

Dr. John A. Adair
jadair@dts.edu
(XXX) XXX-XXXX Office
Dallas Theological Seminary

HT101HO, The Church to the
Modern Era, 3 Hours
Fall 2014
Saturdays, 8AM-5PM
9/6, 9/27, 10/18, 11/8, 12/13

THE CHURCH TO THE MODERN ERA SYLLABUS

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

“A study of Christianity from the second century to the rise of the Enlightenment with special emphasis on the institutional history of the church as well as theological developments in the church.” (DTS Catalogue).

II. COURSE OBJECTIVES AND RATIONALE

- A. The student will know generally the history of the Christian church and the writings of leading Christian thinkers to the Modern Era.
- B. The student will understand the various ecclesiastical traditions of the church through studying their doctrines and practices.
- C. The student will reflect upon his or her understanding of theology through the lens of doctrinal formulation and development through the centuries.
- D. The student will analyze the validity of theological perspectives by studying the thought of various historical figures and their movements.
- E. The student will synthesize the historical development of various trends in theology such as the growth of individualism or the emergence of a specific church tradition, practice, polity, or movement.
- F. The student will perceive the value of historical studies and gain insight for his or her ministry.

III. COURSE TEXTBOOKS

A. Required

Gonzalez, Justo. *The Story of Christianity*, vol. 1, *The Early Church to the Dawn of the Reformation*. Rev. and updated. New York: HarperCollins, 2010.

Gonzalez, Justo. *The Story of Christianity*, vol. 2, *The Reformation to the Present Day*. Rev. and updated. New York: HarperCollins, 2010.

Leith, John. *Creeds of the Churches*. Garden City, NY: Doubleday & Co., 1963.

Purves, Andrew. *Pastoral Theology in the Classical Tradition*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2001.

IV. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. Reading Assignments

1. **General Reading (30%):** The student should read the required texts according to the course schedule below. No reading report is necessary if the student believes, in good faith, that he or she has completed at least 90% of the reading by the due date of the final exam. If the student has completed less than 90% of the reading, he or she will report the approximate percentage to the professor, rounded up to the nearest 10% by **19 December**.
2. **Elective Reading (20%):** In addition to the required reading, students will select from the following nine elective reading options or they may propose other primary source reading options to the professor, who will assign point values to the selections. Point values are determined by quantity, difficulty, and value of the readings, not on page count alone. A maximum of twenty (20) reading points may be earned through primary source reading, for a total of 20% of the course grade. Please note that without twenty (20)

points total selected reading, the highest possible score for the semester is an 80 (C). No reading report is necessary if the student has completed at least 90% of the selected reading by the due date of the final exam. If the student has completed less than 90% of the selected reading, he or she will report the approximate percentage to the professor, rounded up to the nearest 10% by **19 December**.

1. *The Apostolic Fathers (Didache, 1 Clement, 2 Clement, Epistles of Ignatius, Epistle of Polycarp, Martyrdom of Polycarp, Barnabas, Shepherd of Hermas, Epistle to Diognetus)* (20 points)
2. Justin Martyr, *Dialogue with Trypho* (10 points)
3. Irenaeus of Lyons, *Demonstration of the Apostolic Preaching* (10 points)
4. Athanasius of Alexandria, *On the Incarnation* (10 points)
5. Eusebius of Caesarea, *Ecclesiastical History* (20 points)
6. Augustine of Hippo, *Confessions* (20 points)
7. Vincent of Lerins, *Commonitorium* (10 points)
8. Anselm of Canterbury, *Cur Deus Homo?* (10 points)
9. Thomas Aquinas, *Shorter Summa* (20 points)
10. Martin Luther, *On the Bondage of the Will* (10 points)
11. John Calvin, *Of Prayer: A Perpetual Exercise of Faith* (10 points)
12. John Calvin, *Institutes*, Book 1 (20 points)

B. Written Assignment

Response Paper (25%): Based on a critical reading of Andrew Purves's *Pastoral Theology in the Classical Tradition*, the student will write a five page response to the book, addressing the following areas:

1. State the basic thesis (argument) of Purves's book and how he supports it. I.e., what is Purves's "agenda," and to what perspective is he trying to persuade his readers?
2. What are the patterns of contemporary pastoral ministry Purves is attempting to challenge by a reflection on the classical tradition?
3. Discuss what a classical approach to contemporary ministry might look like in your particular ecclesiastical tradition. How might the classical approach challenge your current structures and practices?
4. In what ways has Purves's book challenged your perspective on contemporary pastoral ministry?

