

# WESTERN SEMINARY - SACRAMENTO

Wisdom from Church History – Part 1  
CHS505XM: 2 credit hours

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**Syllabus – Spring 2009**  
**Session B: Mar 3 – Apr 25**

## COURSE SCHEDULE

March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31; April 14, 21 (Tuesdays 5:45 pm – 9:55 pm.)

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course highlights the historical and theological development of the people of God during the Early and Medieval centuries. The Protestant Reformation is treated biographically and theologically featuring the personalities of Luther, Zwingli, Arminius and Wesley.

## COURSE CONTRIBUTION TO STATED DEGREE OUTCOMES

The objectives of this course are tied directly to the desired outcomes constructed specifically for the four seminary degrees for which this course is a requirement. Below is an excerpt of the degree outcomes to which this course relates:

- 1) Be a person whose Christ-like character is worthy of being emulated, and whose integrity imparts credibility to his/her ministry
  - a) gratefully aware of his/her new identity and spiritual sufficiency in Christ (MFM 500)
  - b) motivated by genuine love for God, others and self (SFS 501)
  - c) reflects biblical balance and skill in life management, appropriately fulfilling the roles and responsibilities mandated by God (MFM 500; SFS 501, 502; overarching)
  - d) regularly practices spiritual disciplines to facilitate personal transformation and intimate fellowship with the Lord (SFS 502)
  - e) cooperates effectively with God's Spirit in the process of replacing sinful habits with godly virtue (SFS 501, 502)
  - f) fosters healthy interpersonal relationships, including the ability to listen and speak with respect for the feelings and opinions of others (SFS 501)
  - g) thinks and acts ethically in areas of personal, professional and social responsibility (SFS 504)
- 2) Be able to think biblically and critically so that various truth claims can be effectively evaluated
  - a) has embraced a biblical world view (THS 501-3, THS 508; overarching)

- b) able to apply the basic elements of critical analysis and sound reasoning (MFM 500; overarching)
  - c) sensitive to cultural variations in styles of thinking (overarching)
  - d) reflects an appropriately humble and charitable spirit in applying biblical criteria for truth (overarching)
- 3) Know the leading figures, movements, and events of church history world wide
- a) introduced to the classic works of the faith and the major personages of the church who serve as models of maturity and faithfulness (CHS 505 or CHS 506)
  - b) understands how various philosophies have impacted the church through the ages (CHS 505 or CHS 506; THS 501-3)
  - c) aware of the seasons of progress and regress of the church and the primary reasons for each (CHS 505 or CHS 506)
  - d) appreciates the richness of the various traditions of the church worldwide (CHS 505 or CHS 506)
  - e) able to apply historical perspective and wisdom to contemporary issues (CHS 505 or CHS 506)
- 4) Be able to communicate God's truth clearly, accurately, and convincingly
- a) able to preach and teach effectively, working both from Scripture to life and from life to Scripture (PTS 510; EMS 501)
  - b) able to offer basic counseling and spiritual nurture in areas of frequent need (PTS 507, PTS 508)
  - c) able to communicate one's thoughts effectively in writing (MFM 500; overarching)
  - d) aware of alternative communication strategies for the purposes of ministry (DIS 503-4)
  - e) able to contextualize biblical truth without compromising the finality and authority of Scripture (DMS 501)
- 5) Be a true life-long learner, building upon his/her seminary training
- a) committed to pursuing growth and learning in key areas of need (MFM 500; overarching)
  - b) able to access and manage information (including that available via computer/on-line resources) so that it is readily available when needed (overarching)

## **COURSE GOALS**

This course is designed to enable the student to:

1. Appreciate the value of church history for contemporary ministry
2. recognize the most significant events of church history and their impact upon subsequent faith and practice
3. Be both inspired and instructed by Christian personalities of the past

4. Become familiar with some potential tools for helping other believers learn about and from church history

## **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

Upon completion of this course, students will:

1. Describe the growth of Christianity under the Roman Empire until the time of its legalization by Constantine – including its persecution, polity, worship and theological controversies
2. Identify the contributions of the Patristic writers, particularly Augustine, to subsequent Christian thought
3. Discuss the importance of the monastic movement
4. Identify the issues leading to the Councils of Nicaea and Chalcedon and their resolution
5. Trace the varied fortunes of the Church in the East to the year 1500 AD.
6. Identify the major trends in philosophical thought from the Greeks to the Renaissance as they impacted Christian theology.
7. Describe early Christian missionary endeavors and evaluate the extent of their success
8. Identify both the positive and negative contributions and trends of the medieval church
9. Describe “popular” religion during the Middle Ages and how it both cohered and differed from institutional religion
10. Discuss the social and theological underpinnings of the Protestant Reformation and the Counter-Reformation.

