

# ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

## HIS 542 Christian Tradition II

Gary B. McGee

Spring 2003

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

Upon the completion of this course on the last five centuries of Christian history and theology, the student should be able:

1. To discuss the historical development of Christian doctrine since 1500.
2. To analyze the interaction of theology with history, hermeneutics, science, philosophy, and missions.
3. To discuss the contributions of key individuals, movements, and issues during the last five hundred years in the global development of Christianity.

### TEXTBOOKS

Miller, Glenn T. *The Modern Church: From the Dawn of the Reformation to the Eve of the Third Millennium*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1997.

Neill, Stephen. *A History of Christian Missions*. New York: Penguin Books, 1986.

Olson, Roger E. *The Story of Christian Theology: Twenty Centuries of Tradition & Reform*. Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity Press, 1999.

### METHODOLOGY

Lectures, readings, debates, film, essay, two examinations

### REQUIREMENTS

1. Consistent attendance; more than three absences will penalize the final course grade.
2. Mid-term and final (unit) examinations. Students with a reading challenge may ask the instructor for additional time to complete examinations. Laptop computers may not be used for writing examinations.
3. Completion of all assigned readings on the days designated in the course schedule below.
4. Completion of a fifteen-page research paper, exclusive of endnotes and bibliography.  
DUE: APRIL 4, 2003
5. Cautions:
  - A. Late work will be penalized.
  - B. A grade of incomplete will be given only in the event of extreme circumstances.

GRADING

Mid-term examination	30%
Final examination	30%
Research paper	40%

COURSE OUTLINE AND ASSIGNMENT AND EXAMINATION SCHEDULE

KEY: M—Miller; N—Neill—N; O—Olson

Jan 8	Introduction to the course Christianity on the eve of the Reformation
Jan 10	Attempts at reform and the rise of Christian humanism M-1; O-23
Jan 15	Guest speaker: Dr. Sherwood Lingenfelter, “How the Examination of Culture Contributes to the Study of World Christianity”
Jan 17	Luther’s theology O-24
Jan 22	Zwingli and the Reformation in Zurich M-2; O-25
Jan 24	Radical Reformation O-26
Jan 29	<b>DEBATE:</b> Luther vs. Zwingli on the Lord’s Supper
Jan 31	Theology of John Calvin
Feb 5	English Reformation M-3, 5; O-27
Feb 7	Catholic Reformation and Council of Trent M-4
Feb 12	Missions and the dilemma of discovery N-6, 7
Feb 14	Protestant scholasticism O-28
Feb 19	New awakenings in piety M-6, 8; O-29, 30

- Feb 21        **DEBATE:** Zinzendorf vs. Wesley on the nature of sanctification  
M-9, 10, 11, 12
- Feb 26        **MID-TERM (UNIT) EXAMINATION (material covered to February 21)**
- Feb 28        Copernican and Darwinian paradigm shifts and the beginnings of “modernity”
- Mar 3-7       Spring Break (no classes)
- Mar 12        The Enlightenment and Christianity  
M-16, 18; O-31
- Mar 14        Schleiermacher and “Romanticism”  
M-19, 20; O-32
- Mar 19        19<sup>th</sup>-century Protestant missions  
N-8, 9
- Mar 21        **DEBATE:** Edwards vs. Finney on the nature of revival  
M-13, 14, 15, 17
- Mar 26        Kierkegaard vs. the “Great Synthesis”  
O-33, 34
- Mar 28        Christianity becomes a world religion  
M-21; N-10
- Apr 2         Roman Catholic Church in the 19<sup>th</sup> and early-20<sup>th</sup> centuries  
M-22; N-11
- Apr 4         Modern missions and the Ecumenical Movement  
M-26; N-12, 13  
**RESEARCH PAPER DUE**
- Apr 9         **DEBATE:** Harnack vs. Barth on Jesus Christ  
M-24, 25
- Apr 11        Fundamentalism, evangelicalism, and Pentecostalism  
M-23
- Apr 16        **DEBATE:** Kraemer vs. Buck on salvific revelation in the non-Christian religions  
M-27
- Apr 18        Vatican Council II  
O-35, Conclusion

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Apr 25      **FINAL (UNIT) EXAMINATION**

SPECIFIC DATA

Prepared by Gary B. McGee, December 31, 2002.