Northern Seminary
CH 301-OL EARLY AND MEDIEVAL CHRISTIANITY
January 12 – March 23, Winter 2015, Online
Professor: Rev. Dr. Antonia Lucic Gonzalez
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Phone: 626-318-4478

Students are expected to log in Moodle before the first day of classes. To access the online forum, go to www.seminary.edu and click on Moodle (under Current Students). All registered students will be enrolled in Moodle the week before the term begins.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: The mission of Northern Seminary is to educate and prepare its students for a fruitful and fulfilling service in the Church. As a part of that mission, it is our goal that graduates be prepared to utilize and appropriate the Church’s historical and theological heritage both in their personal spiritual development as well as in their ministry. As a step towards realizing that goal, this course introduces students to the historical and theological heritage of the Christian Church. We will cover the period from the Church’s beginnings to the conclusion of the medieval period, and explore how the Church dealt with doctrinal and philosophical issues that are of ongoing significance and importance. Close attention will be given to the lives and principal writings of the most significant Christian leaders, to the development of the institutional church and its sacraments, to the outbreak of various heresies and the Church’s response, and to the historical context in which these important events occurred.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. Students will learn to think critically about the key theological ideas, major movements and influential personalities that shaped the Church. They will acquire the ability to analyze theological arguments and clearly and coherently articulate the meaning of the Christian faith in its historical development.

2. Students will gain an awareness of key original source documents, creeds, treatises, apologies, etc. Their skills of researching, critically examining and interacting with original historical sources will increase.

3. Students will learn to appreciate church history as a narrative of human response to the content and requirements of the Gospel, and evaluate the role of the historian in the re-telling and interpretation of that narrative. They will develop knowledge and understanding of church history as a discipline which uses methods of historical research, inquiry, and critical evaluation.

4. Students will develop appreciation of the early and medieval Church as an expression of the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church of which they also are members. They will be able to evaluate one’s own beliefs and practices in the light of their historical background and development and learn to appreciate the catholic nature of the doctrine and practice of the Baptist tradition.
5. Students will gain practical insights in applying the lessons and events of the early and medieval church history in preaching and teaching. They will acquire an ability to evaluate contemporary trends in church doctrine and, should their ministry require it, will be equipped to speak into resolving current doctrinal disputes in an informed way.

6. Students will have an opportunity to grow in character and gain wisdom for ministry by bringing their faith into conversation with Christians of past centuries. As they assess patristic and medieval thought/practice, they will be challenged to develop their own expressions of Christian doctrine and spirituality.

SIGNIFICANCE FOR LIFE AND MINISTRY: The last two course objectives address the significance of the course for life and ministry. As Christianity is a uniquely historical faith, to minister effectively in any age requires a thorough knowledge of this past. While our learning and discussions will be primarily historical and theological in nature, a lot of effort and intentionality will be put into integration of academic material and practical application.

REQUIRED READING:

Textbooks:


On-line Reading:


Erasmus, *In Praise of Folly*.  

John Chrysostom. *Homily: To those who had not attended the assembly*.  

________________. *Homily: On the Passage “Father if it be possible let this cup pass from me”*.  


*Martyrdom of Polycarp*.  

Wycliffe, John. *Tracts and Treatises*.  

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS:**

**Master Level:**

1. **Readings:** Students are expected to prepare for each session by reading the assigned pages on time as indicated in the course schedule.

2. **Online Discussion:** Students are required to participate regularly in the online forums. The course expectation is at least three substantive posts per student per week. The posts constitute 30% of the grade and are judged by quality, not quantity of words. A substantial post is a paragraph or two amounting to somewhere between 300 and 400 words, and not exceeding 600 words. Students cannot be absent from more than two discussion sessions and expect to pass. Absence from discussion sessions will be subject to a penalty in grade. Students will be penalized for posting late, after a discussion session has ended. Students cannot be absent from more than two discussion sessions and expect to pass.

3. **Exams:** Students will take two exams consisting of multiple choice, true-false, and short answer questions. They are a close book exams and course materials may not be used during taking.

4. **Paper:** Students will write one 8-10 page paper choosing one of the following four topic areas: Biblical interpretation patristic and/or medieval, Women in the early and/or medieval church, Christological debates, Monasticism. Paper should be double-spaced with one-inch margins, using 12-point Times font. Students must follow the style guidelines found in Kate L. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations* (8th ed.; University
of Chicago Press, 2013). Please contact the professor early in the course if you have questions about what is expected. For very specific guidance on writing papers, see Instructions for Writing a Historical Research Paper and Sample Papers posted on the Moodle course page.

**Late Assignments Policy:** All assignments must be completed on time. Assignments completed late will be accepted only on permission of the instructor and are subject to a penalty in grade. No assignments can be completed after the last day of the quarter without prior permission from the professor for an Incomplete. Such permission will not be granted unless the student can show good reason why he or she was prevented, beyond his or her control, from (unforeseeably) completing the assignment on time.

