**CHURCH HISTORY HC 301 Associate’s & Bachelor’s Program**

**&**

**EH 575 Master’s & Doctorate Programs**

**Appalachian School of Theology**

**Spring 2025**

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**Course Description**

This course is a survey of the formative and developmental years of Christianity from its stages of infancy to contemporary times. Throughout the course attention, and discussion, will be directed to major figures, events, and movements in the church. The course will also examine the impact of these historical elements and how they helped shape 21st century Christianity. Throughout the course we will have nine (9) different instructors who will be presenting course content and facilitating our class gatherings. As such, they will do their best to engage and involve everyone in our group, both online and in person.

**Course Objectives**

This course is designed to acquaint participants with an overview of the history of Christianity. As a result of enrollment, and participation, each class member should:

1. Be encouraged to develop a healthy interest in church history.
2. Be strengthened by the courage and personal commitment displayed by key Christian leaders through the ages.
3. Be enriched as they gain newfound appreciation for those who helped shape the Christian faith through their personal sacrifices.
4. Be challenged to learn from the mistakes of those who walked before them.
5. Experience newfound thankfulness that God is sovereign in His dealings with His people and recognize that He continues to lead His Church.
6. Be reinforced, and reinvigorated, in the area of personal faith by subjection to other religious movements and denominations that played vital roles in church history.
7. Cultivate and integrate their learning experiences into the formation of a Christian worldview.

**Required Text**

1. Shelley, Bruce L., *Church History in Plain Language, 5th Edition* (Thomas Nelson Publishers. Copyright 2008,2013, 2021 by The Estate of Bruce L. Shelley, Marshall Shelley, Revision Editor, ISBN 978-0-310-11596-0
2. Supplemental Readings: As distributed by the instructor (no purchase of texts required).

**CLASS SCHEDULE**

Prior to First Class Reading: Foreword and Prologue (pgs. xiii – xvii)

Week 1. Jan. 20 Course Introduction & Syllabus Overview

The Age of Jesus and the Apostles, **6 B.C - AD 70**

Text: pgs. 5-32

Week 2 Jan. 27 The Age of Catholic Christianity, **70 - 312**

Text: pgs. 33-113,

Week 3 Feb. 3 The Age of the Christian Roman Empire, **312 - 590**

Text: pgs. 115-199

Week 4. Feb. 10 The Christian Middle Ages, **590 -1517**

Text: pgs. 201- 280

Week 5 Feb. 17 The Age of the Reformation, **1517 -1648**

Part I: Martin Luther and Protestantism – The Catholic Reformation

Text: pgs. 281-319

Week 6 Feb. 24 The Age of the Reformation, **1517 -1648**

Part II: Uttermost America and Asia – Denominations

Text: pgs. 320 - 364

Week 7 Mar. 3 The Age of Reason and Revival, **1648 - 1789**

Text: pgs. 363 - 409

Week 8 Mar. 10 **Reading Days - No Class**

Week 9 Mar. 17 The Age of Progress, **1789 – 1914**

Part I: Catholicism in the Age of Progress – 19th Century England

Text: pgs. 411 – 435

**Distribution of Mid-term Exam**

Week 10 Mar. 24 The Age of Progress, **1789 – 1914**

Part II: Protestant Missions – Slums and the Social Gospel

Text: pgs. 436 - 485

Week 11 Mar. 31 The Age of Ideologies, **1914 – 1989**

Text 486 - 536

Week 12 April 7 The Age of Technology and the Spirit, **1990 –**

Text: pgs. 537 - 573

Week 13 April 14 **Book Reviews & Research Papers Presented in Class**

**Final Exam Distributed with due date being April 14th.**

Week 14 April 21 **Spring Break – No Class**

Week 15 April 28 Last Class of Semester: Review & Discussion; The Course

of Christianity in the Last 20 years and in the Future.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

1. Attendance – 15% of final grade
2. Participation – 15% of final grade
3. Weekly writing Assignments that **apply to all Degree Programs** – 10% of final grade. There will be 2 weekly writing assignments due each week, beginning with the second class session (January 27th). It is suggested that these be at least one page in length, either handwritten or typed. The content of these assignments will be at the complete discretion of the student but should deal with past, present, or future thoughts concerning the church. The greater purpose behind these assign-ments will be to encourage students to transfer their thoughts to written form in a way they will discover to be increasingly comfortable.
4. Mid-term Exam – 20% of final grade. This will be a take home exam and will be due on March 31st. I would strongly encourage all participants to take the examinations without the use of class notes or discussion with other students.
5. Final Exam – 20% of final grade. This will be a take home exam and will be due at the beginning of class on April 28th. Again, I would strongly encourage all participants to take the examinations without the use of class notes or discussion with other students.
6. **Associate’s and Bachelor’s Program** - One written book review – 20% of final grade. The book review is to be 2 to 3 pages in length and double-spaced. The book review should be: (1) a biography of a Christian leader in the church from the time of the reformation forward, or (2) focus on a movement of particular interest within the church that helped shape the church as we know it. Book choices should be approved by the instructor by February 17th. Book reviews need to be turned in by March 17th. The Book Review should be presented in class on April 14th and should take no longer than 7 minutes to present.
7. **Master’s & Doctorate Program** - One research paper – 20% of final grade. The research paper should focus on: (1) a major figure in church history or (2) a major movement in church history or (3) a major doctrine in church history. The research paper should be 4 to 6 pages in length, double-spaced, using #12 font and should cite at least three or more different sources. Footnotes and a bibliography are strongly encouraged (see plagiarism statement below). The Research paper should be presented in class on April 14th and should take no longer than 10 minutes to present.

**PLAGIARISM**

Academic integrity is an important part of the educational process. As such, honesty and accountability are vital to each student who truly wishes to learn and honor God in the process. With this in mind:

* Students are expected to write their own work. While students are encouraged to study and talk with fellow students and the instructor, each student must write their own assignments.
* If you borrow more than 3 or 4 words in a row from another source, it should be properly referenced using quotation marks and full bibliographic information, including page numbers. When you borrow ideas but not actual words, you may cite the source at your discretion to help your reader follow up on your writing.