Course Description
This course is an introduction to the history of early and medieval Christianity, exploring the environment, movements and significant personalities in the development of the Christian Church. It is hoped that this course will promote a faithful love for and personal engagement with today’s Church through developing a familiarity with the issues and practices of the early and medieval Church.

Goals:
- To help students appreciate the history of the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church of which they are a part.
- To acquaint students with major events and personalities in early and medieval Christianity.
- To help students understand the organic development of the church as a result of the interaction of church and culture as well as intra-church movements.
- To encourage students to appreciate and critique their own traditions, beliefs, and practices in light of the experiences, errors and wisdom of the early and medieval church, and allow the past to question and inform our present.

Required Reading:


Course Requirements for Master of Divinity or MA Students:
- Class Attendance and Participation – 20% of grade
- On-Line Quizzes on Reading Assignments – 20%
  The course schedule includes ten on-line quizzes – one each week. These quizzes will be administered by Moodle. They are designed solely for the purpose of encouraging students to complete a thorough reading of their assignments. They are open book but timed. Each quiz must be completed by the beginning of each class.
- Six Writing Assignments – Write six 750 – 1200 word blogs or newsletter articles on six subjects noted in the course schedule below. They shall be written for your congregation. Each assignment is weighted at 10% of your course grade. The due dates are posted on the “Course Schedule.” They shall be submitted through Turnitin on the course Moodle site.
Writing Assignments & Lesson Plans: Here is the rubric by which written assignments are graded:

**Focus:** Is the writing unified around a central, significant idea?

**Argument:** Given the audience, are the arguments persuasive?

**Clarity:** Is the writing clearly organized? Is the central idea or thesis developed with clear progression?

**Contents:** Are the ideas of others correctly understood or superficially engaged?

**Style:** Do grammar, sentence structure, paragraphing, and transitions contribute to the clarity of the writing?

Reading Schedule:

- **Week 1**
  - Gonzalez Chapters 1-7
  - Tucker Chapter 1
  - Read the *Didache*

- **Week 2**
  - Gonzalez Chapters 8-12
  - Tucker Chapter 2
  - Read “The Martyrdom of Polycarp”

- **Week 3**
  - Gonzalez Chapters 13-16
  - Tucker Chapter 4
  - Article on “Where did the Bible Come From?”

- **Week 4**
  - Gonzalez Chapters 17-20
  - Tucker Chapter 3
  - Article on Athanasius

- **Week 5**
  - Gonzalez Chapters 21-23
  - Tucker Chapter 5
  - Article on “Did the Apostles Write a Creed?”

- **Week 6**
  - Gonzalez Chapters 24-26
  - Tucker Chapter 6
  - Article on Augustine – Pelagius Debate

- **Week 7**
  - Gonzalez Chapters 27-29
  - Tucker Chapter 7
  - Read “The Rule of St. Benedict”

- **Week 8**
  - Gonzalez Chapters 30-32
  - Tucker Chapter 8
  - Article on the Crusades
Late Work: Students are encouraged to submit their work in a timely manner. Written assignments, but not on-line quizzes, will be accepted after their due dates but be subject to a full-grade reduction.

Policies for all Masters Classes at Northern

NOTE: All communications from the seminary will go to your seminary email account. Contact ithelpdesk@seminary.edu if you need help forwarding your seminary email address to your personal email address.

As a seminary community we hold integrity/hospitality as core values. Individuals are able to do their best work and thinking when their peers are fully present and engaged. We expect each person to both participate in class and carefully listen to others with the belief that everyone’s contribution is equally important. Therefore, the following policies have been established in order to provide clarity in regard to attendance expectations and relationships in the classroom.

Class Attendance Policy
It is expected that students will attend and participate in all class sessions. Failure to attend at least 80% of class sessions is grounds for automatic failure. A professor may set other attendance expectations. Students are always expected to communicate with a professor in advance if they will be absent. Expectations are higher for online and intensive courses (see syllabus for specific requirements).

Class Tardiness Policy
The third time a student is late to the start of class, it will be counted as a class absence. It is also expected that students will return from a break by the time specified by the professor.

Late Work Policy
If a student cannot complete the work for a course by the due date listed on the syllabus, they must submit a “Request for a Grade of Incomplete” form to the Registrar by 4:30 of the last day of the term. The form must be signed by the instructor and Dean of Students. The professor may set stipulations and grade reductions. In the absence of a formal request form, the student will receive a grade based upon work completed by the last day of the term.

Turabian Format
All research papers, including footnotes and bibliography, must be submitted in the correct format according to Kate L. Turabian, A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations, 7th ed., 2007.

Plagiarism
Plagiarism is the act of passing off as one’s own the words or ideas of someone else without providing proper acknowledgement or documentation. See the “Academic Honesty Policy” in the Seminary Catalog for more information on plagiarism and how to avoid it.
**Electronic Format**
All work submitted electronically must be in a Word document format (.doc, .docx).

**Technology Use in the Classroom**
Unless it is directly tied to note-taking or research for the class, students are expected to refrain from using cell phones, laptops, or other electronic devices during class.

**Course Evaluation in Moodle**
Students must complete an online course evaluation using the seminary Moodle system at http://moodle.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 Moodle or accessing the evaluation, please send an email to ithelpdesk@seminary.edu.

**Supplemental Reading List:**


Schaff, Philip, editor. *Creeds and Confessions of Christendom, 1876.* (available on line at [www.ccel.org](http://www.ccel.org))

Schaff, Philip. *History of the Christian Church,* 1882. (available on line at [www.ccel.org](http://www.ccel.org))


Williams, Roan. *Christian Spirituality*.
