

**History of the Church: To the Reformation**  
**CH 3312**  
**Austin Graduate School of Theology**  
**Fall 2020**

**Mondays 1:00–3:40**

Instructor: Dr. K. Stanglin  
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I want you to do well in this course, so please let me know if you are having difficulty with the class material.

**Course Description:**

An overview of the history of Christianity from its beginnings through the Reformation, highlighting major developments.

**Core Values:**

Because we love God, we love the church he created and redeemed. Because we love his church, we take her history seriously.

**Course Objectives:**

In light of the school's mission and objectives, the student who successfully completes this course will be able to:

1. Identify and describe significant turning points in the history of the church.
2. Define and describe vocabulary and concepts foundational in the history of doctrine.
3. Identify particular historical figures, events, and theological trajectories that affect the church today.
4. Challenge and rectify popular misconceptions about church history.
5. Understand, evaluate, and address current issues of faith and practice in the church from an informed historical perspective.
6. Avoid the repetition of errors and emulate the examples of success.

**Required Course Textbook:**

Ferguson, Everett. *Church History, Volume One: From Christ to Pre-Reformation*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2013. ISBN 978-0-310-51656-9.

Bring this book to each class meeting. A Bible will also be helpful for many lectures.

### **Attendance Policy:**

Students must attend classes regularly. Live attendance may be in person or via Zoom. Credit students who intend to use Zoom should remain visible to the instructor during class. In the event of illness, family emergency, or an extenuating circumstance, it is the responsibility of the student to notify the instructor as soon as possible of the reason for the absence. Students are responsible for getting material that they missed. A doctor's note is required for excusing personal illness. N.B.: Excuses will not be accepted more than one week after returning to class.

If you have 2 unexcused absences, your final course grade will be dropped by one letter grade. After 3 unexcused absences, a student may be dropped from the course.

You will be considered tardy if you are not present when the roll is checked or if you leave during class. **3 tardies = 1 unexcused absence.** If you are tardy, it is your responsibility to make sure you were not counted absent. If you come in more than 10 minutes late, or leave before the end of class without telling me why, you will be counted absent, and will not be allowed to take the test or quiz. Take care of all business before and after class, or during the break.

### **Academic Honesty:**

Austin Grad places a high priority on honesty and a biblical commitment to truth. Incidents of **cheating, plagiarism**, or any other activities deemed dishonest will result in penalties. These penalties may range from receiving a zero (0%) on the assignment to failing the course or dismissal from the school. (According to Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, to "plagiarize" is to steal and use as one's own the ideas, words, etc., of another. Collaborating on written assignments that should be done individually would fall under this category of dishonesty.)

### **Classroom Expectations and Decorum:**

I expect all students to behave in a Christian manner in and out of the classroom.

Turn off cell phones. You may use laptops for taking notes only. Checking email and updating your Facebook status can be distracting to you and those around you. Drinks are permitted, but do not eat distracting food during class.

Class will begin promptly, so be ready. Class will be dismissed when I finish.

### **Course Requirements:**

1. Preparation. You are expected to complete all assigned readings prior to the class meetings. The class lectures, which will not recapitulate the textbook, will assume that you have read the assignments and know the material. Be prepared to take notes, discuss, and answer questions about the reading material in class. Helpful materials and outlines ("handouts") can be found at the course page on Canvas.
2. Notebook. Keep a well-organized notebook that contains all notes over readings and lectures, as well as handouts and anything else pertinent to the study of church history. Notes should be legible and thorough.

3. Primary Source Reflections. **20 pts. each = 60 pts.** Each student will write a reflection paper on three of the assigned primary source readings (see the documents noted in the schedule below). The documents are available online or via handout. Each paper should demonstrate knowledge of the reading and be around 750 words in length. References to the readings may be cited parenthetically by section number. Late work will not be accepted.

Primary Source Reflections should consist of three sections:

a) Introductory details. Describe the author, date, purpose, occasion, and original audience of the document. Use Ferguson to help with this first section.

b) Content analysis. Describe *what* the author is saying, and *why* and *how* he is saying it. What is the main point? To what arguments or evidence does he appeal? This section should be the longest of the three.

c) Concluding evaluation. How does it relate to the New Testament? Is there anything you strongly agree or disagree with? Is there anything that would help with the church's faith and practice today?

4. Tests: ca. **100 pts.** each, total **316 pts.** Three tests will cover material from lectures and both textbooks. **Make-up Policy:** A test may be made up for full credit *only* if the absence is excused (see "Attendance Policy" above). Contact or see me as soon as possible to arrange it. All make-up tests will be entirely essay format. In general, there will be **no make-ups for unexcused absences.** In certain cases, though, I reserve the right to allow unexcused make-ups with a significant deduction of points.

