

HSTY 5210: Christian History I:

The Early Church to the Early Reformation North Park Theological Seminary

Spring 2021, online, 3 credit hours

Dr. Jodie Boyer Hatlem, jeboyer@northpark.edu | 226-505-5081 |

Office hours: by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course offers a survey of Christian history and theology from the apostolic times through the early Reformation. Course material pays balanced attention to Christianity's intellectual and social history, with sustained consideration of the church's evolving relationship to political and social structures and the question of unity in diversity. (from Catalog)

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- Be capable of conveying the Christian tradition for appropriation in the life and mission of the Church.
- Demonstrate an understanding of general developments in the History Of Christianity as well as some of the most important persons, ideas, and movements.
- Gain a greater capacity to read and interpret primary texts.
- Learn to think historically. Gain the ability to construct and present arguments based on historical evidence with proper attention to context.
- Hone skills of oral and written communication for future ministry.
- Think about history theologically as a repository of wisdom and warnings.

REQUIRED TEXTS [abbreviation used in schedule below]

Justo L. González, *The Story of Christianity: The Early Church to the Dawn of the Reformation* (vol. 1, 2nd ed. (HarperOne: 2010) [ISBN: 978-0061855887] [SC]

Justo L. González, *The Story of Christianity: The Reformation to the Present Day* (vol 2), rev. and updated (HarperOne: 2010) [ISBN: 978-0-06-185589-4] [SC2]

John W. Coakley and Andrea Sterk, eds. *Readings in World Christian History; Vol I: Earliest Christianity to 1453* (Orbis Books, 2004). [ISBN: 978-1570755200] [R]

REQUIRED TECHNOLOGY

Adobe Acrobat Reader (install [here](#))

Microsoft Word

Video capability

Speakers for listening to video and audio presentations

A video communication program (e.g., [Skype](#), [Google hangout](#), [Zoom](#)). As long as you have video capability, I can provide access to [WebEx](#) through NPU.

ASSESSMENTS

Guidelines & rubrics for each assessment are included under “Assessment Guides & Templates” in Canvas.

Course reading (20% of final grade). Reading log templates are posted within the submission links in Canvas.

Primary source analysis (15% of final grade). González’s narrative will provide background for our study; emphasis in both group discussion and assessments will be placed on your close reading of primary sources *as historical documents*. During weeks 2–4, students will submit 1-page in response to one assigned primary source. These writing exercises will allow opportunity for feedback on your comprehension in reading historical texts. Responses are submitted through Canvas.

- Week 2: Correspondence of Pliny & Trajan
- Week 3: Irenaeus, *Against Heresies*
- Week 4: Eusebius, “Life of Constantine”

Cohort discussion (15 pts each; 30% of final grade). Most weeks students will engage in group discussion. Ordinarily, initial posts due Thursday of each week for which discussion is assigned; response posts the Sunday following. Eleven discussions are assigned; you may skip one discussion, weeks 2–15 (i.e., be sure to complete introduction and conclusion posts). Specific guidelines are posted within each forum.

Exam (15% of final grade). Students will complete objective exams at midterm (October 19th) and end of semester (Dec 13th), assessing basic knowledge of course material. A list of possible terms is included below. It is assumed that students will be using this list to study across the semester as terms are encountered.

Final project. (20%) (1500-2000) word essay, (due Dec. 11th) students will engage in close reading of primary sources, practice historical thinking, and bring course content into conversation with contemporary questions.

ADDITIONAL COURSE GUIDELINES

Assessment submission.

All assessments are due by 11:59pm (in your time zone) on the date indicated. Don’t worry if Canvas marks it late if you live in another time zone (it will be set for CST) Discussion posts are due on Thursdays and responses on Sundays.

Feel free to email me with questions and concerns, and I will respond within 48 hours, M–F. In emailing, do note the following:

Before emailing a question, be sure the answer isn’t contained in the course syllabus, in assessment guidelines, or within the weekly question forums (i.e., posted by another student) If the answer could serve the class as a whole, consider posting your question within the weekly forum rather than asking via email.

Meeting with instructor. Students are welcome to schedule an appointment to speak by phone or video chat (Skype, Zoom, Google video chat) at any point in the semester. If you are having any difficulties in the course, I encourage you to be in contact in the soonest instant so we can problem-solve together.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

In keeping with our Christian heritage and commitment, North Park University is committed to the highest possible ethical and moral standards. Just as we will constantly strive to live up to these high standards, we expect our students to do the same. To that end, cheating of any sort will not be tolerated. Students who are discovered cheating are subject to discipline up to and including failure of a course and expulsion. Our definition of cheating includes but is not limited to:

Plagiarism – the use of another’s work as one’s own without giving credit to the individual. This includes using materials from the internet.

Copying another’s answers on an examination.

Deliberately allowing another to copy one’s answers or work.

Signing an attendance roster for another who is not present.

