

***Assemblies of God Theological Seminary***  
Springfield, Missouri

**HISD 551 *World Christian Movement I***  
Fall 2005

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***DECREE COMPLETION PROGRAM***

August 29, September 6, 12, 26 6-10 p.m.  
September 19: 6:00 p.m. (Required Chapel); 7:15-10:00 p.m. Class

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

An integrated study of the advancing world Christian movement in the Middle East, Africa, Europe, and Asia to the year 1500. Key personalities, sub-movements, theological controversies, spirituality, issues of faith and reason, missions and the contextualization of the faith in various cultures, and important historical developments receive attention.

**OBJECTIVES:**

At the end of the course, each student should be able to:

1. Discuss the history of Christianity in its diverse cultural settings to 1500.
2. Explain how important figures, movements (Christian and non-Christian), and issues (ecclesiastical, missiological, political, and theological) shaped Christianity in the first fifteen centuries of its existence.
3. Describe the richness and diversity of the world Christian movement.
4. Relate their personal stories to the larger story.
5. Discern patterns for personal and corporate renewal today.

**TEXTBOOKS:**

- Irvin, Dale T., and Scott W. Sunquist. *History of the World Christian Movement, Vol. 1: Earliest Christianity to 1453*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2001.
- Olson, Roger E. *The Story of Christian Theology: Twenty Centuries of Tradition and Reform*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1999.
- Placher, William C., ed. *Readings in the History of Christian Theology, Vol. 1: From Its Beginnings to the Eve of the Reformation*. Philadelphia, PA: Westminster Press, 1988.

**METHODOLOGY:**

Each Monday evening session (except for September 6, the Tuesday following Labor Day) will be based on the completion of pre-session assignments. Class times will include lecture, discussion, small groups, and video presentations.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

1. Regular attendance and participation in class sessions. More than one (emergency) absence in this short course would result in probable failure.
2. Completion of all pre-session assignments.
3. Successful completion of five essays, each due at the beginning of an assigned class session. No foot or endnotes, bibliography, or quotations are to be included. "Tips for Writing Better Essays" will be distributed in class August 29.
4. Late work will be penalized.
5. Incompletes will be issued only due to extreme personal circumstances.

**GRADING:**

Essays	55%
Time Charts	20%
Quizzes	25%

**COURSE OUTLINE AND ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE:**

Code: I—Irvin and Sunquist; O—Olson; P—Placher

**AUGUST 29 INTO ALL THE WORLD: THE EXTENSIVE TRACKS OF THE EARLY CHRISTIAN MOVEMENT (A.D. 30-300)**

**OBJECTIVES:** The assignments and classroom discussions of this unit will enable the student to:

1. Discuss key historical, theological, and liturgical developments from A.D. 30-200.
2. Analyze how the Gospel was contextualized in various environments.
3. Chart important milestones in the advance of Christianity to year 200.
4. Interpret issues and developments from this period having relevance to the contemporary era.

**PRE-SESSION REQUIREMENTS:**

1. Read: I—vii-97; O—13-78; P—9-29
2. Understand the following terms of the period: apostolic fathers, apostolic succession, bishop, cathedral, catholic, church fathers, contextualization, deacon, heresy, monasticism, patristics, presbyter, Silk Road, tradition. The following dictionaries and encyclopedias may supplement your textbooks in defining terms: *Dictionary of the Ecumenical Movement*, *Evangelical Dictionary of Theology*,

*New Catholic Encyclopedia*, *New International Dictionary of the Christian Church*, and the *Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church*, etc. These are available in the AGTS library reference section.

3. Time Chart (no more than two pages): significant events from A.D. 30-200. All time charts must include important events in the expansion of Christianity.
4. Essay (5-page, double-spaced, carefully proofread; no title page; stapled at 45 degree angle in left corner): topic: Discuss how Irvin and Sunquist illustrate the thesis of their book in the assigned reading (pp. vii-97) for August 29.

## SEPTEMBER 6

### THE GREAT CHURCH TAKES SHAPE (A.D. 100-300)

**OBJECTIVES:** The assignments and classroom discussions of this unit will enable the student to:

1. Discuss key historical, theological, and liturgical developments from A.D. 200-300.
2. Analyze how the Gospel was contextualized in various environments.
3. Chart important milestones in the advance of Christianity to year 300.
4. Interpret issues and developments from this period having relevance to the contemporary era.