## **TEXTBOOKS**

*We are happy to announce that Western Sacramento is now an Amazon Associate. Any purchases (not just books) you make on Amazon using this link will mean that a minimum of 4% of the purchase price comes to Western. Please support your seminary by using this link for all your Amazon purchases.*

Click [here](#) to order texts and other products.

### **Required**

- *The Story of Christianity, Volume 1: The Early Church to the Dawn of the Reformation* (1984) by Justo Gonzalez
- *The Story of Christianity, Volume 2: The Reformation to the Present Day* (1985) by Justo Gonzalez  
(note: This text will also be used in the Summer term)
- *Documents of the Christian Church*, Henry Bettenson and Chris Maunder, eds. (1999)  
(note: This text will also be used in the Summer term)

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

### **Reading**

Complete all required reading before each class session so that you will be able to participate in and benefit from the class discussions.

*The Story of Christianity, Vol. 1* by Gonzalez (To be read in its entirety – approx 402 pages)

*The Story of Christianity, Vol.2* by Gonzalez (Chapters 1-13 – approx 120 pages)

*Documents of the Christian Church* (selected documents, approx 100 pages)

Time required for class texts: 18 hours outside class, or 2 ½ hrs/wk across 8 weeks.

### **Written Assignments**

Biography (5-7 pages)

- detailing the life and thought of an important figure in Church History

Critical Book Reviews (5-7 pages)

- read and critique a book dealing with an aspect (theological motif, controversy, ministry or devotional practice etc.) of Church History until 1600.

Reflection Paper (4-6 pages)

- should detail key “life lessons” and/or principles for ministry that you have gained from your study of the Christian past

Time required: 30 hours outside class, or 3 ¾ hrs/wk across 8 weeks.

Research papers must cite a minimum of five secondary (i.e. outside of the Bible) sources, two of which must be from a physical library or from Western library’s online journal collection (see the library information below). Note the physical location of each book or other resource as an addendum to each bibliographical entry in your written project.

### **General Information**

All work must reflect master's-level use of the English language. Plagiarism will result in failure of the first assignment so discovered. A second instance will result in failure in the course.

### **STANDARDS FOR WRITTEN WORK (MLA)**

Papers must be written to a near-thesis standard. That is, minimum format standards must be met, as defined below. English grammar, idiom, and spelling must be up to graduate level.

Always include a strong introduction paragraph (declare what you intend to show the reader) and conclusion paragraph. Qualities valued include clarity, succinctness, and precision.

This course employs the MLA (Modern Language Association) style guide. The basic elements are:

- Double-spacing, except for block quotes
- Single space block quotes
- Page numbers appear at the upper right on every text page
- Use footnotes rather than paragraph citations
- Footnotes follow a standard format.

Helpful web sites on MLA style include:

- <http://webster.comnet.edu/mla.htm>
- <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/research/index.html>
- <http://www.english.uiuc.edu/cws/wworkshop/bibliography/mla/mlamenu.htm>
- These websites are expanded and pasted into Western Seminary's *How to Write a Research Paper*.

A good website with footnote/bibliography entries is:

- <http://www.wisc.edu/writing/Handbook/DocChicabgo.html>

For assignments that require the use of non-course texts and include a bibliography, of the resources mentioned in the bibliography for your project/paper, two must be from a physical library. Note the physical location of each book as an addendum to each bibliographical entry.

All work must reflect master's level use of the English language. Plagiarism will result in failure of assignment.

## GRADING

<b>A+</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>A-</b>	<b>B+</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>B-</b>	<b>C+</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>C-</b>	<b>D+</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>D-</b>
99-100%	95-98%	93-94%	91-92%	88-90%	86-87%	84-85%	81-83%	79-80%	77-78%	74-76%	70-73%

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Percent of Final Grade</b>	<b>Estimated Time to Complete</b>
Biography	30%	12 hours
Critical Book Review	30%	12 hours
Reflection Paper	20%	6 hours
Reading Quizzes	20%	18 hours (includes text reading)
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>60 hrs [= 30 hrs/unit]</b>

## CLASS POLICIES

**Cover page:** To safeguard confidentiality, provide a title page as a cover for all assignments. Include your student mailbox number in the upper right corner of the cover page.

**Attendance and Late Assignments:** Students are expected to attend all class meetings. Students who miss class are responsible for missed work, and are encouraged to ask another student to audiotape the class or take notes. Unexcused absences and tardiness will impact a student's grade. Students who anticipate an absence should discuss it in advance with the instructor. Students who report an absence in advance will be able to turn in work originally due the missed session, as late as the following session with no loss in grade, after which there will be the loss of one letter grade for that work. Students who do not report an absence in advance can turn in work later than the missed session with a loss of one letter grade for that work.