Due: 18 October.

C. Quizzes and/or Exams

Final Exam (25%): One objective final exam will be given at the end of the semester covering major figures, themes, events, dates, and developments in the Patristic, Medieval, and Reformation eras. This exam will consist of a variety of multiple choice, matching, brief answer, and true/false questions. It will be a closed-book, closed-note type of exam. A study guide will be provided online. The final exam will be accessed online and turned in **via email 19 December**.

V. COURSE POLICIES

A. Weight Given to Course Requirements for Grading

General Reading	30%
Elective Reading	20%

Response Paper	25%
Final Exam	<u>25%</u>
	100%

B. Class Participation

Class sessions are intended to include the interaction of class members. The student is encouraged to participate in class and group discussions for her or his own learning and enrichment. All comments or questions should be collegial, polite, and respectful.

C. Late Assignments

No late papers will be accepted except in the rare case of an emergency. Reading should be completed prior to class on the date it is listed in the course schedule. Without a valid excuse, late homework may lose five points per day of classes.

D. Plagiarism

Take note that *plagiarism* (copying from Internet, articles, or books) or any form of deception or cheating is strictly prohibited and can be grounds for expulsion from the Seminary. All sources should be fully documented and quotation marks used when appropriate. *See www.plagiarism.org for current issues in plagiarism.* Ignorance of guidelines is not a defense against charges of plagiarism.

E. Use of Electronics

To promote class participation and to avoid distraction, the use of electronic equipment—including cell phones, audio or video players, recording devices (except for recording lectures for personal use only), or internet browsing and text messaging—is prohibited during class. Students may use laptop computers only for taking notes during lectures. Exceptions to this prohibition must be approved by the professor in advance.

F. Absences

Penalties for non-attendance will be assigned according to the *Student Handbook*.

G. Letter/Numerical Grade Scale

A+	99-100	B+	91-93	C+	83-85	D+	75-77	F	0-69
A	96-98	B	88-90	C	80-82	D	72-74		
A-	94-95	B-	86-87	C-	78-79	D-	70-71		

VI. COURSE SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

DTS does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the operation of any of its programs and activities. To avoid discrimination the student is responsible for informing the Coordinator of Services for Students with Disabilities and the course instructor of any disabling condition that will require modifications.

VII. COURSE LECTURES AND ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE

The following schedule indicates the topics covered during each class session, the lessons from the course notes related to the topics, the required reading for that day of class, and any written assignments due. Please note that the class schedule is also the reading and assignment report. The student will turn in the completed report on the final day of class. Note: The professor reserves the right to make modifications to the schedule.

Session	Date	Topic	Assignments Due
1	9/6	Introduction to the Course Prolegomena for Church History Why Church History? The Apostolic Fathers The Apologists	Gonzalez, Preface, 1-126 Leith, 1-19
2	9/27	Sacraments in the Early Church Development of the Canon The Road to Nicaea The Councils of Nicaea and Constantinople The Councils of Ephesus and Chalcedon The Rise of Monasticism	Gonzalez, 129-252 Leith, 20-33
3	10/18	Augustine Gregory the Great The Rise of Islam The Iconoclastic Controversy	Gonzalez, 263-356 Leith, 34-56 DUE: Response Paper
4	11/8	The Rise of Papal Power The Great Schism between East and West The Crusades and Monasticism The Rise of Scholasticism and the Universities Medieval Catholicism and the Renaissance The Road to Reformation	Gonzalez, 357-490 Leith, 56-61
5	12/13	Martin Luther and Lutheranism Zwingli and Zwinglianism Calvin and Calvinism Anabaptism The Roman Catholic Counter-Reformation The English Reformation	Gonzalez 2, 1-236 Leith, 61-106, 192-229, 266-280
		FINAL EXAM WEEK	DUE 12/19: Final Exam Reading Report Elective Reading