

# ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

## HISI 509 THE ANCIENT CHURCH

Richard C. Gamble, Th.D.

Independent Studies Program

### COURSE SYLLABUS

#### COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course examines the history of the ancient church in detail. Following a historical progression, the course covers the development of doctrine and introduces the student to the main figures in the Patristic age.

#### OBJECTIVES

- A. To understand the historical development of doctrine and how we came to believe what we do today.
- B. To know the creeds of the church and how they came to exist.
- C. To understand the theological mistakes of the past so as to prevent those errors from happening today.
- D. To understand the history of interpretation of the Scriptures.
- E. To appreciate the roots of today's church.
- F. To appreciate the relation between church and state.
- G. To understand church government and its different shapes.

#### TEXTBOOKS

##### *Required Reading*

Kelly, J.N.D. *Early Christian Doctrines*. San Francisco, CA: Harper and Row, 1978.

Wiles-Santer. *Documents in Early Christian Thought*. Cambridge, England: Cambridge University Press, 1975.

### ***Recommended Reading***

Chadwick, H. *The Early Church*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1968.

### ***Collateral Reading***

**NOTE:** The student should read a minimum of 1000 pages from the following selection of books on the ancient church.

Altaner-Stuiber. Tr.H.C. Graef *Patrology*. Freiburg: Herder, 1960.

Armstrong, A.H. *The Cambridge History of Later Greek and Early Medieval Philosophy*. London: Cambridge University Press, 1970.

Boer, Harry P. *A Short History of the Early Church*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1976.

Brown, P. *Augustine of Hippo*. London: Faber, 1967.

Chadwick, H. *The Early Church*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1968.

Copleston, F.A. *A History of Philosophy*, Vol 1. London: Burns Oates, Washburner, 1946.

Davies, J. G. *The Early Christian Church*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1980.

Danielou, Jean. *A History of Early Christian Doctrine*, 3 vols. Philadelphia: Westminster, John Knox, 1977.

Frend, W. H. C. *Martyrdom and Persecution in the Early Church*. Oxford: Basil Blackwell, 1965; reprint. ed. 1981.

Homes, Dudden F. *Saint Ambrose*, 2 vols. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1935.

Kelly, J.N.D. *Early Christian Doctrines*. San Francisco: Harper and Row, 1978.

Kidd. B. J. *A History of the Church to A.D. 461*. 3 vols. New York: AMC Press, 1976.

Latourette, Kenneth S. *A History of the Expansion of Christianity*, Vol. 1. New York: Harper & Brothers, 1937-45.

Lietzmann, H. *A History of the Early Church*. Vol. 1 and 2. London: De Gruyter, 1975.

Pollard, T.E. *Johannine Christology and the Early Church*. trans. B. L. Woolf. Cleveland: World Press, 1961.

Prestige, G. L. *God in Patristic Thought*. London: Cambridge University Press, 1970.

Quasten, J. *Patrology*, 3 vols. Utrecht, the Netherlands: Spectrum, 1950.

Schaff, Philip, ed. *A Select Library of the Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers of the Christian Church*. 14 vols. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1956, reprint ed. 1988.

\_\_\_\_\_. *History of the Christian Church*. Vols. 1-3. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1960.

Vander Meer, F. *Augustine the Bishop*. trans. Lamb Battershaw. London: Sheed and Ward, 1961.

Warfield, Benjamin B. "Augustine," *Calvin and Augustine*. Philadelphia: Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing Co., 1956.

Wiles-Santer. *Documents in Early Christian Thought*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1975.

## **COURSE LECTURER**

Richard C. Gamble Th.D., Reformed Theological Seminary – FL

Dr. Richard Gamble is Professor of Systematic Theology at Reformed Theological Seminary in Orlando, Florida, and is internationally recognized as a Calvin scholar. He is past president of the Calvin Studies Society and a member of the Editorial Board of The Peter Martyr Library. Dr. Gamble also served as the director of the Henry Meeter Center for Calvin Studies at Calvin Theological Seminary. Dr. Gamble is actively engaged as a contributing editor to Calvin's *Old Testament Commentaries* by Eerdmans, and is editor of a massive two-volume critical edition of Calvin's Latin commentary on Genesis. As an author and editor, he has contributed to over seventy-five publications. His education credentials are:

Westminster College, B.A.  
Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, M.A.  
Universitat Basel, Switzerland, Th.D.

