

**301.515 History of Christianity: Early Church to Reformation
Course Assessment and Delivery Outline**

NQF: Level 5
Credit Value: 15

Centre for Distance Learning/BTC
Tutor: Graham O'Brien

Semester 1, 2015

CONTENT OVERVIEW

1. Introduction to Church History: Reasons & Methods

Section A: The Early Church

2. Major Development: The Early Expansion of Christianity
Character Focus: Justin Martyr (is also persecution)
3. Major Development: Challenges to the Faith: Heresies & Persecutions
Character Focus: Irenaeus
4. Major Development: Defining the faith 1: Heresies and persecution; Defining the Faith 2: Controversies and Councils.
Character Focus: Athanasius, Basil, Gregory, Gregory, Augustine
5. Major Development: Christianity in a Collapsing Society: The Rise of Monasticism
Character Focus: Benedict, Catherine of Siena.

Section B: The Church as Christendom

6. Major Development: The Conversion of Europe
Character Focus: Charlemagne
7. Major Development: The Church in the East & the Crusades
Character Focus: John of Damascus
8. Major Development: Christian Expansion in Asia, Africa and Latin America.
Character Focus: Bartolomé de las Casas (Latin America); Frumentius (Ethiopia); Alopen (China)
9. Major Development: Medieval Christendom: The Papacy, Mystics and Scholastics
Character Focus: Anselm, Thomas Aquinas
10. Major Development: Christendom Challenged
Character Focus: Jan Hus, John Wycliffe

Section C: The Church Reformed

11. Major Development: Reformation in Germany and Switzerland
Character Focus: Martin Luther, Ulrich Zwingli
12. Major Development: Reformation in Geneva

Character Focus: John Calvin

ASSESSMENT TASKS AND DUE DATES

Character Sketch

Learning Outcomes: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
Due Dates: Sunday end of week 4, 11.55pm
Percentage Weighting: 20%
Word Count: 1000 words each

Choose one of the patristic fathers of the church and write a 1000 word character sketch setting them in historical context and giving primary focus to his significance for the history of Christianity.

Ignatius of Antioch (AD 35-110)

Polycarp of Smyrna (AD 69-155)

Justin Martyr (AD 100-165)

Tertullian (AD160 - 225)

Clement of Alexandria (AD 150-215)

Origen (Alexandria, AD 185-254)

Athanasius (AD ca. 296-298 –373)

Basil of Caesarea (AD 330-379)

Gregory of Nyssa (AD 335-394)

Gregory of Nazianzus (AD 330-390)

Cyril of Alexandria (AD 376 – 444)

Augustine of Hippo (AD 354-430)

John Chrysostom (AD 347– AD 407)

Figures will be chosen on a first in first served basis – no duplication in tutorial. In the lesson following the due date, students will give a 5min presentation.

Instructions

This is not intended to be a potted biography. Briefly deal with such matters in the first in the first paragraph (or even in the first footnote). But biographical details are generally irrelevant. Put your energy and words into identifying and discussing the contributions and significance of the person you have chosen.

Use a minimum of five *published* sources, including at least three books on the bibliography. Sources should include relevant sections of several general books (such as Noll, Gonzales, Woodbridge), dictionary articles (especially from Douglas), and maybe one or two

biographies (if they exist on your chosen individual). If you can, find something published from your chosen individual. As a source for this exercise, "Wikipedia" **alone** does not count. Nor do student notes.

You must use footnotes (mainly to acknowledge quotes or material from published sources) and you must provide a bibliography. You must do so in the correct form (they are different for each), and must do so carefully (slapdash entries suggest to the marker that the whole assignment is rushed and careless). The correct forms are given in the Academic Handbook, available on the website.

Timeline

<i>Learning Outcomes:</i>	1, 5
<i>Due Dates:</i>	Sunday end of semester week 12. 11.55pm
<i>Percentage Weighting:</i>	10%
<i>Word Count:</i>	N/A
<i>Expected Sources</i>	<i>You do not need to included a list of your sources</i>

Create a timeline of the major events and people of the time period covered by the course. Include major events in general world history in your timeline (or in a separate, parallel timeline) to provide context for what was happening in the church.

Essay

<i>Learning Outcomes:</i>	1, 5, 6
<i>Due Dates:</i>	Sunday end of semester week 8, 11.55 pm
<i>Percentage Weighting:</i>	30%
<i>Word Count:</i>	1500 words

Choose one of the following topics:
[please note that you cannot re-use the topic in the exam]

- Identify and discuss some *specific reasons* why the early church survived and flourished in the first three centuries from Christ.
- Discuss the following statement: The overall benefits Constantine brought to the Church far outweigh any possible liabilities both to the church in his day and throughout the history of Christianity that has followed.
- Explain two heresies discussed in this course and *evaluate* how the church dealt with them.
- Evaluate the role either early or Medieval monasticism played in the church. You may wish to consider the following questions: How did they relate to the rest of the church community? Were there benefits to the church? Did they detract from the church? Would the church have survived without them?

Exam

<i>Learning Outcomes:</i>	1, 2
<i>Due Dates:</i>	Exam Week
<i>Percentage Weighting:</i>	40%
<i>Time:</i>	2.5 hours

The exam will include a mixture of short answer and essay questions. Further detail on the structure of the exam will be provided by your tutor at a later date.

CRITERIA FOR ASSESSMENT

Character Sketch

- Character related to his/her wider historical context
- Key Contributions identified and appraised
- Depth of understanding.
- Application for today
- Communication & Presentation: clarity, format, spelling, grammar, Referencing & bibliography

Timeline

- Clearly presented
- Coverage of key topics and people from church history
- Puts historical church events in the context of the wider world

Essay

- Breadth of research and utilisation of appropriate resources
- Clarity of understanding and depth of critical analysis
- Awareness of the historical setting and the interaction of various factors that shaped the church
- Coherence, development and presentation of argument
- Communication and Presentation: Clarity, format, spelling, grammar, footnotes and bibliography.

Exam

- Answers directed to the question
- Coverage of main points
- Depth of treatment
- Critical judgment
- Coherence and presentation

LEARNING HOURS

301.515 is a 15 credit course consisting of 150 learning hours. The assignment tasks and learning hours are as follows:

Tutorials and preparation	55 hours
Character Sketch	15 hours
Timeline	10 hours
Essay	30 hours
Exam study	40 hours
Total	150 hours

Although this guideline regarding learning hours is not intended to be applied rigidly, it should help ensure a balanced workload.

TEXTBOOKS

Gonzalez, Justo L. *The Story of Christianity: The Early Church to the dawn of the Reformation*. Volume 1, 2nd ed. New York: Harper Collins, 2010.

Noll, Mark A. *Turning Points. Decisive Moments in the History of Christianity*, 2nd ed. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2000.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Further resources on particular topics may also be listed in the Learning Guide.

Reference

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Walton, R.C. *Chronological and Background Charts of Church History*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2005.

General

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Early Church

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Reformation

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