For a fuller discussion of academic dishonesty, review the [Seminary Academic Catalog](#), pp. 25–27.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Students with disabilities who believe that they may need accommodations in this class are encouraged to contact the program's office as soon as possible to ensure accommodations are implemented in a timely manner. For further information, see [Seminary Academic Catalog](#), pp. 19–20 and “[Disability Resources](#)” provided through North Park’s Office of Student Enrichment Services and Support.

TITLE IX

Students who believe they have been harassed, discriminated against, or involved in sexual violence should contact the Dean of Students (773-244-5565) or Director of Human Resources (773-244-5599) for information about campus resources and support services, including confidential counseling services.

As a member of the North Park faculty, we are concerned about the well-being and development of our students, and are available to discuss any concerns. Faculty are legally obligated to share information with the University’s Title IX coordinator in certain situations to help ensure that the student’s safety and welfare is being addressed, consistent with the requirements of the law.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Numbers in SC correspond to chapters (Story of Christianity); numbers in R correspond to page numbers (Readings in World Christian History). Readings marked C correspond to readings posted to Canvas.

WEEK 1 |

(15 pp. reading, 39 min lecture)

Introduction to subject & course

- Reading: Thomas Andrews and Flannery Burke, “What Does It Mean to Think Historically?” [C, 4pp.]; C.S. Lewis, Introduction to Athanasius’s *On the Incarnation* [C, 7 pp.]; González SC 1 (4 pp.)

Additional tasks

✓ Read course syllabus thoroughly and carefully, raising any questions on the general course questions forum

✓ Watch lectures: “Introduction to Subject” (21 min), “Introduction to Course” (17.5 min)

✓ Class introduction post and responses

- ✓ Discussion post and responses
- ✓ Submit course checklist

WEEK 2 |

(94 pp. reading, 55 min lecture)

From the New Testament to “church history”: early Christian faith, life, and worship

- Background reading [35 pp.]: González SC 2–4, 11
- Primary reading [7 pp.]: Ignatius of Antioch, *Letter to the Magnesians* [R 3–5]; *Didache* [R 12–16]

Church & Empire: martyrs & apologists

- Background reading [36 pp.]: González SC 5–7, 10
- Primary reading [16 pp.]: Correspondence of Pliny and Trajan [R 23–24]; *Martyrdom of Perpetua and Felicity* [R 30–37]; Justin, *Second Apology* [R 37–43]; excerpts from Tertullian, *Prescription against Heretics* [C]

Additional tasks

- ✓ Watch lectures: “From Apostles to Apostolic Fathers” (25 min), “Church & Empire” (30 min)
- ✓ Submit analysis of Correspondence of Pliny and Trajan

WEEK 3 |

(43 pp. reading, 42 min lecture – be sure you’re working on compiling your research sources)

Orthodoxy & Heresy: the proto-catholic church

- Background reading [27 pp.]: González SC 8–9
- Primary reading [16 pp.]: *Gospel of Thomas* [R 5–12]; Irenaeus, *Against Heresies* [R 53–66]

Additional tasks

- ✓ Watch lecture: “Orthodoxy & Heresy” (42 min)
- ✓ Submit analysis of Irenaeus, *Against Heresies* ✓ Discussion post and responses

WEEK 4 |

(81 pp. reading, 47 min lecture)

Constantine & the end of persecution

- Background reading [33 pp.]: González SC 12–14, 16
- Primary reading [11 pp.]: Eusebius, “Constantine and Peace” [C]

Nicaea & Trinitarian Theology I

- Background reading [22 pp.]: González SC 17–19
- Primary reading [15 pp.]: Letters of Arius and Alexander of Alexandria [R 98–101]; Acts of the Council of Nicaea [C]

Additional tasks

- ✓ Watch lectures: “Christian Empire” (17 min); “Nicaea & Trinitarian Theology, part 1” (30 min)
- ✓ Discussion post and responses
- ✓ Submit analysis of Eusebius’s “Constantine and Peace”

WEEK 5 |

(46 pp. reading, 86 min lecture)

Nicaea & Trinitarian Theology II

- Background reading [8 pp.]: González SC 20
- Primary reading [4 pp.]: Arius, Confession [C]; Gregory of Nyssa, *Ad Graecos* [R 119–22]

Christianity beyond Empire & Christian Asceticism

- Background reading [22 pp.]: González SC 15–16, 23, 25
- Primary reading [12 pp.]: Gregory of Nyssa, *Life of Macrina* [R 147–55]; Auxentius of

Durostorum, *Letter on the Life and Work of Ulfila* [R 102–105]

Additional tasks

✓ Watch lectures: “Nicaea & Trinitarian Theology, part 1” (30 min); “Christianity beyond Empire:

Monasticism & Expansion” (56 min)

✓ Discussion post and responses

WEEK 6 | S

(60 pp. reading, 68 min lecture)

