


SAMPLE SYLLABUS: CURRENT USERS

Introduction to the History of Christianity: Second Edition

Tim Dowley

INSTRUCTOR	Brian C. Dennert 
INSTITUTION	Trinity Christian College
COURSE TITLE	HIST/THEO 330: History of Christianity
SEMESTER	Fall 2014

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Students study the development of Christian thought and the church as the covenant people of God from the Old Testament era to the present. After surveying the Old Testament origins of the Church, primary attention is given to the life of the Western church during the early, medieval, Reformation, and modern periods.

OBJECTIVES

After taking this course you should be able to:

1. Understand the development of the history of the Western Church from the close of the New Testament era to the present day.
2. Explain the main characteristics (figures, events, groups, and concepts) of each major period of Western Christianity: the Early Church, Medieval, Reformation, and Modern.
3. Explicate the significance of and theological views of key figures in the history of the Christian Church.
4. Connect the significance of their knowledge of the history of Christianity to their own lives as Christians and to present issues and developments.
5. Appreciate better their own historical heritage as Christians and the diversity of the present church stemming from events and figures in the past.

REQUIRED TEXTS

1. Timothy Dowley, ed. *Introduction to the History of Christianity* (2nd ed., 2013)
2. Henry Bettenson and Chris Maunder, eds. *Documents of the Christian Church* (4th ed., 2011)

3. Other reading assignments will be distributed in class or posted on Moodle

COURSE CALENDAR

Date	Topic/Assignment	Bettenson/Primary Text	Dowley	Presentation
Aug 28	Introduction: “Why Study Church History”			
Sept 2	“The Birth of the Church” Moodle 1	1-5, 66-71	35-44; 58-66; 92-97	
Sept 4	“The Apostolic Fathers and Apologists” Moodle 2	5-7, 31-33 [including Tertullian], 72-76, 81-83	67-91	Ignatius
Sept 9	“The Church Under Attack” Moodle 3	7-15	46-57	Irenaeus
Sept 11	“Issues in the Early Church: Lapsed Christians, Development of Canon” Moodle 4	76-78, 83 28-31	88, 153-54 98-101	Origen
Sept 16	“Constantine and New Church-State Relations” Moodle 5	16-24	104-16, 140-47	
Sept 18	“Arian Controversy & the Council of Nicaea” Moodle 6	25-28, 35-47	117-30	Athanasius
Sept 20	“From Nicaea to Chalcedon and Beyond” Moodle 7	47-55	131-39	
Sept 23	“End of Empire and Emergence of Papacy and Monasticism” Moodle 8	84-87	148-52, 160-81	

Sept 25	“Augustine and His Legacy” Moodle 9	55-62, Moodle [Excerpts from Confessions, City of God]	155-58	Augustine
Sept 30	Catch-Up and Review Moodle 10		TBD	
Oct 2	Exam # 1			
Oct 7	“East/West Tensions and the Straw that Broke the Camel’s Back” Moodle 11	102-6, 87-88, Moodle [Photius and Nicholas], 101-2	184-99	
Oct 9	“Spirituality in the East and West: The Orthodox Tradition and Anselm” Moodle 12	Moodle [John of Damascus and Theodore the Studite] 144-47	202-214 243-44 [on Anselm]	Anselm
Oct 14	“Medieval Spirituality: Scholasticism and Aquinas” Moodle 13	148-59	241-57	Aquinas
Oct 16	“Medieval Spirituality: Monks and Business” Moodle 14	122-40	221-26, 258-68	Bernard
Oct 21	“Important Moments in the Medieval Papacy: Consolidation, Crusades, Inquisition, Schism” Moodle 15	118, 121-22, 140-42	215-21, 227-40, 275-87	
Oct 23	“Prophets and Movements of Reform” Moodle 16	143-44, 184-90 Moodle [excerpts from Hus and Erasmus]	281, 287, 288-91, 294-303, 329-33	Kempis

Oct 28	“Luther and the Dawn of the Reformation” Moodle 17	194-204, 209-223	304-14 (not 306-307), 318-19 (Central Europe and Scandinavia), 325 (Radicals), 329-33	Luther
Oct 30	“Let’s Get Radical: Anabaptists and Radical Reformation” Moodle 18	Moodle [Selections from Anabaptist writers]	315, 334-40	
Nov 4	“Calvin’s Reformation among the Refugees ” Moodle 19	226-28, 306-9 Moodle [Excerpt for Calvin’s Institutes]	306-7, 314-18, 321	Calvin
Nov 6	“Rome Strikes Back: the Counter-Reformation” Moodle 20	261-71	341-60	
Nov 11	“The Reformation in Ol’ English: The King’s Reformation and the Emergence of Puritanism” Moodle 21	232-37, 242-43, 244-45, 249-55	319-27, 338-40	Cranmer
Nov 13	“Renewal Movements on the Continent, Isle, and America” Moodle 22	Moodle [Excerpts by Spener, Wesley, and Edwards]	386-405	John Wesley
Nov 18	Review, “Rationalism and the Reasonableness of the Christian Faith” Moodle 23	330-34 Moodle [Excerpts by Paine and Kant]	406-19	
Nov 20	Exam # 2 (through Nov. 13 material)			
Nov 25	“Responses to Change: Condemnation, Social Action, and Rethinking the Faith in the 19th Century” Moodle 24	274-77 Moodle [Excepts by von Harnack, Booth]	433-34, 440-64, 465-71	Schleiermacher
Nov 27	NO CLASS		Thanksgiving	

Dec 2	“Returning to the Sender: Missions from Western Initiative to ‘Third-World’ Contributions” Moodle 25	439-42, 365-68 Moodle [Excerpt by William Carey]	459-63, 472-93, 554-56, 565-75, 586-88	
Dec 4	“Snapshots of the 20th Century: Pentecostalism, Neo-Orthodoxy, Evangelicalism, Vatican II, Feminism, etc.” Moodle 26	344-350, 357-59, 375-77 Moodle [Excerpts by Barth]	502-5, 514-15 [Billy Graham], 526-42, 548-53, 561-64, 585 [Vatican II], Skim 578-89	Barth
Dec 8-12	Final Exam Week – Presentations of Final Projects			