

# Church History II (Pre-Reformation to Now)



## Faculty Contact

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**Paul Birston** [paulbirston@glbc.ca](mailto:paulbirston@glbc.ca) (204) 471-7720 (cell/text).

Please contact me with your comments, suggestions, questions or when you would like to talk about this course or your overall learning and ministry goals.

## Course Description

A survey of church history from the pre-Reformation era beginning ca. AD 1300 to the present day. Attention is given to the theological, religious, social, political, economic, cultural, philosophical and artistic historical backgrounds of the major groups and streams of thought within Christendom. The course examines the dominant people, writings and teachings (doctrines) that shaped the history of Christianity including where these teachings agree with or vary from God's truth revealed in Scripture.

## Goals of the Course (Original)

1. To build a comprehensive overview of church history including introductions to its leading people, events, ideas, and theologies including how they intersect with or diverge from the clear teachings of Scripture.
2. To understand the religious, social, political, economic and artistic forces that shaped the complex reality of Christendom today.
3. To critically understand our own faith in light of Scripture, history and practice.
4. To develop an appreciation of the development of Restoration thinking as it pursues a Biblical foundation for faith, salvation, worship, leadership, service and evangelism.
5. To gain a deeper understanding of the religious traditions that surround us in the 21st century world to equip God's people for meaningful dialogue with religious and non-religious people around us in the pursuit of the truth and salvation according to Scripture.

## Course Objectives (Updated)

### **Bible**

1. Know God as He reveals Himself in Scripture vs. countless other ways people have imagined and projected Him through close to 2,000 years of history.
2. Know God's will for His people in Christ (His *ekklesia*, assembly) in light of His Word vs. countless departures that have been made from the clarity and beauty of His will.

3. To build a comprehensive overview of church history including introductions to its leading people, events, ideas, and theologies including how they intersect with or diverge from the clear teachings of Scripture.

## **Bible & Ministry**

4. To gain a deeper understanding of the religious traditions that surround us in the 21st century world to equip God's people for meaningful dialogue with religious and non-religious people around us in the pursuit of the truth and salvation according to Scripture.
5. Equip members of our congregations to dialogue with and teach family, friends and neighbours from diverse backgrounds who need to understand God, His Word and His will for His people assembled in Jesus, particularly with respect to God's will for:
  - \* Salvation
  - \* Worship
  - \* Leadership

## **Worldview**

6. To understand the religious, social, political, economic and artistic forces that shaped the complex reality of Christendom today.
7. To critically understand our own faith in light of Scripture, history and practice.
8. To develop an appreciation of the development of redemption, reconciliation and restoration faith as it pursues a Biblical foundation for faith, salvation, worship, leadership, service and evangelism.
9. To gain a deeper understanding of the religious traditions that surround us in the 21st century world to equip God's people for meaningful dialogue with religious and non-religious people around us in the pursuit of the truth and salvation according to Scripture.
10. Enhance our Biblical worldviews by articulating how God's Words answers these twelve questions and how compare God's answers with variations various denominations have created.
  1. Who is God?
  2. What is the nature of external reality, the world around us? (i.e. real or an illusion)
  3. What is a human being?
  4. Where do we come from?
  5. What happens to a person at death?
  6. Why is it possible to know anything at all?
  7. How do we know what is right and wrong?
  8. What is the meaning of human history?

9. How do we perceive time? (i.e. linear, circular cycles, etc.)
  10. Is the worldview/culture open or closed?
  11. Is the centre of this worldview/culture its groups or individuals?
  12. Where are we going, how does the world end?
11. Articulate ways that we by our thoughts, actions and words can graciously communicate God's worldview to others and fulfil His purpose to bring all people to a knowledge of the truth and salvation.

## **Readings**

### **Primary Sources**

#### **Bible**

### **Required Secondary Resources**

#### **Required Reading**

Woodbridge, John D. and Frank A. James III. *Church History, Volume Two: From Pre-Reformation to the Present Day: The Rise and Growth of the Church in Its Cultural, Intellectual, and Political Context*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2013. Available in Kindle.

#### **Required Reference**

Livingstone, A. E. *The Concise Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church*. 3rd edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2013. (Earlier editions are acceptable and available economically online.) Available in Kindle.

