, and emphases, regarding the Christian Church and its theology
- To discern from this survey implications for contemporary ministry and Christian faithfulness.

Class Schedule, Assignments (Numbered readings are found in course reader; those marked by outlined font are from assigned book volumes)

Feb. 4 Overview of course and expectations.

(1, Ellingsen)

Sixteenth- and Seventeenth-Century Europe and England: Economic, Social, and Religious Conditions

(2, Ellingsen; 3, Kee; 4, Comby; **Matheson, Intro., Part I**)

- 11 “The Church is reformed and always reforming:” The Protestant and Catholic Reformations
(5, Comby; 6, Kee; **Matheson, Part II**)

- 18 Reformations, cont. **NO CLASS TODAY, BUT PLEASE DO READ THOROUGHLY THE ASSIGNED MATERIAL**

7, Comby; 8, Kee; **Matheson, Part III**)

European Voyages of "Discovery" and Mission: For God, Crown, and First Federal.

(9, Comby; 10, Comby; **Bednarowski, Introduction**); Families. Flip *carefully, observantly* through the pages of this book, studying the visual elements of each scene to get an overall, composite sense of who constitutes the world.

- 25 The Church in Asia.

(**Hastings, Chap. 10; Bednarowski, Chaps. 1, 9**)

Mar. 3 Mission and Native Church Initiatives in Africa.

(**Hastings, Chap 6; Bednarowski, Chap. 3**)

- 10 The Church in Latin America: Migration and Mission.

(**Hastings, Chap. 9**; 11, Zinn; **Bednarowski, Chaps. 7; Porterfield, Chap. 5**)

Church, State, Class, Culture in Latin America. Film: “Onward Christian Soldiers”

- 17 Rise of Puritanism. (12, Kee)

The Church in British Colonial North America; Covenant Theology;

Religious Declension, Revival; Establishment vs. Voluntarism.

(**Hastings, 416 – 28**; 13, Eerdmans; **Porterfield, Introduction, Chaps. 7, 8**) [Mid-term distributed]

- 31 Church and the Frontier; Revived Revivalism.
(**Hastings, pp. 428 – 440**; 14, Eerdmans) **MID-TERM DUE.**
- Apr. 7 “A Church Within a Church”: African-American Religious Development.
(15 A, Eerdmans; 15 B. Raboteau; 15 C, Graveley; **Porterfield, Chaps. 10,11**)
- Apr. 14 The Burden of National/Global Missions: Manifest Destiny
(16, Eerdmans; 17, Lawrence/Jewett)
- Native Americans and Christianity. Film.
(18, Norwood; 19, Berkhofer)
- 16 Women, Piety, and Ministry
(20, Ruether/Keller; 21, Eerdmans; 22, McManners; **Matheson, Chap. 6; Porterfield, Chaps. 2, 9; Bednarowski, Chaps. 2, 4, 13**)
- 23 Post-Civil-War Religious Developments.
(**Hastings, 440-445**; 23, Eerdmans; **Bednarowski, Chap. 6**)
- The Fundamentals of the Faith and the Challenges of Modernity
(**Hastings, 446 - 448**; 24, Eerdmans; **Porterfield, Chaps. 3, 4**)
- 30 The Church in the Twentieth Century; the Orthodox Communions;
(25, Ellingsen; **Bednarowski, Chap. 6**)
- May 5 Protestant, Catholic, Jew, and . . . : The Changing Face of Religion in the US
(26, Eck; **Hastings, 449 – 457**; 27, Kee; **Bednarowski, Chap. 16**)
- Retrospect and Prospect
- Course Evaluation.
- FINAL EXAM DISTRIBUTED; DUE May 14, 4 p.m. SUBSTANTIAL PENALTY FOR LATE SUBMISSIONS. NO PAPERS ACCEPTED AFTER MAY 15.**

Course Requirements

1. **Attendance** at all class sessions. **Participation** in discussion. There will be a reduction in grade for each class session missed. Please notify the instructor ahead of time to see if make-up work is available for a given session to be missed. Three or more absences without mutually-agreed-upon arrangements for addressing the work of those class sessions will disqualify one from passing the course. **20%**
2. **Mid-term.** Take-home essay questions. **20%**
3. You are to take **weekly notes** (1½-2 pages) on your reading, indicating key points; insights gained; issues the readings raised for you; questions you have or matters of unclarity; etc. Your notes are to be submitted via email before class or at the beginning of each class session. There will be a reduction of credit for papers submitted after the mid-point of the given class session. **30%**
4. **Final Examination.** Take-home, essay questions **30%**

Grading for the course assumes that at the graduate level the A grade is reserved for work that is clearly outstanding or that fulfills at a high level the expectations of the aspect of the course being evaluated. The B grade indicates a solid understanding of the materials on which the graded material is based or a commendable performance in the aspect being evaluated. The C grade designates an acceptable comprehension or performance, while there is room for deepening comprehension, sharpening analysis, or enhancing performance. The D and F grades indicate comprehension and/or performance not adequate for accreditation at the graduate level.

Assigned Readings

A Course Reader containing reprinted sections of the following works:

Berkhofer, Robert, Salvation and the Savage.

Comby, John, How to Read Church History.

Eerdmans, Handbook to Christianity in America.

Ellingsen, Mark, Reclaiming Our Roots: An Inclusive Introduction to Church History.

Graveley, Will, "The Rise of African Churches in America."

Kee, Howard Clark, et. al., Christianity: A Social and Cultural History.

Lawrence, John Shelton, and Jewett, Robert, The Myth of the American Superhero.

McManners, John, The Oxford Illustrated History of Christianity.

Norwood, Frederick, "Conflict of Cultures;" "Two Contrasting Views of the Indian."

Omer, Uwe, Families Around the World, One Kid at a Time, Universe Publishing, 2003

Raboteau, Albert J., Slave Religion

Ruether and Keller, Women and Religion in America.

Zinn, Howard, The People's History of the United States.

In addition, you are asked to purchase or secure regular access to the following:

A People's History of Christianity, Vol. 5, Peter Matheson, editor; Vol. 6, Amanda Porterfield, editor; Vol. 7, Mary Farrell Bednarowski, editor. Fortress Press, 2008.

Hastings, Adrian, A World History of Christianity, Cassell, 1999.

On a regular basis, there will be discussion sessions in class, affording the opportunity to explore the assigned readings; to relate them to the array of subjects that the course addresses; to integrate the work of this course with that of other courses; and to discern concrete applications to ministry vocation.

*NOTE: I encourage you to make an appointment to see me if you have conditions which require special assistance or accommodations in the classroom, in handling the reading and writing assignments, or any other areas related to our work together. I can adapt my mode of presentation; mentoring/ tutorial assistance can be arranged; assignments can be modified; and so forth. Also, the office of Affirmative Action and Disability Service has many resources at your disposal.

**Cellular phones and pagers must be turned off or placed on silent signal during class. Students are not to leave class to answer calls except in extreme emergency. Also, laptop and other personal computing devices are not to be used during class time, except for note taking or for internet searches related to topics being addressed in the class session. S