5. Quizzes: approx. **10 to 20 pts.** each, total **100 pts.** Most class periods will begin with a vocabulary quiz, which will be announced the class period before the quiz. Find vocabulary on Canvas. Pop quizzes over Ferguson will be given at the discretion of the professor. You may use your notes on Ferguson quizzes. (At the end of the semester, I will drop the lowest quiz grade of students who took all the quizzes.)

6. Reflection paper: **50 pts.** Each student must complete *one* of the following assignments. (Extra credit will be granted for successful completion of *both* papers.) It is due on **Nov. 30.**

a) Learning from a mentor: Choose a figure from the list in the online handouts and read at least 50 pages from that person's own writings. Specify the work and the page numbers read. Write a report that summarizes the document/excerpt and answer at least the following questions: Who is the author, and why is he important? What is the specific occasion for this document? What is the author's main concern in this document? What is his point, and how does he get there? What does the document reveal about the main concerns of his day? What main points do you strongly agree and/or disagree with? How does this reading help your understanding and practice of the Christian faith? The paper should be single-spaced, and at least 1,000 words.

b) "Past and Present" paper: Write a paper that puts the content learned in church history to practical use in addressing issues or problems in the church today. Focus on an event or thinker or controversy from the past, and show how this knowledge can help the church today. The goal is to give concrete evidence of how knowing the church's history can help the present-day church move forward. This paper is to be your own *individual* work, and should not require any outside research. It should demonstrate a clear knowledge of the historical aspect as well as insightful reflections and

observations on real current issues. It should offer general principles illustrated by specific examples, past and present. The paper should be single-spaced, and at least 1,000 words.

7. Research paper: **100** pts. Write an original research paper (1,800-2,200 words, double-spaced) on the topic of your choice.

a) You may examine a particular thinker, idea, or event of church history (see website for possible topics). Or...

b) You may discuss the impact of church history on a particular area of life, church, art, family, worship, etc. You may trace the influence of a particular thinker, event, or doctrine. I want to know how church history impacted a particular area of life of interest to you.

Use at least one primary source besides the ones assigned in class, and at least four secondary sources besides Ferguson. The paper should demonstrate that you read and interacted with these sources. Use standard Turabian/Chicago Manual of Style footnotes. Take note of the following due dates:

a) Talk with me or email me about your topic **before Sept. 21.**

b) Annotated bibliography: A bibliography of at least five sources, due **before Oct. 5.**

c) Detailed outline (at least one page long), due **by or before Oct. 12.**

d) The paper is due on **Nov. 16, at 1:00 p.m.** Late papers will be reduced by 10% (e.g., A to B) for every half week it is late (beginning with the due date). Papers will not be accepted after Dec. 7. Evaluation criteria: Thesis, style, interaction with sources.

### **Grading Scale:**

Total points: ca. 620.

90-100% = A    80-89 = B (“Good”)    70-79 = C (“Average”)    60-69 = D    0-59 = F

It is your responsibility to keep up with your grades and absences.

### **Course Schedule:**

Importance of Studying Church History

Read Stanglin, “Restorationism and Church History,” *Christian Studies* 26 (2013–14): 21-32, available at <http://austingrad.edu/Christian%20Studies/CS%2026/Restorationism.pdf>

#### Lecture Topics

#### Ferguson Chapters

### **I. Ancient Church (100–313)**

Backgrounds of Christianity and Empire

Ferg. 1

Also read 1 Maccabees 1-2; 2 Maccabees 6-7; 4 Maccabees 1, 5-7, 15, 18, available at <http://www.biblestudytools.com/apocrypha/nrsa/>

Apostolic Church in the 1<sup>st</sup> Century

Ferg. 2

Also read Didache 1-2, 7-13, 15, at <http://www.thedidache.com/>

Apostolic Fathers Ferg. 3

Also read 1 Clement 1-3, 5, 42, 44-48, at <http://www.earlychristianwritings.com/text/1clement-roberts.html>

Outward Focus and Life in the Empire

Read *Epistle to Diognetus* 5, at <http://www.earlychristianwritings.com/text/diognetus-roberts.html> ; Clement of Alexandria, *Who Is the Rich Man that Shall Be Saved?*, sect. 1-2, 11-14, 16-18 <http://www.earlychristianwritings.com/text/clement-richman.html>

Trouble from Without: Persecutions Ferg. 4

Also read Ignatius of Antioch, *To the Romans*, at <http://www.newadvent.org/fathers/0107.htm>

