

# CH 502: Overview of Church History II

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## I. Course Overview

This is a survey of the entire history of the church in its many branches from the Pre-Reformation to modern times. Special emphasis will be given to standard theological themes, studied in their historical context with people, places, and events, as well as the spread of the church into all lands.

## II. Purpose

Students need to have a storehouse of the facts of the church's history and need to be able to arrange those facts in terms of general principles. Jesus said that He would build His church upon the Rock; Peter's confession must lie at the root of our study of the church. Hence, the study of church history must be a study of ideas. Students must be familiar with the men, both orthodox and heretical, whose ideas shaped the church, defended it from its enemies, and brought about doctrinal and ethical development. The church both shapes the world and is shaped by it. The work of apologetics continues, and history is an important part of that work. Our mission is to take the gospel to the world; our discipline is to be diligent to be sure that what we take to the world is the truth.

## III. Procedure

- A. **Method.** Students will be expected to become familiar with the literature of Church History by researching and organizing material according to assignments. The instructor will assist in this process. At the conclusion of the course, students should have developed their own materials, which should prove valuable in their future ministerial and teaching duties.
- B. **Modules:** You have up to fifteen weeks to complete this online course. The course is divided into thirteen modules, designed to be completed in order over the course of thirteen to fourteen weeks. To see a detailed outline of the structure, click the "Modules" link on the left side of this page.
- C. **Schedule.** See the schedule below for the order of events that will be covered..
- D. **Assignment, Grades, Credit.** One assignment will be due for each module, and each of these will be given a number grade. These assignments will be averaged for a final assignment grade. A final examination over the reading will be given at the end of the course. Credit will be given as follows:

Final Assignment Grade: 80%

Final Examination Grade: 20%

## IV. Books and Reading

The following are the required course textbooks:

Latourette, Kenneth Scott, *A History of Christianity, Vol. II*, Prince Press.

Kuiper, B. K., *The Church in History*, Eerdmans, 1982.

Weekly reading quizzes will assess the extent of your completion of the weekly readings from the Kuiper text in accordance with the following schedule. Each quiz will consist of five questions taken from that week's section of the Kuiper reading questions. These questions will also form the basis for the questions included in the final exam. Each quiz will also contain a question regarding the extent to which you have completed the reading from Latourette.

Quiz	Kuiper	Latourette
Week 2	Chs. 21-22	Chs. 30-32
Week 3	Chs. 23-24	Chs. 33-35
Week 4	Chs. 25-27	Chs. 36-38
Week 5	Chs. 28-30	Chs. 39-42
Week 6	Chs. 31-32	Chs. 43-45
Week 7	Chs. 33-34	Chs. 46-48
Week 8	Chs. 35-38	Chs. 49-51
Week 9	Chs. 39-40	Chs. 52-55
Week 10	Chs. 41-44	Chs. 56-58
Week 11	Chs. 45-50	Chs. 59-61

## V. Goals for Church History Students:

- **Knowledge:** To become acquainted with the facts of Church History from the events leading up to the Reformation to the Modern Age. The emphasis will be on the development and contextualization of ideas and their results in the life of the Church, the examination of those ideas in terms of the Reformed Faith, and the raising of theological and doctrinal questions as preparation for further studies in Systematic and Biblical Theology.
- **Skills:** To be able to teach, illustrate, and explain the main themes of Church History; to interpret orthodox doctrines in the light of their historical development, and to refute all heresies, innovations, and novelties that are fashioned by Satan and the imaginations of men.
- **Character:** To strengthen joy because of God's care and preservation of the Church; to learn faithfulness from the examples of faithful men and women; to encourage love and communion for all the saints in the earth; to encourage zeal for evangelism and missions; to gain wisdom and discernment for our own day in the light of the struggles and trials of the Church in history.

## VI. Course Topics

1. Scholasticism and the Decay of the Western Church
2. Pre-Reformation: Waldo; Wycliffe; Erasmus; Huss; Groote; etc.
3. Luther and Zwingli
4. Calvin
5. Reformation in England: Church and State; the Radical Reformation
6. Reformation in Holland

7. Reformation in Scotland
8. The Reformation in France
9. The Counter Reformation
10. English Non-Conformity
11. The Puritan Movement
12. Liberalism in England and the Continent
13. Presbyterianism in the Isles.
14. Final Examination

## **VII. Assignments**

Module 2: Chart the life and work of Martin Luther. Your chart should include at least the following categories: Dates, Places, Significant Events. Try to find the essence of the man and his work

Module 3: Chart the life and work of John Calvin. Your chart should include at least the following categories:

Dates, Places, Significant Events. Try to find the essence of the man and his work.

Module 4: Chart the Reformation in England from Wycliffe to William and Mary. Your chart should include at least the following categories: Dates, Rulers, Reformers, Significant Events. Try to discover how the Reformation changed England socially, economically, politically.

Module 5: Chart: The Reformation in Holland. Dates, Places, Significant Events.

Module 6: Chart: The Reformation in Scotland. Knox; Mary Queen of Scots, etc. Dates, Places, Significant Events.

Module 7: Chart: The Reformation in France. Huguenots Dates, Places, Significant Events.

Module 8: Chart: The Reaction: Dissent from the Reformation: Counter—Reformation; Arminius; Pietism; Sub—chart: Modern Catholic Councils.

Module 9: Chart: English Non—Conformists: Congregationalism; Baptists; Methodism; Quakers. What effect did these movements have on the church?

Module 10: Chart: The English Puritans. Your chart should include the rise of puritans, the issues and the Commonwealth and Restoration. Dates, Places, Significant Events.

Module 11: Chart: Liberalism: Socinianism; Deism; Unitarianism; German Liberalism. This chart is of major importance to the understanding of modern Protestantism, and the present debate over inerrancy.

Module 12: Chart: Presbyterianism. Give special emphasis to the origin and development of Presbyterianism in Scotland and its influence on the Westminster Assembly. Follow side trails if you like.

Module 13: Term Project in Missions due.

## VIII. Term Project

This is to be a chart of Protestant and Catholic Missions from the Reformation to the present. The creation of the chart must involve at least ten hours of outside reading. Categories should include:

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Organizations</u>	<u>Nations (Sponsors)</u>	<u>Mission Fields</u>	<u>Results</u>
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Mission organizations and activities to consider in the framing of your mission chart for the semester project.

- Jesuit Missions
- Propaganda
- Moravian Missions
- Society for the Promoting Christian Knowledge. (SPCK)
- Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts. (S. P. G.)
- Baptist Missionary Society
- London Missionary Society (LMS)
- Church Missionary Society (CMS)
- British and Foreign Bible Society
- American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions
- Basle Mission
- American Bible Society
- China Inland Mission (C.I.M.)
- Salvation Army
- Edinburgh World Missionary Conference
- United Bible Society
- Gideons
- Christian and Missionary Alliance
- Evangelism Explosion

Missionary activity is so volatile in the last centuries that it is very difficult to get an overview of it. All the denominations are missionary active, some more than others; and every Christian does some mission work. Through the activities and witness of millions of informal encounters, as well as the formal organization and strategy of the large societies and organizations, the gospel continues its march through the world. The organizations listed above are just a small part of world mission efforts since the Reformation. But they should get you started. We have a lot of mission books. Your dictionary may not provide adequate information on American missionary societies, but there should be plenty of information.