

Christian Commitment and Excellence in Learning

ERSKINE THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY



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CH 551 Survey of Church History

Summer 2010

T. Chris Crain, Ph.D.

Adjunct Professor

Class Meeting Times and Location

Saturdays, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Beginning June 5

Erskine Theological Seminary Columbia Campus
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Columbia, South Carolina 29201

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CONTACT INFORMATION

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OFFICE HOURS

My office is in Columbia at Covenant Classical Christian School, a ministry of Covenant Presbyterian Church. The address is 2801 Stepp Drive, Columbia, SC 29204. I will be happy to arrange a time to meet you if you need to see me. To make an appointment please contact me by e-mail or call me at home or my office. Please make home calls after 8:00 a.m. and before 9:00 p.m.

CATALOG DESCRIPTION

This course surveys the history of the Christian Church from its origins to the present time. Within the broad sweep of the four main periods of the Church [Early (50-600), Medieval (600-1500), Reformation (1500-1650), and Modern (1650-present)], students consider key persons, dates, developments, movements, and theological concepts. M.Div. and M.A.T.S. students may not take this course. *Required for M.A.E.M., M.A.C.M., M.A.P.M., and M.C.M students. Alternate years. Three hours.*

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The mission of Erskine Theological Seminary is to educate persons for service in the Christian Church. The goal of this course is to acquaint students with a working knowledge of the vast sweep of Church History, to hone their historical skills for further exploration of Church History, and to help students lay a foundation for a historical understanding of theology.

Students will be able to

1. Identify the four main periods of Church History and the main events within those periods
2. Identify important dates, events, and key people in the history of the Christian Church
3. State key doctrines and their importance for the Christian Church
4. Relate historical events and ideas to present-day concerns

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

Noll, Mark A. *Turning Points: Decisive Moments in the History of Christianity*, 2d ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2000. Reprint, 2008.

Shelley, Bruce L. *Church History in Plain Language*, 3d ed. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 2008.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Attendance— Students are required to attend all class sessions. You **must** attend the first meeting of the course. Students who cannot attend the first course meeting should not register for the course or, if already registered, should drop the course and complete the drop/add form. (If the drop/add form is not completed and turned in to the Registrar, the student will still be charged for the course and will receive an “F” grade.) If students have to be absent for part or all of another class meeting day, they are still responsible for all work missed and all work due.

Preparation, attendance, and participation in class sessions are required. Students must arrive on time for class and following breaks. You must remain in each section until it concludes. Students who miss more than one full day or its equivalent in hours will normally be required to withdraw from the course or receive a failing grade. I prepare for the class diligently and expect students to do the same. Seminary is graduate-level education and students should take attendance and their work seriously.

2. Class Discussion—each class day we will spend some time discussing any questions the lecture raises as well as the Noll reading. You should come to class ready to state your views on the issues Noll’s text raises. Use the papers on Noll to guide your discussion (see point 3 below).

3. Papers—For each chapter you read in Noll’s book you will write a one-page précis of the chapter which 1) summarizes the main points of the chapter and 2) states the significance of the chapter. You should use this paper as the basis for class discussion (see 2 above). Each paper should be no longer than one page and will be turned in on the date the reading is assigned. Papers are graded on concision, clarity and substance

4. Midterm and Final Exams—You will be tested on the lectures as well as the readings. To study for the exams I will give you a study guide with key events, people, doctrines or issues. To prepare for the exams I suggest you develop a study sheet based on the guide, using the lectures, readings, and a good dictionary of church history (e.g., *The Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church* is recommended).

Each exam will be 50% short answer questions (e.g., true/false, identification, matching, short statements) and 50% essay questions drawn from the study guide. The final exam will also include a question on the percent reading completed (note: reading does not equal skimming), which I will include as part of your final exam grade.

Note: For major events you should know the year they occurred (e.g., The Council of Nicea occurred in 325 A.D.). For people you should know the century they lived (e.g., John Calvin was a 16th Century Reformer).

