

NEW GENEVA THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

CH 502 – Church History II

Meeting at Skyview Presbyterian Church

Centennial, Colorado

Instructor: Dr. Dominic Aquila

September 9-13, 2024

Course Description

Development of Christianity from the beginning of the sixteenth century including the achievements of the Reformers, the contributions of classical Protestant denominations; the "Enlightenment"; awakenings and revivals; the Wesleyan movement; nineteenth century missionary expansion, and current theological trends.

Course Objective

- A. To acquaint the student with the major personalities, the schools of thought, and the political, social and cultural trends which characterized the period of our study.
- B. To widen the student's comprehension of the historian's role as a creative and discerning thinker.
- C. To increase the student's understanding of past discussions about pivotal doctrines of the Christian church.
- D. To expand the student's awareness of the lives of men and women of the past who "knew" God through Jesus Christ.

Course Text

Shelley, Bruce L. *Church History in Plain Language* (Thomas Nelson).

Suggested Reading:

Bainton, Roland. *Here I Stand. A Life of Martin Luther*

Bainton, Roland. *The Reformation of the Sixteenth Century*

Bettenson's *Documents* (pp. 173-335)

Dowley, Time. (ed.) *Eerdman's Handbook to the History of Christianity* (pp. 360-640)

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

McNeill, John T. *The History and Character of Calvinism*

Woodbridge, John, ed. *Great Leaders of the Christian Church* (pp. 187-371)

Classes Will Meet

September 9-13, 2024

By Zoom 6:00 PM—9:00 PM (MDT)

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Course Requirements

- A. The careful reading of the assigned text (Read Chapters 23-41).
- B. Assignments
 - 1. There will be the preparation of a number of theme papers on people, events or movements with special emphasis on their impact on church life and ministry today.

2. Theme Papers:
 - a. Read summaries of the life of Martin Luther during his time in the monastery in Wittenberg and his time before the Diet of Worms in 1521. Write a 4-5 page summary of this period with some observations. Due September 11, 2024.
 - b. Read summaries of the life of John Calvin from his conversion to the beginning of his ministry in Geneva. Write a 4-5 page summary of this period with some observations. Due September 13, 2024.
 - c. Read summaries of the period during the reign of King Edward VI of England (1547-1552). Who was Thomas Cranmer and what were two of the documents he authored that helped establish the English Reformation and the Anglican Church? Write a 4-5 page summary of this period with some observations. Due September 18, 2024.
 - d. Review the circumstances surrounding the calling of the Synod of Dort and detail some of the outcomes. Write a 4-5 page summary of this period with some observations. Due September 20, 2024.
 - e. Read summaries of the call for and main outcomes of the Westminster Assembly (1643-1648). Write a 4-5 page summary of this period with some observations. Due September 25, 2024.

C. There will be one test for this course.

Course Outline (Subject to change)

1. Wyclif and Hus: Pre-Reformers, Nationalists, or What?
2. The Northern Renaissance and Erasmus of Rotterdam
3. The Reformation: Why did it occur?
4. Martin Luther --The reluctant monk turned reformer
5. John Calvin: The humanist turned reformer
6. Huldrych Zwingli: The humanist reformer
7. The English Reformation until 1559
8. The "Catholic Reformation" or Counter Reformation
9. The rise of Classical Protestant Orthodoxy.
10. Protestantism in France until 1598: Humanism and Huguenots
11. German Pietism: Spener and Company
12. The Rise of English Puritanism: From Cartwright to Cromwell
13. The Scientific Revolution: Its impact on European thought
14. English Deism and Revivalism in the 18th Century
15. Jansenism, Pascal, and the Jesuits
16. Introduction to 18th Century French Intellectual History
17. Europe Turns a Corner: The French Revolution and the Church.
18. Europe Turns Another Corner: Kant's Thoughts
19. Nineteenth Century Liberalism: Harnack and Friends
20. Science Challenges Theology: Positivism, Darwinism...
21. Nineteenth Century Liberalism: Schleiermacher and Friends
22. The Roman Catholic Church: Reactionary Reflex and Reflective Reform
23. A New Ideology is Born: Marxism (Hegel and Marx)