



THE **wesleyan** CHURCH

Education & Clergy Development

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Course: General Church History

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Syllabus Overview

What you will find in this syllabus

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Course Description

This course will consider how the church has grown and spread through the past 2000 years. We will look at movements, at prominent people, at various theological traditions and, as far as possible, at the experiences of common Christians, in all their triumphs and struggles. Ultimately we will reflect on how the experiences of our brothers and

sisters who have gone before us can prepare us to more effectively serve Christ in this present age.

Course Objectives & Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course students should be able to:

- ~ Discuss the significant streams of Christian thought and their sources;
- ~ Discuss the diversity within the Christian tradition, both historically and in the present era;
- ~ Engage reflectively with spiritual writings of Christians through the centuries;
- ~ Understand the currents of theology and church practice in the contemporary era in light of Christian experience and writing from earlier eras of the church.

Required Textbooks

Students are responsible for ordering their textbooks and may choose where to purchase them. Some students purchase their textbooks from Wesleyan Publishing House at www.wphonline.com (as available) and from Amazon.com.

- Shelley, Bruce. *Church History in Plain Language*, 4th edition. Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publisher, 2012.
- Tucker, Ruth. *Extraordinary Women of Church History: What We Can Learn from Their Struggles and Triumphs*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2016.

Pre-Course Assignments

Choose 6 links from the list below. Read the page the link directs you to and write a paragraph or two about that excerpt. What was the person teaching readers? What did it elicit in you: did you find it encouraging, confusing, helpful or unhelpful? In all you should have at least 6 paragraphs. Please submit these to my email (Kristina.lacelle-peterson@houghton.edu) before the first class session.

Commented [HD1]: How should they submit these? They just need some directions.

Commented [WM2R1]:

Live Class

Students are required to attend all live class sessions. They will take place online on the following days:

November 7, 14, 28, December 5, 12, 19 (Note: No class Thanksgiving week)

Day of the Week: Tuesday

Time: 6:00 – 10:00 p.m. EST

2 short biographical studies: one man and one woman in the history of the church in the west. We will discuss details when we meet in class. Due Nov. 28 and Dec. 19.

Commented [HD3]: Details will be explained during class (I presume). Just mention.

Post Course Assignments

1. Timeline assignment. Pick 30 dates you wish people knew so that they would have a framework for understanding how we got where we are. Ideally it would be something you could put up in a room when you were using the curriculum described in the next assignment.

2. Sunday School Curriculum: construct a 12 week curriculum that could be used in a Sunday School setting. For each of the 12 sessions, describe what you would cover in a couple of paragraphs, and give some rationale for including that particular person or movement.

ALL POST-COURSE ASSIGNMENTS ARE DUE: December 30 [This is more than a week after the ending of the course, but because of Christmas I thought they might need more time. If that is against policy, please change it.]

Grades

Class participation	10 pts
Reflections	20 pts
Biography I	20 pts
Biography II	20 pts
Timeline	10 pts
Curriculum	20 pts

Policies & Requirements

Attendance

Students are required to attend all class sessions. Failure to attend at least 80% (16 hours) of the minimum required seat time (20 hours) will result in automatic failure of the course. Any and all absences within that 20% window must be approved by the professor prior to the course in writing (e.g. email). Do not ask for permission to be excused during the class or after the absence has already occurred.

Grading Scale

100-97 A
96-94 A-
93-91 B+
90-88 B
87-85 B-
84-81 C+
80-76 C
75-71 C-
70-68 D
67 or below F

Students must get a "C" or above to pass the course and receive credit for ordination.

Books

Students are encouraged to purchase their books through Wesleyan Publishing House. Often, discounts are available.

Available from Wesleyan Publishing House by calling 800-493-7539 or online at www.wphonline.com.

Due Date

All assignments are due on the date indicated in the syllabus or verbally communicated by the instructor. Professors are required to submit grades to Education and Clergy Development at a maximum of 12 weeks after the last day of class. Assignments may not be submitted to the professor any later than 8 weeks after the last day of class. Assignments not submitted by the due date will result in an automatic "0" for the assignment.

Extensions

Extensions may be (but are not guaranteed) granted for sickness, serious injury, or death in the student's immediate family or for similar extenuating circumstances. *When in doubt, please contact the professor.* Also, no assigned work will be accepted after the final due date, unless an extension has been granted in writing (e.g. email) from the professor. Communication is the key! Professors may reduce a student's grade by 20% for each week past the due date (even in the event of approved extensions). Education and Clergy Development reserves the right to refuse extension and override the professor as it deems necessary.

Papers

All written papers must be typed. Papers should be double spaced on 8.5x11 paper using 12 point font in a normal, easy to read type style (Arial, Cambria, Times New Roman, etc.). Margins should be 1" on all sides. Each paper should include at least: student's full name, course title, and date. It is advisable to include your name on each page of the paper.

Ordination Deadline

If the student is a candidate for ordination in a given year, coursework must be completed as follows: the final grade submission deadline (12 weeks after the last day of class) must be at least 40 days before the student's district conference. Professors are not required to fulfill any requests for grade submission prior to this deadline.

Plagiarism

Ministerial students in The Wesleyan Church are expected to exhibit honesty and integrity in their personal, professional and academic life and work. As Christians, we are called to a high standard of honesty. As such, students in our ministerial training courses are required to adhere to strict academic guidelines.

