

HSTY 5210: Christian History I:

The Early Church to the Early Reformation North Park Theological Seminary

Spring 2022, online, 3 credit hours

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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]

Ben Quash & Michael Ward, ed., *Heresies and How to Avoid Them: Why It Matters What Christians Believe* (Baker Academic, 2007)

6. Additional readings will be accessible through Canvas.

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 (15% of final grade). Reading log templates are posted within the submission links in Canvas. **Please honestly report the amount of pages you have read!**

Cohort discussion (25% 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. **Some weeks the Instructor will offer a Zoom option for the cohort discussion. These will not be mandatory, but students who participate in these sessions can fulfill their cohort discussion requirement for the week through their participation. These Zoom sessions will be included in the announcements for the week.**

Essays (2x 20%) (1500-2000) word essay, students will engage in close reading of primary sources, practice historical thinking, and bring course content into conversation with contemporary questions.

Final Exam (20%)

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)

Meeting with the 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.