**WEEKLY SCHEDULE**
The course will follow a set schedule during the week, progressing from Session A to Session B. The discussion forums will begin at 5:00pm on Sundays and Wednesdays until 10:00pm two days later. Then you must take the quiz between 6:00am Friday and 9:00pm Saturday, on the weeks exams are given.

Session A: Sun 5:00pm – Tue 10:00pm
Session B: Wed 5:00pm – Fri 10:00pm

**Week 1 – Early Christianity**
A. **Historical Background**
   Noll, *Turning Points*, 1-13 (12)
   = **49 pages**

B. **Historical Background**
   Gonzalez, *The Story of Christianity*, 41-58 (17 pp)
   **Primary Source**
   Martyrdom of Polycarp, 149-158 (9 pp)
   = **54 pages**

**Week 2 – Early Christianity**
A. **Historical Background**
   Gonzalez, *The Story of Christianity*, 59-104 (45 pp)
   = **45 pages**

B. **Primary Sources: Biblical Interpretation**
   = **62 pages**

**Week 3 – Early Christianity**
A. **Historical Background**
   Gonzalez, The Story of Christianity, 105-125, 131-172 (61 pp)
   = **61 pages**

B. **Primary Sources: Women in the Early Church**
From Augustine, *On the Good of Marriage* – Ambrose, *On Paradise*

Clark, *Women in the Early Church*, 47-71 (23 pp)

From Clement, *Miscellanies* – Tertullian, *Exhortation to His Wife*


*Aacts of Paul and Thecla*; Ambrose, *On Virgins*; Prudentius, *Crowns of Martyrdom*  
= 57 pages

**Week 4 – Early Christianity**

A. **Historical Background**

Gonzalez, *The Story of Christianity*, 173-208 (35 pp)  
= 54 pages

B. **Primary Source: Christology**

Athanasius, *On the Incarnation of the Word*  
= 53 pages

**Week 5 – Early Christianity**

A. **Historical Background**

Gonzalez, *The Story of Christianity*, 209-260 (51 pp)  
= 51 pages

B. **Historical Background**

Noll, *Turning Points*, 59-76 (17 pp)  

**Primary Sources**

John Chrysostom, *Homily: To those who had not attended the assembly*, (9 pp)  
____________, *Homily: On the Passage “Father if it be possible let this cup pass from me”,* (6 pp)  
Bettenson and Maunder, *Documents of the Christian Church*, 57-65, 74-85 (19 pp)  
= 51 pages

**Exam 1: Fri 6:00am – Sat 9:00pm**

**Week 6 - Medieval Christianity**

A. **Historical Background**

Gonzalez, *The Story of Christianity*, 263-326 (63 pp)  
= 63 pages

B. **Historical Background**

Noll, *Turning Points*, 77-120 (43 pp)  

**Primary Sources**

Bettenson and Maunder, *Documents of the Christian Church*, 107-109 (2 pp)  
= 47 pages

**Week 7 – Medieval Christianity**

A. **Historical Background**

Gonzalez, *The Story of Christianity* 327-386 (59 pp)  
= 59 pages

B. **Historical Background**

Tucker and Liefeld, 129-148 (19 pp)
Primary Sources: Monasticism
Bettenson and Maunder, 127-145 (18 pp)
= 37 pages

Week 8 – Medieval Christianity
A. Historical Background
Gonzalez, The Story of Christianity, 387-432 (45 pp)
= 45 pages
B. Historical Background
Noll, Turning Points, 121-142 (21 pp)
Tucker and Liefeld, 148-170 (22 pp)
Primary Source: Mysticism
Julian of Norwich, Revelations of Divine Love, First Revelation, Chapters IV-IX (12 pp)
= 55 pages

Week 9 – Medieval Christianity
A. Historical Background
Primary Source:
Thomas Aquinus, Summa Theologica, Third Part: Treatise on The Sacraments: On Eucharist, Questions 73-77 (approx. 38 pp)
= 50 pages
B. Primary Source
Thomas Aquinus, Summa Theologica, Third Part: Treatise on The Sacraments: On Eucharist, Questions 78-80, 82-83 (approx. 42 pp)
= 42 pages

Week 10 – Medieval Christianity
A. Historical Background
Gonzalez, The Story of Christianity, 447-490 (43 pp)
= 43 pages
B. Primary Source
Erasmus, Praise of Folly, 209 (“The divines present..)–242 (20 pp, pictures excluded)
John Wycliffe, Tracts and Treatises, Section 2: Lord’s Supper, 134-155 (21 pp)
Bettenson and Maunder, 191-201 (10 pp)
= 51 pages

Exam 2: Fri 6:00am – Sat 9:00pm
Paper Due – Sat 9:00 pm
COURSE EVALUATION

*Master students:*
30% Class Participation (Quality of Online Posts)
35% Paper
35% Exams

GRADING SCALE

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COURSE EVALUATION IN MOODLE

Students must complete an online course evaluation using the seminary Moodle system at [http://moodle.seminary.edu](http://moodle.seminary.edu) in order to receive a final grade for the course. The evaluation will be open for one week starting the last day of the term. If you need assistance connecting to the evaluation email moodlehelp@seminary.edu.