The Midterm and Final will be administered by the Erskine Theological Seminary, Columbia Office as noted in the syllabus. Please contact the office to arrange a time.

GRADING AND EVALUATION

1. Grading	Attendance	5%
	Class Discussion	15%
	Papers	30%
	Examinations	50% (midterm and final)

2. Grading Scale

Your final grade will be determined by the points you accumulate on the various requirements indicated above. The grading scale published in the seminary catalog will be used to arrive at your final grade.

A	95-100	B	88-90	C	80-83	D	72-75
A-	93-94	B-	86-87	C-	78-79	D-	70-71
B+	91-92	C+	84-85	D+	76-77	F	0-64

SCHEDULE OF LECTURES AND ASSIGNMENTS

(NB: This schedule of lectures may change due to the needs of the class)

June 5 **What is Church History and Why Study It?**

“It Grows and We Know Not How:” The Rise of Christianity

“What does Athens have to do with Jerusalem?” The Apologists

Beware of Wolves: Heresies in the Early Church

Early Church Fathers: Irenaeus, Tertullian, and Cyprian

Reading Assignment: Noll, Introduction and Chapters 1-2; Shelley, Chapters 1-10

June 26 **Dying for Christ: Persecution in the Early Church**

“Remaining What He was, He Became What He was not:”

Christological and Trinitarian Controversies in the Early Church

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“All Theology is a Footnote to Him:” The Theology of Saint Augustine

Reading Assignment: Noll, Chapter 3-4; Shelley 11; 13

June 28-July Midterm (arrange with Columbia extension office)

July 10 **Monastic Life and Rule**

Smells and Bells: Eastern Orthodoxy

The Rise of the Pope and the Crusades

The Queen of the Sciences: Scholastic Theology

Rumblings of Reform: Wycliffe and Hus

Post Tenebras Lux: The Reformation of Martin Luther

Reading Assignment: Noll, Chapter 5-6; Shelley, Chapter 12; 14-26

July 24 **“A Heart Aflame:” The Theology of John Calvin**

Opening a Can of Worms: The Radical Reformation

The English and Scottish Reformation

Revivals and Revivalism: The First and Second Great Awakening

Fundamentalism and Evangelicalism

Reading Assignment: Noll, chapters 7-9; Shelley, Chapters 27-49

July 26- **Final Exam** (arrange with Columbia extension office)

August 14 Papers due: Noll, chapters 10-13

ERSKINE SEMINARY POLICIES

Drop/Add/Withdrawal: Once a student has completed, signed, and submitted his/her registration to the Registrar for this class, it is a binding contract, and billing will be based on this registration. If the student decides not to take this class, he/she must complete a “drop/add” form and secure the appropriate signatures prior to the drop/add deadline during the second week of the semester or term. If one wishes to withdraw from the course after the drop/add deadline, one must complete a withdrawal form, and tuition will be refunded on a pro rated basis. Failure to withdraw from the class properly will result in the student’s receiving a grade of “F” for the course, and full tuition charges will apply. No exceptions will be made to this policy.

Office Hours

My normal office hours are printed in this syllabus. However, due to meetings and unforeseen circumstances that may arise, my schedule may change. If you need to see me, I strongly recommend that you call or e-mail to schedule an appointment.

Required Textbooks

Students are expected to secure their own copies of all required textbooks. As a convenience, the seminary has a bookstore portal of the website at <http://www.erskineseminary.org/bookstore.html>. There you will find links to familiar vendors and can check availability of texts, compare prices, and place orders. The ETS SBA will receive a modest percentage of the profits from students' and professors' purchases through this portal. The Erskine Campus Bookstore will carry a limited number of copies of every required text and orders for books can be placed through the Campus Bookstore.