## **METHODOLOGY**

The Independent Studies Program provides the opportunity to study selected subjects at a distance without attending classes. Individuals taking an independent studies course use:

- a set of required textbooks,
- a lecture series on cassette tapes,
- a study guide and a set of specific course assignments.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- A. In order to receive three hours of credit, the student must complete the course requirements within 15 weeks. During this time, the student is expected to devote a minimum of 120 hours to the completion of the course including listening to the recorded lectures, doing the assigned readings, answering all questions in this Programmed Syllabus as well as those in the printed Study Guide, completing examinations and the research paper.
- B. The student must listen carefully to all of the twenty-four (24) recorded lectures by Dr. Richard C. Gamble.
- C. The student must complete **all** of the required readings.

**Note:** The student should complete the readings assigned in conjunction with a particular lecture **before** listening to that lecture on tape.

- D. The student must complete at least 1000 pages of reading outside of the assigned required and recommended textbooks. These can be taken from the Bibliography under **Collateral Reading**. The student must report on a separate sheet indicating the title of the book, author, publisher, date of publication, and the pages read.
- E. The student is required to make careful use of the printed Study Guide prepared by Dr. Gamble and **must** turn in written answers to the questions, both in the printed Study Guide as well as those in this Programmed Syllabus, to the instructor or supervisor. This should be done in typewritten form.
- F. **Research Paper.** The student must complete a written project. This paper may be a traditional research paper or an examination of a particular area of interest in the ancient church and its bearing for today.

- 1. Examples of the former would be:

- (a) "The Development of the Papacy in the Church,"
- (b) "Persecution in the Ancient Church,"
- (c) "How Philosophical Views Impacted Doctrine,"
- (d) "Social Implications of Christianity Having Become the State Religion." Such a paper must be a least twenty pages in length. It must be typed and double-spaced, and it must contain appropriate bibliographical notations.

- 2. Examples of the latter would be:

an examination of baptismal practices then and how that affects us today;  
an examination of church discipline then drawing implications for today;

modern reflections on Chalcedonian doctrine, i.e., is it coherent? worship in the church then and now. The report on such a project must be at least twenty pages in length. It must be typed and double-spaced, and it must contain appropriate bibliographical notations.

3. In either of the above written projects, the student's paper must be typed following the latest edition (6<sup>th</sup> ed.) of K.L. Turabian's *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses and Dissertations*. Submit one copy to the instructor and keep a carbon or photocopy for reference.

G. The student will be required to take a one-hour Mid-Term examination and a two-hour Final examination.

### **INTERACTIVITY ASSIGNMENT**

To fulfill the interactivity assignment for your course, do the following:

1. Register with the online forum at [www.ITScourses.org](http://www.ITScourses.org) to receive your user name and password.
2. Post an original answer to each interactivity question for your course (2 questions – 75 word minimum each).
3. Reply to one answer given to each question (75 word minimum).
4. Submit to AGTS a document containing:
  - a. The questions of the forum,
  - b. Your original answers to the questions,
  - c. Your replies to other students' answers, and
  - d. The students' answers to which you replied.

NOTE: Since the questions often synthesize the course, you should complete this assignment at the end of your course work.

### **COURSE GRADING**

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|----------------------------------|-----|
| Interactivity Assignment:        | 5%  |
| Mid-Term Examination             | 20% |
| Final Examination                | 30% |
| Written Project                  | 25% |
| Written Answers to all Questions | 20% |

## **GRADING PROCEDURE**

All course requirements are to be sent to:

AGTS  
Office of Continuing Education  
1435 N Glenstone  
Springfield, MO 65802

**NOTE:** The student must turn in, with his written project, a sheet of paper on which is written a pledge that ALL required readings and 1000 pages of recommended and collateral readings have been complete. Failure to turn in such a statement will result in the lowering of the final grade by one letter.

## **SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY**

To be supplied by faculty mentor when course is ordered.

## **SPECIFIC DATA**

Please refer to the catalog for specific data regarding all Independent Studies Program (ISP) policies. All questions regarding ISP courses should be referred to the Office of Continuing Education at the contact information below:

AGTS  
Office of Continuing Education  
1435 N. Glenstone Ave.  
Springfield, MO 65802  
1-800-467-2487 ext. 1046  
417-268-1046  
[http://www.agts.edu/continuing\\_education/index.html](http://www.agts.edu/continuing_education/index.html)

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