#### **Recommended Reference**

Olson, Roger E., Frank S. Mead, Samuel S. Hill and Craig D. Atwood. *Handbook of Denominations in the United States*. Fourteenth edition. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 2018. Available in Kindle.

#### **Other Recommended Reading**

Gonzalez, Justo L. *The Story of Christianity: Volume 1: The Early Church to the Dawn of the Reformation*. Available in Kindle. San Francisco, CA: HarperOne, 2014.

———. *The Story of Christianity: Volume 2, The Reformation to the Present Day*. Revised and updated. New York, NY: Harper Collins, 2010. Available in Kindle.

Shelley, Bruce. *Church History in Plain Language*. Fourth edition. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 2013.

## Course Outline

Introduction: Why study church history? Ten reasons.

### I. The Reformation

#### A. Pre-Reformation:

1. John Wycliffe
2. John Hus
3. The Renaissance
4. Savonarola

#### B. The Reformation:

1. Luther and Germany
2. Zwingli and Switzerland
3. The Radical Reformation and the Anabaptists
  - a. Thomas Müntzer
  - b. Conrad Grebel
  - c. Jacob Hutter
  - d. Menno Simmons
4. Calvin and French Switzerland
5. Reform in Great Britain
  - a. Henry VIII and the Church of England
  - b. The Puritans
  - c. John Knox and the Presbyterians in Scotland
  - d. The Baptists
  - e. The Congregationalists
  - e. Early Restoration Roots: John Glas, Robert Sandeman
6. The Catholic Counter-Reformation
7. Reform in Europe
8. Polish Brethren
8. Reform in America and Asia
9. Denominationalism

### II. Age of Reason and Revival

#### A. Reason:

1. Rationalism: Descartes, John Locke, Empiricism
2. Deism and English Unitarianism
3. Humanism
4. Existentialism

#### B. Revival:

1. Spiritualism
2. Pietism in Germany and Moravia
3. Evangelicalism in England
  - a. John and Charles Wesley
4. The Great Awakenings, 1, 2 and 3

### III. Age of "Progress"

#### A. Catholicism:

1. The French Revolution
2. Catholic Theology
3. Latin America Catholicism
4. American Emergence
- B. Protestantism:
  1. Revival in 19th Century England
  2. Protestant Missions
  3. American Protestantism
    - a. Manifest Destiny and proliferation of religious groups
    - b. Puritans
      - i. William Bradford and the Plymouth Brethren
    - c. Jonathan Edwards
- C. Geographic Expansion
- D. Liberalism:
  1. Protestant Liberalism
  2. The Social Gospel
- E. Neo Orthodoxy

#### IV. Age of Ideologies

- A. 20th Century Ideologies:
  1. Naziism
  2. Communism
- B. Fundamentalism
- C. Ecumenism
- D. Eastern Orthodoxy
- E. Catholic Christianity
- F. Third World Christianity
- G. The Moral Majority
- H. Evangelicalism
- I. Christianity Worldwide

### **Lesson Reading Schedule**

Reading the following chapters ahead in Woodbridge and James, *Church History Volume Two*, coincides approximately with our estimated lesson schedule goals and will help you prepare in advance to get the most from your studies:

Lesson	Chapter
1	Introduction, 10 Reasons to Know Church History
2	1 European Christianity in the Age of Discovery, 2 Renaissance
3	3 Luther and 4 Swiss Reformation and Calvin
4	5 Radicals and Rome, 6 Reformation in England Biography Choice
5	7 17th Century, 8 An Age of Fear, Crisis and Exploration
6	9 Authority, 10 Age of Reason
7	11, British Isles, 12 France
8	13, Europe, 14 Revolutions

9	15 Liberalism, 16 19th Century British Isles
10	17 Continental Europe, 18 Global Christianity
11	19 Modern Trajectories
12	21 American Evangelicalism
14	Theological Biography Presentation
14	22 Christianity and Islam
15	Conclusion and final exam

## **Credit Student Assignments**

Theological Biography	30%
Class Presentation	10%
Midterm Exam	30%
Final Exam	30%

### **Theological Biography Term Paper and Presentation**

The term paper is an opportunity for you to research one key figure and their theology in the pre-Reformation or Reformation period that interests you and may help in your ministry and evangelism work. Your paper will include a section examining the theology of your selected person in light of Scripture and another short section on the relevance of your study today (the “so what?”).