Language about God and Humanity

Although God transcends the distinction between male and female, the Bible and the Church's historic creeds and confessions use masculine language in reference to God. Thus, the Seminary encourages all students to retain this masculine usage when speaking and writing about God. Furthermore, the Seminary recognizes that all human beings, male and female, are created equally in the image of God (Gen. 1:26-27), and believers of both sexes are fellow heirs of the grace of life (1 Pet. 3:7). Accordingly, whenever students are speaking and writing about males and females, they should use language that clearly includes both men and women (for example, by saying/writing "humanity" rather than "man" or "people" rather than "men").

Conduct in Theological Discussions

Erskine Seminary is committed to the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church, and it expects its students to show respect for all who identify with that one Church. In all written work, oral presentations, and discussions both inside and outside the classroom, the Seminary expects students to conduct discussions of controversial issues in a context of respect for those with whom one disagrees. Please see the Community Life Statement in the Catalog for more information.

Incompletes

The grade of "I" or incomplete is given at the discretion of the professor. A grade of "I" is normally given when a student has substantially completed the requirements for a course but has been prevented by extraordinary circumstances from completing the remainder of the course requirements. A student who wishes to request an incomplete should normally complete an incomplete form prior to the end of the semester and ask the professor to grant the request. (Under unusual circumstances, the student may communicate with the professor by phone or email rather than in person, and the professor may then agree to fill out the form at the student's request. Under exceptional circumstances, the professor may initiate the process by filling out the form on the

student's behalf.) If the professor grants the request, he/she will sign the incomplete form and turn it in with his/her final grade report. An "I" in any course must be removed by March 1 for the Fall Term, April 1 for the January Term, August 1 for the Spring Term, and November 1 for the Summer Term. Only the Dean may grant extensions of incompletes beyond the established completion date. Otherwise, these grades automatically become "F."

Official Seminary Class Attendance Policy:

Class participation is considered an important part of the total educational experience at Erskine Seminary. Students are expected to attend classes on a regular basis and are responsible for the mastery of all materials required in the course. Each professor will indicate in writing the specific class attendance policy at the beginning of each course. In general, students are allowed up to three hours of unexcused absence without penalty. Students wishing to take a course which meets four times over the semester **must** attend the first meeting of the course.

Policy Regarding Absences (SAMPLE FOR 13-SESSION CLASSES)

Students are required to attend all class sessions. If students have to be absent for any reason, they are still responsible for all work missed and all work due. A student who misses more than three class sessions for any reason will automatically fail the course.

Policy Regarding Absences (SAMPLE FOR 4-SESSION CLASSES)

Students are required to attend all class sessions. Students wishing to take a course which meets four times over the semester **must** attend the first meeting of the course. Students who cannot attend the first course meeting should not register for the course or, if already registered, should drop the course and complete the drop/add form. (If the drop/add form is not completed and turned in to the Registrar, the student will still be charged for the course and will receive an "F" grade.) If students have to be absent for part or all of another class meeting day, they are still responsible for all work missed and all work due. A student who misses as much as one full class day or its equivalent in late arrival or early departure should consult with the professor to see whether it is still possible to pass the course.

Style and Bibliographical Formatting Requirements (SAMPLE)

All papers must be typed/processed (12-point type, double-spaced, one-inch margins) and fully documented, following the standards in the "Style and Form Standards" (Erskine Seminary). In this course, footnotes and a bibliography are required in each paper. The paper's cover page and bibliography are not counted towards page requirements.

Exegesis Credit Policy for Bible Elective/Exegesis Course Syllabi

Students intending to use this course to fulfill their Old or New Testament exegesis requirement, must choose a passage and do a thorough exegetical study, using the exegetical procedure taught in the Principles of Exegesis course. Such students, then, must have successfully completed BI 502 Principles of Exegesis and, for those who began in Fall 2008 or after, BI 503 Introduction to the Biblical Languages prior to taking any course for exegesis credit. Additionally, students who are required to take

the Biblical languages (Hebrew and Greek) must, in place of BI 503 Introduction to the Biblical Languages, successfully complete the respective language courses (Hebrew I & II for Old Testament courses; Greek I & II for New Testament courses) prior to taking any Bible course for exegesis credit. Students taking Bible electives without having met the exegesis and language course prerequisites may only count those courses as general Bible electives, and cannot receive exegesis credit for them.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is the use in writing of wording or ideas produced by others without crediting the author and/or source from which the material was taken. As the following statement indicates, plagiarism is a serious offense that undermines both the witness and integrity of the Christian community:

Plagiarism injures the community by inhibiting the recognition and cultivation of gifts imparted by the Spirit. Clearly unattributed use of the words and/or ideas of others fails to give appreciative recognition of their gifts. But this illegitimate appropriation of the gifts of others also blocks the recognition and cultivation of the actual gifts of the person engaged in plagiarism.

Plagiarism creates an atmosphere of falsehood in the community's discernment and cultivation of gifts, both within the Christian community and in God's larger creation. Since freedom comes only by way of truth (Jn. 8:32), such falsehood can only result in captivity, and therefore has no place in the Christian community

On this basis, the Seminary adheres to the following general requirements for the acknowledgement of sources of academic work. These requirements apply to both print and electronic media.

- 1. Quotations. Any sentence or phrase that a student uses from another source must be placed in quotation marks or, in the case of longer quotations, clearly indented beyond the regular margin. Any quotation must be accompanied (either within the text or in a note) by a precise indication of the source.*
- 2. Paraphrasing. Any material that is paraphrased or summarized must also be specifically acknowledged in a note or in the text.*
- 3. Ideas. Specific ideas that are borrowed should be acknowledged in a note or in the text, even if the idea has been further elaborated by the student.*
- 4. Bibliography. All the sources consulted in the preparation of an essay or report should be listed in a bibliography.*

In addition to plagiarism, the following related practices are also unacceptable compromises of the truth requisite to a free community:

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- 1. Multiple submission. Failure to obtain prior written permission of the relevant instructors to submit work which has been submitted in identical or similar form in fulfillment of any other academic requirement at any institution.*
- 2. False citation. The deliberate attribution to, or citation of, a source from which the material in question was not, in fact, obtained.*
- 3. Submission of work done by someone else, either with or without that person's knowledge. Neither ignorance of the regulations concerning academic violations nor personal extenuating circumstances are an adequate defense against charges of plagiarism. The Seminary's provisions for "due process" apply in cases of alleged plagiarism.*

[The italicized statement above is used by permission of The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia and Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey, based upon a document adapted by LTSP, with permission, from "Princeton University Rights, Rules and Responsibilities," 1990 Edition. Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey.]

Occurrences of plagiarism shall be considered 'documented' when the instructor is able to produce documentary evidence that plagiarism has occurred, and when the instructor has reason to believe that the plagiarism was motivated by a deliberate attempt to receive credit for ideas or work not the student's own. Where such plagiarism involves the theft of the academic work of another student, whether at Erskine or any other institution, it shall be designated 'documented theft of another student's work.'

The instructor involved, in consultation with the Dean, may recommend measures deemed appropriate. In cases of documented plagiarism or documented theft of another student's work, the offending student will automatically receive the following penalties:

- Failure of the course(s) in which plagiarized or stolen work is submitted
- Dismissal from the Seminary for a minimum of one semester
- Forfeiture of the right to tuition refunds during the semester(s) affected

Before such penalties are imposed, a committee of at least three faculty members must agree that they are appropriate to the case. Appeals in such cases may only be addressed, in writing, to the President of Erskine College and Theological Seminary.

Chapel Attendance Policy (FOR TUESDAY-THURSDAY ON-CAMPUS CLASSES)

All morning and afternoon on-campus classes (except for Friday and Saturday courses) carry a chapel attendance requirement. Consult the catalog or registration booklet for the specifics of the chapel attendance policy. There is a per chapel fee if you attend fewer chapels than required.

PORTFOLIO REQUIREMENTS

If your course contains a paper or project required as a portfolio submission, star or highlight the project and inform students it is their responsibility to submit the graded and polished document to the appropriate administrative person for filing in their portfolio.

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