The following is borrowed from a college catalog.

Plagiarism — This is defined as offering the work of another as one's own. It is an attempt to deceive by implying that one has done work that was actually done by another. Faculty and students are honor bound to show that ideas and words match with the sources used and thus demonstrate that honest research has been done.

Examples of plagiarism include (but are not limited to) the following:

1. Copying all or part of a theme, examination, paper, library reading report, or other written work from another person's production

2. Submitting as one's own work that which was wholly or partially done by another so as to appear to one's professor to be more accurate or skilled in one's work than one actually is
3. Quoting material from any source without proper documentation
4. Summarizing or paraphrasing from any source without proper documentation
5. Misrepresentation of documentation or resources
6. Using in collateral reports or book reviews the opinion of a professional literary critic or of a campus friend as though it were one's own original thought
7. Submitting workbook answers copied from another person or working in a group and submitting an identical set of answers for each member of the group without explicit permission from the professor

Cheating — Examples of cheating include (but are not limited to) the following:

1. Use of unauthorized prepared materials (cheat sheets) for answering test questions
2. Giving aid to another student during a test or quiz
3. Gaining answers to test questions from others during testing periods
4. Signing another person's name to the attendance record
5. Claiming to have done laboratory work or outside reading that was not done
6. Submitting the same work for more than one course without the prior approval of the professors involved

Education and Clergy Development policy for all students receiving credit through non-accredited ministry training programs (e.g. FLAME, FLAMA, Correspondence Courses, Cross Training, District Extension Classes, Equipping for Ministry, etc.):

- 1) Any instance of plagiarism (whether intentional or not) will result in an automatic "F" for the particular assignment and may also result in an automatic failing of the course.
- 2) A repeat offense will result in an automatic failing of the course.
- 3) A third offense will result in an automatic withdrawal from a credentialing track in The Wesleyan Church.

Bibliography

González, Justo. *The Story of Christianity, Vol. 1 and Vol. 2*. Peabody, MA: Prince Press (Hendrickson), 1999.

Hinson, E. Glenn. *The Early Church: Origins to the Dawn of the Middle Ages*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1996.

Volz, Carl. *The Medieval Church: From the Dawn of the Middle Ages to the Eve of the Reformation*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1997.

Collinson, Patrick. *The Reformation: A History*. New York: Random House, 2003.

Hempton, David. *Methodism: Empire of Spirit*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 2005.

Gaustad, Edwin and Leigh Schmidt. *The Religious History of America: The Heart of the American Story from Colonial Times Until Today*. New York: HarperOne, rev. 2004.

Dayton, Donald and Douglas Strong. *Rediscovering an Evangelical Heritage: A Tradition and a Trajectory of Integrating Piety and Justice*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2014.

Other Course Documents

The Didache, Specifically 'chapters' 7-10. <http://www.earlychristianwritings.com/text/didache-roberts.html>

Vibia Perpetua, "Perpetua's Account [of her persecution]"
<http://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/source/perpetua.asp>

Augustine, Excerpts from *Confessions*, The Restless Heart.
<http://www.ccel.org/ccel/augustine/confessions.v.html>

Athanasius of Alexandria, The Life of Antony, <http://www.ccel.org/ccel/schaff/npnf204.xvi.ii.iii.html>

Benedict of Nursia, Twelve Steps of Humility, <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/rul-benedict.html>

John of Damascus, Concerning Images, <https://www.christianhistoryinstitute.org/study/module/john-of-damascus/>

Anselm of Canterbury, *Cur Deus Homo?* Read chap XI of:
<https://www.ewtn.com/library/CHRIST/CURDEUS.HTM>
The Mind Aroused to Contemplate God,
<http://www.ccel.org/ccel/anselm/meditations.iv.xxi.html>

Bernard of Clairvaux, *On Loving God*, chaps VIII, IX, X,
<https://www.ewtn.com/library/CHRIST/CURDEUS.HTM>

Julian of Norwich, From *Revelations of Divine Love*. "Our True Mother"
<http://www.ccel.org/ccel/julian/revelations.xvi.xvii.html>

Martin Luther, The Tower Experience, <https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/mod/1519luther-tower.asp>
On Christian Liberty (starts after the letter to Pope Leo X)
<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/luther-freedomchristian.html>

Michael Sattler, The Schleitheim Confession (to "The 7 Articles"),
[http://www.anabaptistwiki.org/mediawiki/index.php?title=Schleitheim_Confession_\(source\)](http://www.anabaptistwiki.org/mediawiki/index.php?title=Schleitheim_Confession_(source))

John Calvin, from *Commentary on Psalms*, <http://www.ccel.org/ccel/calvin/calcom08.xxxiii.i.html>
Knowledge of God- Knowledge of Ourselves, from *Institutes*,
<http://www.ccel.org/ccel/calvin/institutes.iii.ii.html>

John Wesley, Sermons: "Means of Grace" http://www.godonthenet.net/wesley/jws_016.html
"The New Creation" http://www.godonthenet.net/wesley/jws_064.html

Martin Luther King, "Letter from a Birmingham Jail"
<http://abacus.bates.edu/admin/offices/dos/mlk/letter.html>