Students who miss two or more classes will not pass the course, unless they arrange with the teacher to complete additional assignments.

**Enrichment Students:** Enrichment students are encouraged, but not obligated, to participate in assignments and class discussions. Professors are not obligated to grade participation for these students, but may opt to do so depending on class size.

**Incompletes:** Faculty members determine their own procedures and due dates for the completion of course assignments. The instructor's expectations will be stated in the course syllabus. The latest possible deadline available to the professor for all course work is the last day of the school term (regardless of the date of the last class session) as noted in the Academic Calendar (see current class catalog). In the case of serious illness, family emergency, or other extenuating circumstances, the instructor may grant an extension **at the initiation of the student**. A temporary notation of "I" (incomplete) is assigned until a final grade can be determined. The maximum extension permissible is six weeks, **with all work due to the prof for grading on Fri, 5/29/09 at the latest**. All course assignments not completed by the extended deadline will be given a failing grade. Under no circumstances may this six-week period be extended except by petition and approval of the Administrative Committee.

**The Availability of Disability Services at Western Seminary:** Western Seminary is committed to responding to the needs of students with disabilities as outlined in both the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Western students are assisted individually as their needs dictate. It is the responsibility of students with disabilities to identify themselves and the nature of the disability. Any student who has a disability should contact the seminary's Disability (Section 504) Coordinator, Ken Epp, at 503-517-1815/1-877-517-1800, ext. 1815. His office is at the Portland campus. Students at the northern California campuses may contact Carrie Priest (Student Services Coordinator – San José) or PJ Oswald (Director of Student Development – Sacramento), or they may contact Dr. Epp directly. Appropriate forms will be provided and must be submitted to the Disability Coordinator's office.

## LIBRARY AND INTERNET RESEARCH

All class assignments with a research element require library research annotated as such in the bibliography. A minimum of two resources must be from a physical library. Note the physical location of each resource as an addendum to each bibliographical entry.

For complete library information including: hours of operation, interlibrary loan, local library resources, etc., please:

- Visit [www.westernseminary.edu](http://www.westernseminary.edu) .
- Click the link “Sacramento Campus” in the left navigation pane.
- Click the link “Library Resources” in the left navigation pane.

### Reserve Collection

The library carries all required readings for this course.

### Print Resources

Use the Western-Arcade Library catalog to find books and other materials. To search the library collection:

- Visit <http://www.westernseminary.edu/Library/SAC> .
- Click the link “Search the Library Collection Online”.

### Periodical & Research Databases

As you complete your assignments for this course, don't forget about the resources in the Western research databases. Remember to evaluate and cite your information too. To access the Western research databases:

- Visit <http://www.westernseminary.edu/Library/SAC> .
- Click the link “Research Databases” from the bottom menu.
- Click the link “Ebsco Host Research Databases”.
- Log in. [**User ID:** westsem / **Password:** seminary]
- Click the link “EBSCOhost Web”.
- Click the database(s) you wish to use. Start with *ATLA Religion Database with ATLASerials*.

To cite your information, consider the following MLA composers:

<http://www.noodletools.com> and <http://www.citationmachine.net>

Western-Arcade Library offers a variety of ministry related software for student use including BibleWorks, Logos Bible Software, and SeminaryLibrary.

### Course Packs (if applicable)

To access the course pack(s) for this course:

1. Go to the library homepage: <http://www.westernseminary.edu/Library/SAC>
2. Click the link ‘Course Packs’.

### Reference and Research Contact Information

David Holifield, M.A., M.L.S. / (916) 488-3720, ext. 7 / [dholfield@westernseminary.edu](mailto:dholfield@westernseminary.edu)

## COURSE OUTLINE AND SCHEDULE

March 3	Persecution and Growth	Gonzalez I pp.2-108,
March 10	Church Fathers and Church Councils	Gonzalez I pp. 114-219, selected docs Reading Quiz
March 17	The Medieval Church	Gonzalez I pp. 231-323 selected docs Reading Quiz
March 24	Eve of the Reformation	Gonzalez I pp. 324-411 Selected docs Biography due Reading Quiz
March 31	Luther, Zwingli, Anabaptists	Gonzalez II pp. 6-60 Selected docs Reading Quiz
April 14	Calvin, English Reformation	Gonzalez II pp. 61 - 93 Selected docs Book Review due Reading Quiz
April 21	Counter-Reformation	Gonzalez II pp. 94-121 Reading Quiz Reflection Paper due