



CH502 – Church History: The Second Millennium

Short Syllabus

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Course description

This course surveys the Western Church from the time of the first Crusade (1095) down to today's latest renewal movements. "The Church reformed must always reform itself" is a central theme. It addresses the Western (Roman) Church at the height of its power, the crisis that triggered the Reformation and the "great ideas" of Luther and Calvin. Then come the challenges of the Enlightenment, the rise of science, pivotal American experiences and today's challenges. Culture, theology, and grass-roots spirituality dynamically interact in this broad overview showing the Holy Spirit leading his people through the many ups and downs.

Estimated workload: For a student to do well in this course, the student will need to invest a total of 150 hours, or about 12 hours per week of reading, participating on the website, and writing papers.

Required textbooks

Three texts will be needed. Please obtain these books before the course begins. To find the lowest prices, you may find it helpful to use www.bookfinder.com.

Spickard, Paul R. and Kevin M. Cragg. *A Global History of Christians*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1994. ISBN [0-8010-2249-5](https://www.isbn-international.org/product/0-8010-2249-5) (approx. \$6 used to \$21 new).

Bass, Diana Butler. *A People's History of Christianity: The Other Side of the Story*. New York: Harper One, 2009. ISBN 978-0-06-144871-3. \$15.

Jenkins, Philip. *The Lost History of Christianity: The Thousand-Year Golden Age of the Church in the Middle East, Africa and Asia and How It Died*. New York: HarperOne, 2008. ISBN 978-0-06-147281-7. \$12. (Note: If you read Jenkins for CH501, we'll have to discuss a substitute.)

You will also need a fourth book for a book review; you can choose one of the ones below:

Cahill, Thomas. *Heretics and Heroes: How Renaissance Artists and Reformation Priests Created Our World*. New York: Anchor Books, 2013. ISBN 978-0385-49558-5. \$17. [Culture study of how the church interacted with art and civilization after the Middle Ages].

Gregory, Brad S. *Rebel in the Ranks: Martin Luther, the Reformation, and the Conflicts That Continue to Shape Our World*. New York: HarperCollins, 2017. ISBN 978-06-247118-5. \$18. [The unintended consequences of the Reformation on our own time—very readable profile of Luther's theology].

Kimball, Dan. *They Like Jesus But Not The Church: Insights from emerging generations*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2006. ISBN 978-0-310-24590-2. \$18.99. [Strategies for answering pertinent complaints against the church].

McGrath, Alister. *Christianity's Dangerous Idea: The Protestant Revolution* (to page 196). San Francisco: HarperOne, 2007. ISBN 9780060822132. [Interesting and readable, reinforces course concepts]

Menocal, Maria Rose. *Ornament of the World: How Muslims, Jews and Christians Created a Culture of Tolerance in Medieval Spain*. Boston: Little, Brown & Company, 2002. ISBN 0-316-56688-8. [Encouraging in our times.]

Nicolson, Adam. *God's Secretaries: The Making of the King James Bible*. HarperPerennial, 2005. ISBN-10:0-06-083873-6. [An inspiring case history of how God works through politics]

Noll, Mark. *God and Race in American Politics*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2008. ISBN 978-0-691-14629-4 [A leading American historian addresses a timeless subject]

Schaeffer, Francis. *How Should We Then Live: The Rise and Decline of Western Thought and Culture*. Old Tappan, N.J. Fleming H. Revell Company, 1976. ISBN 0-1152-2513882-1. [Culture history from a respected evangelical philosopher in a tumultuous decade]. Used books should be available.

Shapiro, Ben. *The Right Side of History: How Reason and Moral Purpose Made the West Great*. New York: Broadside, 2019. \$18. ISBN: 0062857908. [Like Schaeffer, exploring the impact of the church on Judeo-Christian culture]

Torrance, Thomas F. *Theological and Natural Science*. Eugene: Wipf & Stock, 2002. ISBN 9781579107901. [The “scientific theologian” shows how the new physics of Einstein and Bohr is congenial with biblical concepts.]

Requirements and assignments

Quiz #1: Covers weeks 1-3 and readings in the assigned texts; **open book** (may be taken with all notes and books open); to be completed during week 3: 10 percent of the final grade.

Forum Discussions (five, worth 10 percent of the final grade)

Book Report #1 (five pages on Jenkins, due during week seven): 20 percent.

Final Exam (proctored; non-cumulative; **open book**; three- to four-page reflection essay and 25 multiple-choice questions, to be completed in the same time period, during week 11): worth 40 percent (15 + 25)

Book Report #2 (five pages, due at the end of week 12): 20 percent

For a guide to formatting your papers, see “How to Format a GCS Paper,” posted at <https://learn.gcs.edu/mod/book/view.php?id=5854>.