**Length:** Your paper will be 10 to 12 pages double-spaced 12 point font (bibliography, appendices or personal research, title page, etc. are over and above the 10 to 12 page content body of your paper).

**Application:** 20% or 2 to 2.5 full pages) of your paper will focus on application (“so what now?”). What does this study mean for me and my congregation and those I am trying to reach with the gospel of Jesus Christ?

**Sources:** Use a variety of reliable sources: Scripture, lexicons, scholarly conservative books and journal articles.

Use a minimum of 12 scholarly sources including 3 scholarly articles.

GLBC has access to the ATLA Religion Database with ATLA Serials through another school. If you need help, please let us know.

For this paper do not use Internet sites and do not include them in your bibliography or footnotes. The purpose of this direction is to keep you focused on high quality published and peer reviewed sources that have the most value.

**Form:** SBL

The ultimate purpose of writing form is effective communication, particularly communicating God’s Word credibly and convincingly with those you are trying to teach and reach. Form counts for 10% of your grade.

A preliminary review of your draft copy can be very helpful. Comments may be helpful in completing your research, composition and application in good quality form to most effectively communicate your insights.

I am willing to review a draft of your paper, including form, if received two weeks ahead of our agreed due date.

**Presentation:** Present your paper in class for the benefit of your future students.

Listen to your fellow students' presentations in class and provide a brief handwritten response including encouraging observations and constructive suggestions for how their studies can be relevant for ministry and outreach.

**Grading:** Research and use of sources 30%  
Application (so what now?) 30%  
Development of thought 20%  
Clarity of Structure 10%  
Correct Language & Form 10%

**Exams** Midterm 30%  
Final 30%

Study guides are in your Populi Files page.

## **Selected Bibliography**

***Now these were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily, to see whether these things were so*** (Acts 17:11).

The following secondary sources have some value but should always be read critically to discern what is in harmony with Scripture and what is not.

Abbott, Walter M., gen. ed. *The Documents of Vatican II*. New York, NY: Guild Press, 1966.

Bainton, Roland H. *Here I Stand: A Life of Martin Luther*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon, 1978.

———. *The Reformation of the Sixteenth Century*. Boston: Beacon Press, 1952.

Bettenson, Henry, ed. *Documents of the Christian Church*. London: Oxford University Press, 1963.

Bireley, Robert. *Religion and Politics in the Age of the Counterreformation*. Chapel Hill, NC: The University of North Carolina Press, 1980.

Cairns, Earle E. *Christianity Through the Centuries: A History of the Christian Church*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2009

- Carroll, James. *Constantine's Sword: The Church and the Jews, A History*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, First Mariner Books edition, 2002.
- Daniel-Rops, Henri. *The Protestant Reformation, Vol. 1*. Translated by Audrey Butler. Garden City, NY: Image Books, 1963.
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- Dowley, Tim, ed. *Eerdmans Handbook to the History of Christianity*. Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1977.
- Erikson, Erik H. *Young Man Luther: A Study in Psychoanalysis and History*. The Norton Library. New York, NY: W. W. Norton & Company, Inc., 1962.
- Elton, G. R., ed. *Renaissance and Reformation, 1300-1648*. New York, NY: Macmillan Company, 1968.
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- . *The Anabaptist Story: An Introduction to Sixteenth Century Anabaptism*. Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1996.
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- Floyd, John Fletcher. *The Morning Star: The Saga of John Wycliffe*. Fort Worth, TX: Star Publications, 1990. (Historical novel)
- Greef, W. de. *The Writings of John Calvin: An Introductory Guide*. Translated by Lyle De Bierma. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 1993.
- Gritsch, Eric W. *Martin - God's Court Jester: Luther in Retrospect*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1983.
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Windle, Bertram C. A. *Who's Who of the Oxford Movement*. New York, NY: The Century Co., 1926.

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