**PRE-SESSION REQUIREMENTS:**

1. Read: I—99-153; O—79-135; P—30-47
2. Understand the following terms of the period: apologists, asceticism, canon, gnosticism, Great Church, martyr, New Prophecy, non-canonical, School of Alexandria, School of Antioch
3. Time Chart (no more than two pages): significant events from A.D. 200- 300.
4. Essay: Discuss the means by which early Christians defended the faith. Do they have relevance for the Church today?

## SEPTEMBER 12 THE AGE OF THE IMPERIAL CHURCH (A.D. 300-600)

**OBJECTIVES:** The assignments and classroom discussions of this unit will enable the student to:

1. Discuss key historical, theological, and liturgical developments from A.D. 300-600.
2. Analyze how the Gospel was contextualized in various environments.
3. Chart important milestones in the advance of Christianity to year 600.
4. Interpret issues and developments from this period having relevance to the contemporary era.

**PRE-SESSION REQUIREMENTS:**

1. Read: I—155-255; O—137-249; P—48-75

2. Understand the following terms of the period: anchorite, Ante-Nicene, Cappadocians, cenobitic monasticism, Chalcedonian churches, Christotokos, Coptic, Donatists, ecumenical councils, episcopacy, homoousios, homoiousios, hypostasis (hypostasis), Melkites, Monophysite, Nestorian, New Rome, Non-Chalcedonian churches; primacy (of the Bishop of Rome), Oriental Orthodox, ousia, prosopon, Theotokos, traditores
3. Time Chart (no more than two pages): significant events from A.D. 300- 600.
4. Essay: Why did so many variations of Christian doctrine develop during this period? Who determined what teachings were heretical? Were they infallible in their pronouncements?

**SEPTEMBER 19 NEW CHALLENGES, NEW BEGINNINGS (A.D. 600-1000)**

*NOTE: Required Chapel at 6:00 with class to formally begin at 7:15 p.m.*

**OBJECTIVES:** The assignments and classroom discussions of this unit will enable the student to:

1. Discuss key historical, theological, and liturgical developments from A.D. 600-1000.
2. Analyze how the Gospel was contextualized in various environments.
3. Chart important milestones in the advance of Christianity to year 1000.
4. Interpret issues and developments from this period having relevance to the contemporary era.

**PRE-SESSION REQUIREMENTS:**

1. Read: I—257-381; O—251-310; P—76-121
2. Understand the following terms of the period: Christendom, Cyrillic script, East Syrian churches, Ecumenical Patriarch, Filioque, House of Islam, icon, iconoclasm, iconodules, Islam, Maronites, melet, Meroe, monothelite, paganus, patriarchates, peregrini, Qu’ran (Koran), relic, reliquary, Sufism, West Syrian churches.
3. Time Chart (no more than two pages): significant events from A.D. 600- 1000.
4. Essay: How does the incarnation of Christ relate to the use of Christian art in the churches? Evaluate how this aided in the contextualization of Christianity before 1500.

**SEPTEMBER 26 NEW POLITICAL HORIZONS (A.D. 1000-1453)**

**OBJECTIVES:** The assignments and classroom discussions of this unit will enable the student to:

1. Discuss key historical, theological, and liturgical developments from A.D. 1000-1453.
2. Analyze how the Gospel was contextualized in various environments.
3. Chart important milestones in the advance of Christianity to year 1453.
4. Interpret issues and developments from this period having relevance to the contemporary era.

**PRE-SESSION REQUIREMENTS:**

1. Read: I—383-506; O—311-367; P—122-196
2. Understand the following terms of the period: Apophasis, Byzantium, cardinal, conciliarism (conciliar movement), consubstantiation, crusade, dialects, ecclesiastical jurisdiction, excommunication, friars, hesychasm, indulgence, interdict, investiture, jihad, Mendicants, Nominalism, Ockham's razor, scholasticism, Theosis, transubstantiation
3. Time Chart (no more than two pages): significant events from A.D. 1000- 1453.
4. Essay: Compare Christianity as it had developed within "Christendom" to the forms of Christianity that had developed outside of Christendom by 1500.

\*Note: Excellent up-to-date bibliographies are found in Irvin and Sunquist at the conclusion of each unit.

Modified and Resubmitted by Raymond L. Gannon, June 22, 2005