

Assemblies of God Theological Seminary

HISD 551 *World Christian Movement I*

Tuesdays: January 10, 17, 24, 31, and February 7, 6-10 p.m.

Raymond L. Gannon, Ph.D.
RayGannon@allisrael2020.org

Cell: 417.881.2484
Home: 417.582.0585

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 1453.
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.

Pre-Course Textbook Completion:

It is strongly urged that all three textbooks be read in their entirety prior to the beginning of the course to facilitate comprehensive historical overview in class.

Methodology:

Class times will include lecture and class discussion according to the course outline above, oral student presentations, and computer-screened and video presentations.

Course Lecture Outline:

January 10: Session One:

The Church and Jewish Christianity: Jesus to Justin
Jesus: The Revolutionary Messiah of Israel
Paul: The Revolutionary Apostolic Missiologist
Apostolic Christianity: The Revolutionary Movement
Justin Martyr: Departure from Apostolic Christianity

Objectives for Session One:

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

1. Discuss key historical, theological, and liturgical developments from AD 30-150.
2. Analyze how the Gospel was contextualized in Jewish and Hellenic environments.
3. Chart important milestones in the advance of Christianity to year 150.
4. Interpret issues and developments from this period having relevance to the contemporary Christian era.

January 17: Session Two:

The Church and Post-Apostolic Christianity: Greek and Latin Fathers
Influences on Christianity East and West: Political, Religious, and Cultural
Christian Thought from Justin to Augustine: Orthodox and Heretical
The Church's Theological Response to Heresy
Pastoral and Ecclesiastical Compositions
Church Councils and Papal Degrees
Utilization of Secular Institutions

Objectives for Session Two:

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

1. Discuss key historical, theological, and liturgical developments from AD 150-425.
2. Analyze how the Gospel was contextualized in various environments.
3. Chart important milestones in the advance of Christianity from AD 150 to 425.
4. Interpret issues and developments from this period having relevance to the contemporary Christian era.

January 24: Session Three:

The Church Militant: Missions, Mercenaries, and Muslims
The History of Mission Expansion: Acts to AD 1453
The Monastic Movement
Christian Crusades and the Challenge of Islam

Objectives for Session Three:

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

1. Discuss key missiological, monastic, and militaristic developments from AD 30- 1453.
2. Analyze how the Gospel was contextualized in various environments.
3. Chart important milestones in the advance of Western Christianity to year 1453.
4. Interpret issues and developments from this period having relevance to the contemporary Christian era.

January 31: Session Four:

From Egypt Eastward and the Silk Road to Asia Proper
Egyptian Coptic Christianity and Monophysite Christianity
Antioch and Jewish Influences Eastward
Nestorian Christianity and Eastern Sects

Objectives for Session Four:

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

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

February 7: Session Five:

The Church in Confusion: Increasing Disorientation
Political and Militaristic Uncertainty
Religious and Theological Mystification
Christian Ignorance and Bewilderment

Objectives for Session Five:

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

1. Discuss key historical, theological, and liturgical developments from AD 425-1453.
2. Analyze how the Gospel was contextualized in various environments.
3. Chart important milestones in the advance of the Christian Crusades and Islam
4. Interpret issues and developments from this period having relevance to the contemporary Christian era.

Course Requirements:

1. Regular attendance and participation in class sessions. More than one (emergency) absence in this short course would result in probable failure. Incompletes will be issued only due to extreme personal circumstances.
2. Completion of all assignments. Late work will be penalized.
3. Successful completion of five essays, each due at the beginning of an assigned class session. The five page essay should consist of student text only: no footnotes, bibliography, or quotations are to be included in these brief writings.
4. Submission of the time chart of the week.
5. Student oral presentation.

Oral Presentation:

Each student is to dramatically portray the life and teachings of a leading Christian bishop/pastor, theologian, church leader, or influential Christian heretic from the close of the NT period to as late as the early 15th century. The presentation is to take 12 to 14 minutes replete with

appropriate era props, etc. This monologue should be designed to persuade the class of the particular teachings distinct to the chosen personality or his sect, whether orthodox or heretical.

Bring your selection of saint, thinker, radical or heretic for submission the first night of class. Register on one page your selection, his teaching and time-frame. The professor will assign you a date for presentation based upon your chosen person and particular emphasis by email on January 11. Use of electronic equipment during the presentation is inappropriate since oral persuasiveness is here to be accented. However, use of the chalkboard is permitted.

General outlined copies of the presentation's contents are to be issued to the professor and all fellow students for use during the presentation. Be prepared to answer follow-up questions for 6 to 8 minutes. This combined 20-minute presentation will be worth 20% of your course grade.

Weekly Reaction Essays:

Five-page essays are due at the beginning of each class period based upon your course readings and library discoveries on the topics below. These are to be double-spaced, carefully proofread, without any title page or bibliography, sparse ENDnotes only, and stapled at 45 degree angle in high left corner.

Student Essay Topics for each of five Tuesdays

- Wk 1. Compare and contrast Apostolic teaching and mid-Second-Century Supersessionism ("replacement theology").
- Wk 2. Identify what social realities contributed to the widespread difficulties with heresy the Greek and Latin Fathers were forced to confront.
- Wk 3. Compare and contrast the expansions of early Christianity and Islam
- Wk 4. Identify and explain the theological uniqueness of Eastern (Asian) Christianity
- Wk 5. Elucidate on the signs suggesting Medieval Western Christianity was being readied for an eventual Reformation

Weekly Time Charts: (2-page maximum)

Chart important milestones in the advance of

1. Christianity to year 150.
2. Christianity from AD 150 to 425.
3. Western Christianity to year 1453.
4. Eastern Christianity to year 1453.
5. The Christian Crusades and Islamic Encroachment
- 6.

Terms and Definitions to Comprehend:

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.

Terms to have make note of as you read include the following:

apostolic fathers, apostolic succession, bishop, cathedral, catholic, church fathers, contextualization, deacon, heresy, monasticism, patristics, presbyter, Silk Road, tradition, apologists, asceticism, canon, gnosticism, Great Church, martyr, New Prophecy, non-canonical, School of Alexandria, School of Antioch, 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, Christendom, Cyrillic script, East Syrian churches, Ecumenical Patriarch, Filioque, House of Islam, icon, iconoclasm, iconodules, Islam, Maronites, melet, Meroe, monothelite, paganus, partriarchates, peregrini, Qu'ran (Koran), relic, reliquary, Sufism, West Syrian churches, 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.

Grading:

Essays	50%	(Each weekly essay is 10% of your grade)
Time Charts	25%	(Each time chart is 5% of your grade)
Class Presentation	20%	(Based upon quality of presentation and materials)
Class Discussion	5%	(Students are graded on weekly class participation)

Submitted by Raymond L. Gannon, November 3, 2005