

**HSTY 5210: Christian History I:  
The Early Church to the Early Reformation**  
North Park Theological Seminary

**Term:** Spring 2023

**Class Meets:** Online/asynchronous

**Instructor:** Jonathan Teram

**Email:** jeteram@northpark.edu

**Office Hours:** Use my calendly (listed in my email and on canvas) to schedule a meeting on Zoom or Microsoft Teams.

**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:**

1. **Factual knowledge.** Students will identify and explain key figures, events, and ideas from Christian history, from the first century through the early Reformation.
2. **Historical interpretation.** Students will evaluate and formulate historical arguments on the basis of original source evidence.
3. **Appropriation in the church.** Students will apply historical content and interpretation within Christian ministry.
4. **Virtue formation.** Students will demonstrate charity toward Christians of diverse times and places.

This course contributes toward the following MDiv learning outcomes: (1) Interpret the Christian historical and theological tradition for appropriation in the life and mission of the church; (2) engage diversity and exhibit growth towards inter-cultural competence for ministry reflective of God's global redemptive work.

**Required Texts:**

1. Justo L. González, *The Story of Christianity: The Early Church to the Dawn of the Reformation* (vol. 1), 2nd ed. (HarperOne: 2010)
2. Justo L. González, *The Story of Christianity: The Reformation to the Present Day* (vol 2), rev. and updated (HarperOne: 2010)

3. John W. Coakley and Andrea Sterk, eds. *Readings in World Christian History*; Vol I: Earliest Christianity to 1453 (Orbis Books, 2004).
4. Articles that will be posted on canvas

**Assessments:**

20%	Cohort Discussion
10%	Course Reading
30%	Essays
20%	Midterm Exam
20%	Final Exam

**Detailed Explanation of Assessments:**

- (1) **Cohort Discussion:** 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. This will be graded on a 10 point scale.
- (2) **Course Reading:** Completed logs are due at midterm and end of semester and will be graded based on percentage of reading completed.
- (3) **Essays:** There will be three 1000-word essays through which students will engage in close reading of primary sources, practice charitable and critical historical thinking, and bring course content into conversation with contemporary questions. The prompts will be posted on canvas. These will be graded on a 100 point scale.
- (4) **Exams:** There will be two, 50-question multiple choice, closed-book exams. The final exam will not be cumulative.

Note: All writing assignments must be double-spaced and use 12 pt Times New Roman. The writing assignments do not need a cover page. *All assignments must be submitted on Turnitin. The files should either be Word or PDF. No Pages files.*

**Grading:**

A:	95–100%
A-:	93–94%

B+: 91–92%  
B: 88–90%  
B-: 86–87%  
C+: 84–85%  
C: 80–83%  
C-: 78–79%  
D+: 76–77%  
D: 72–75%  
D-: 70–71%  
F: 0–69%

### **Policies:**

#### **Lateness on Writing Assignments:**

Late cohort discussion posts will be penalized by 1 point per day late. Late essays will be penalized by 5 points per day late.

#### **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 will receive a failing grade on the assignment and are subject to discipline up to and including failure of a course and expulsion. Our definition of cheating includes but is not limited to:

1. Plagiarism – the use of another’s work as one’s own without giving credit to the individual. This includes using materials from the internet.
2. Copying another’s answers on an examination.
3. Deliberately allowing another to copy one’s answers or work.
4. Signing an attendance roster for another who is not present. For additional information, see the Seminary Academic Catalog, pp. 25–27.

#### **Accommodations:**

Your experience in this class is important to me. North Park is committed to creating inclusive and accessible learning environments consistent with federal and state law. If you have already established your accommodations, please share your accommodation letter with me so we can

discuss how your accommodations will be implemented in this course. If you have not yet established services and have a temporary health condition or permanent disability that requires accommodations, please email the Disability Access Specialist or contact by phone (773-244-5737). Student Engagement facilitates the interactive process that establishes reasonable accommodations.

North Park Theological Seminary provides services for students with documented disabilities to ensure equal access to programs, services, facilities, and activities. Students with a disability who believe they may need accommodations in this class are encouraged to contact Seminary Academic Services at 773-244-5619 as soon as possible. If desired and necessary, discussion pertaining to documentation and accommodation can take place at another suitable location or by telephone. Further information about the American Disabilities Act Service is found in the Student Academic Handbook by visiting the following website: <http://www.northpark.edu/ada>

### **Title IX:**

Students who believe they have been harassed, discriminated against, or involved in sexual violence should contact the Title IX Coordinator (773-244-6276 or [TitleIX@northpark.edu](mailto:TitleIX@northpark.edu)) for information about reporting, campus resources and support services, including confidential counseling services. As members 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. These disclosures include but are not limited to reports of sexual assault, relational/domestic violence, and stalking. Please refer to North Park's Safe Community site for reporting, contact information and further details.

### **Incomplete Grades:**

If, due to extenuating circumstances (specifically, pregnancy, illness, personal and family issues, military assignment, etc.), a student anticipates they will be unable to complete course work within the allotted time, that student may request a grade of incomplete from the course instructor before the last week of class clearly stating the reason(s) for this request.

Overscheduling and/or lack of self-discipline are not considered extenuating circumstances. If the request is timely and meets the criteria, student and instructor will submit the incomplete grade form and the grade for that class will be listed as "I" until the last day of the following semester. If coursework is not submitted by the last day of the following semester the listing of "I" will automatically be changed to "F." For the full policy, see page 15 of the Seminary Academic Catalog.

## **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 (Wednesday 8/28) and responses (Friday 8/30)
- ✓ Discussion post (Thursday 8/29) and responses (Sunday 9/1)
- ✓ Submit course checklist (Sunday 9/1)

## 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)

### 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)

### 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)

### 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)

#### WEEK 6 |

(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) 6

#### WEEK 7 | October 7–13

(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 | October 14–20 | Fall reading week: no new material

✓ **Submit anonymous feedback on course (Sunday 10/20)** ✓ **Submit midterm reading log & exam (Sunday 10/20)**

- ✓ Begin analysis of medieval sources

#### 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)

WEEK 10 | October 28–November 3

(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)

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 (Sunday 11/17)

## 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 (Thursday 11/21) and responses (Sunday 11/24)
- WEEK 14 | November 25–December 1 (Thanksgiving)  
No new material; Use time to work on research paper

## WEEK 15 |

*(41 pp. reading, 35 min. lecture)*

### Additional tasks

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

## WEEK 16 | December 9–13

### 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]