Augustine of Hippo

- Background reading [11 pp.]: González SC 21, 24
- Primary reading [7 pp.]: Pelagius, *To Demetrias* [R 206–10]; Augustine of Hippo, *On Nature and Grace* [R 210–13]

Ephesus to Chalcedon: Christological controversies

- Background reading [30 pp.]: González SC 28; MacCulloch, “Defying Chalcedon: Asia and Africa (451–622)” [C]

- Primary reading [12 pp.]: Letters of Cyril of Alexandria and Nestorius of Constantinople; Chalcedonian Definition [R 165–76]

Additional tasks

✓ Watch lectures: “Augustine of Hippo” (33 min); “Christology to Chalcedon” (35 min)

WEEK 7 |

(51 pp. reading, 19 min lecture)

Medieval Christianity, the New Order: Germanic expansion & Arab conquests

- Background reading [24 pp.]: González SC 27
- Primary reading [9 pp.]: Columbanus, *Letter 2* [R 255–58]; *The Heliand*, songs 1, 16–19 [R 271ff.]

Ongoing christological controversy

- Background reading [9 pp.]: González SC 28, pp. 302–end
- Primary reading [9 pp.]: John of Damascus, *On the Divine Images* [R 289–97]

Additional tasks

✓ Watch lectures: “Ongoing Christological Controversies” (19 min)

WEEK 8 |

✓ **Submit anonymous feedback on course** ✓ **Submit midterm reading log & exam**

WEEK 9|

(72 pp. reading, 89 min lecture)

Western Christendom: empire, papacy & monasticism

- Background reading [26 pp.]: González SC 29–30
- Primary reading [21 pp.]: Pope Gregory VII, *Letter to Hermann of Metz* [R 319–24]; Hildegard of Bingen, *Scivias* [C]

Christianity confronts Islam in Europe and Africa

- Background reading [10 pp.]: González SC 31
- Primary reading [15 pp.]: Guibert of Nogent, *The Deeds of God through the Franks* [R 324–34]; *The War Chronicle of Amda Tseyon* [R 384–88]

Additional tasks

✓ Watch lectures: “Western Christendom, 7–11 c.” (48 min); “Christianity Confronts Islam” (41

min)

- ✓ Discussion post and responses

WEEK 10 |

(50 pp. reading, 78 min lecture)

High Middle Ages

- Background reading [23 pp.]: González, SC 32
 - Primary reading [6 pp.]: Boniface VIII, *Unam Sanctam* [R 397–98]; Aquinas, excerpts from *Summa Theologiae* on transubstantiation [C]
- Late Middle Ages: Babylonian captivity, schism
- Background reading [18 pp.]: González SC 33
 - Primary reading [3 pp.]: Catherine of Siena, “To Gregory XI” [C]

Additional tasks

- ✓ Watch lectures: “Christianity in the High Middle Ages” (49 min); “Late Middle Ages: Babylonian Captivity & Schism” (29 min)

- ✓ Discussion post and responses

WEEK 11 |

(40 pp. reading, 45 min lecture)

Late Middle Ages: Impulses of Reform

- Background reading [35 pp.]: González, SC 34–35
- Primary reading [5 pp.]: Geert Grote, *Letter 29*; Council of Constance, *Haec sancta* and *Frequens* [R 410–15]

Additional tasks

- ✓ Watch lecture: “Late Middle Ages: Impulses of Reform” (45 min)

WEEK 12 |

(118 pp. reading, 82 min lecture)

Martin Luther & the Lutheran Reformation

- Background reading [41 pp.]: González, SC2 1–4
- Primary reading [77 pp.]: Luther, *95 Theses* [C]; *The Freedom of a Christian* [C]; *Twelve Articles of the Peasants* [C]; Luther, *Admonition to Peace* (1525) [C]

Additional tasks

- ✓ Watch lecture: “Martin Luther & the Lutheran Reformation” (82 min) ✓ Discussion post (Thursday 11/14) and responses

WEEK 13 |

(37 pp. reading, 62 min lecture)

Reformation in Zurich: Zwingli & the Anabaptists

- Background reading [11 pp.]: González, SC2 5–6
- Primary reading [26 pp.]: Reports on the Marburg Colloquy, introduction & all debates between Luther & Zwingli within pdf, skim remaining [C]; *The Schleitheim Confession* [C]

Additional tasks

- ✓ Watch Lectures: “Zwingli & the Swiss Reformation” (34 min), “The Radical Reformation” (28

min)

- ✓ Discussion post and responses

WEEK 14 |

WEEK 15 |

(41 pp. reading, 35 min. lecture)

Additional tasks

- ✓ Watch Lecture: “Catholic Reformation” (35 min)

- ✓ Discussion post and responses

WEEK 16 |

Final course assessments

Catholic Reformation

- Background reading [20 pp.]: González, SC2 12, 19
- Primary source reading [21 pp.]: Cajetan, *On Faith and Works* (1532) [C]