Second-century Apologists

Read Justin Martyr, *1 Apology* 1-6, 61, 65-67, at <http://www.earlychristianwritings.com/text/justinmartyr-firstapology.html>

Trouble from Within: Heresy Ferg. 5

Response to Heresies Ferg. 6-7 “Apostles’ Creed”

Old Catholic Fathers Ferg. 8-9

## Exam 1

### II. Christian Empire (313–604)

Constantine the Great Ferg. 10

Also read selections on Constantine (handout in Canvas)

Arian Controversy and Council of Nicaea Ferg. 11

Nicene/Post-Nicene Fathers

Biblical Interpretation in the Premodern Church

Liturgical Case Studies: Church Music and Baptism Ferg. 12

Ecumenical Councils of the Early Church Ferg. 13

Augustine and the Pelagian Controversy Ferg. 14

Germanic Invasions and Fall of Rome Ferg. 15

## **Exam 2**

### **III. Middle Ages (604–1517)**

Development of Roman Papacy	Ferg. 16
Rise of Islam	Ferg. 17
Medieval Church and State	Ferg. 18-19
Crusades	Ferg. 20
Scholastic Theology	Ferg. 21
Monasticism	Ferg. 22
Medieval Dissenters	Ferg. 23
Babylonian Captivity and Papal Schism	Ferg. 24
Forerunners of the Reformation	

### **IV. Reformation (1517–1555)**

Backgrounds of Reform

Luther, Zwingli, Calvin

## **Exam 3**

## Church History Select Bibliography compiled by Dr. K. Stanglin<sup>1</sup>

### General:

Cooper, Derek. *Twenty Questions that Shaped World Christian History*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2015.

Cross, F. L. and E. A. Livingstone, eds. *Dictionary of the Christian Church*. 1997; repr., Peabody: Hendrickson, 2007.

Dyrness, William A. Veli-Matti Kärkkäinen, eds. *Global Dictionary of Theology*. Downers Grove: IVP Academic, 2008.

\*Ferguson, Everett. *Church History, Volume One: From Christ to Pre-Reformation*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2013.

González, Justo L. *The Story of Christianity*. 2 vols. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. New York: Harper One: 2010.

Latourette, Kenneth Scott. *A History of the Expansion of Christianity*. 7 vols. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1970.

Noll, Mark. *Turning Points: Decisive Moments in the History of Christianity*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1997.

\*Pelikan, Jaroslav J. *The Christian Tradition*. 5 vols. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1971–89.

Rea, Robert F. *Why Church History Matters*. Downers Grove: IVP Academic, 2014.

Schaff, Philip. *History of the Christian Church*. 8 vols. 3<sup>rd</sup> ed., rev. New York: Scribners, 1907–10; repr., Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1976.

\*Seeberg, Reinhold. *Textbook of the History of Doctrines*. 2 vols. in 1. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1977.

Stanglin, Keith D. *The Letter and Spirit of Biblical Interpretation: From the Early Church to Modern Practice*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2018.

Walker, Williston, et al. *A History of the Christian Church*. 4<sup>th</sup> ed. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1985.

Wainwright, Geoffrey, and Karen B. Westerfield Tucker, eds. *The Oxford History of Christian Worship*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2005.

Wilken, Robert Louis. *The First Thousand Years: A Global History of Christianity*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2012.

### Early:

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<sup>1</sup> Works marked with an asterisk \* are highly recommended places to begin research. See also my more extensive bibliography at [http://austingrad.edu/images/Resources/Stanglin/bibliography\\_historical%20theology.pdf](http://austingrad.edu/images/Resources/Stanglin/bibliography_historical%20theology.pdf)

Anatolios, Khaled. *Retrieving Nicaea: The Development and Meaning of Trinitarian Doctrine*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2011.

Bauer, Walter. *Orthodoxy and Heresy in Earliest Christianity*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1971.

Brown, Peter R. L. *Augustine of Hippo*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1967.

Dunn, James D. G. *The Partings of the Ways: Between Christianity and Judaism and Their Significance for the Character of Christianity*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. London: SCM Press, 2006.

Ferguson, Everett. *Backgrounds of Early Christianity*. 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2003.

———. *Baptism in the Early Church: History, Theology, and Liturgy in the First Five Centuries*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2009.

\*———, et al., eds. *Encyclopedia of Early Christianity*. 2 vols. New York: Garland, 1997.

\*Frend, W. H. C. *The Rise of Christianity*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1984.

Grant, Robert M. *From Augustus to Constantine: The Rise and Triumph of Christianity in the Roman World*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 1970.

Green, Michael. *Evangelism in the Early Church*. Rev. ed. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2004.

Gregerman, Adam. *Building on the Ruins of the Temple*. Texts and Studies in Ancient Judaism, 165. Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2016.

Hanson, R. P. C. *The Search for the Christian Doctrine of God: The Arian Controversy, 318–81*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1988.

Hinson, E. Glenn. *The Early Church: Origins to the Dawn of the Middle Ages*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1996.

Kelly, J. N. D. *Early Christian Doctrines*. Rev. ed. San Francisco: HarperCollins, 1978.

\*Quasten, Johannes. *Patrology*. 5 vols.

Vall, Gregory. *Learning Christ: Ignatius of Antioch and the Mystery of Redemption*. Washington, D.C.: The Catholic University of America Press, 2013.

Vermes, Geza. *Christian Beginnings: From Nazareth to Nicaea*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2014.

Wilken, Robert Louis. *The Christians as the Romans Saw Them*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2003.

———. *The Spirit of Early Christian Thought: Seeking the Face of God*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2003.



## **Medieval:**

Bornstein, Daniel E., ed. *Medieval Christianity*. A People's History of Christianity. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2009.

Brown, Peter R. L. *The Rise of Western Christendom: Triumph and Diversity, 200–1000 AD*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Oxford: Blackwell, 2003.

\*Fried, Johannes. *The Middle Ages*. Translated by Peter Lewis. Cambridge, Mass.: Belknap Press of Harvard University, 2015.

Levy, Ian C. *Holy Scripture and the Quest for Authority at the End of the Middle Ages*. Notre Dame: University of Notre Dame Press, 2012.

———, ed. *A Companion to John Wyclif: Late Medieval Theologian*. Brill's Companions to the Christian Tradition 4. Leiden: Brill, 2006.

Louth, Andrew. *Greek East and Latin West: The Church A.D. 682–1071*. New York: St. Vladimir's Seminary Press, 2007.

Lubac, Henri de. *Medieval Exegesis*. 3 vols. Trans. E. M. Macierowski. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1998–2009.

\*Madigan, Kevin. *Medieval Christianity: A New History*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2015.

Markus, R. A. *Gregory the Great and His World*. Cambridge, Eng.: Cambridge University Press, 1997.

Nichols, Aidan. *Discovering Aquinas: An Introduction to His Life, Work, and Influence*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2002.

Oberman, Heiko A. *The Harvest of Medieval Theology: Gabriel Biel and Late Medieval Nominalism*. 1963; repr., Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2000.

Riley-Smith, Jonathan S. C. *The Crusades: A History*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2005.

———. *The Crusades, Christianity, and Islam*. New York: Columbia University Press, 2008.

Rollo-Koster, Joëlle and Thomas M. Izbicki. *A Companion to the Great Western Schism (1378–1417)*. Leiden: Brill, 2009.

Smalley, Beryl. *The Study of the Bible in the Middle Ages*. New York: Philosophical Library, 1952.

Southern, R. W. *Western Society and the Church in the Middle Ages*. The Penguin History of the Church 2. New York: Penguin Books, 1970.

\*Volz, Carl A. *The Medieval Church: From the Dawn of the Middle Ages to the Eve of the Reformation*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1997.

Wilkinson, John. *Jerusalem Pilgrims before the Crusades*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Warminster, Eng.: Aris and Phillips, 2002.

### **Websites:**

[www.ccel.org](http://www.ccel.org) Christian Classics Ethereal Library. A collection of primary sources.

[www.earlychristianwritings.com](http://www.earlychristianwritings.com) NT, Apocrypha, Gnostics, Church Fathers.

[www.earlychurch.org.uk](http://www.earlychurch.org.uk) An internet resource for studying the early church.

<http://www.fourthcentury.com/> Fourth-century sources.

[https://books.google.com/advanced\\_book\\_search](https://books.google.com/advanced_book_search) Google Books, full texts in public domain.

[www.iclnet.org/pub/resources/christian-history.html](http://www.iclnet.org/pub/resources/christian-history.html) Guide to early church documents.

<https://archive.org/> Internet Archive, with full texts of many public domain books.

<http://patristics.org/resources/early-christian-texts/> Early Christian Texts, from NAPS

[www.wabashcenter.wabash.edu/resources/result\\_browse.aspx?topic=664&pid=650](http://www.wabashcenter.wabash.edu/resources/result_browse.aspx?topic=664&pid=650)

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/ch/> *Christianity Today's* Christian History.net

[www.prdl.org](http://www.prdl.org) Post-Reformation Digital Library. Links to primary sources from Reformation.