

LIDLAW COLLEGE
Te Wananga Amorangi

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

Campus: Auckland
Lecturer: Dr Stuart Lange

Semester 1, 2015
NQF Level 5, 15 credits

CONTENT OVERVIEW

A survey of major developments in the history of Christianity from the Early Church through to the early phases of the Reformation.

Section A: The Early Church

- (1) The spread of Christianity, both within and beyond the Roman Empire (*Justin Martyr, Tertullian*)
- (2) The challenge of other religions and ideologies, including Gnosticism and Graeco-Roman philosophy (*Irenaeus, Origen*)
- (3) Caesar: Enemy or friend? Church-State relations to 337 (*Constantine*)
- (4) Wrestling with the faith: the Arian controversy (*Athanasius*)
- (5) Christianity in a collapsing society. The rise of monasticism (*Augustine, Gregory*)

Section B: The Church as Christendom

- (6) The conversion of Europe 600-900 (*Boniface, Charlemagne*)
- (7) The Eastern churches: Byzantium and Orthodoxy; churches of the Middle East and Asia; Islam and the Crusades.
- (8) Medieval Christendom: Papal authority (*Innocent III*), the Western church in the 13th and 14th centuries, monastic reform (*Bernard of Clairvaux, Francis of Assisi*), scholasticism. (*Anselm, Aquinas*)
- (9) Christendom challenged: Heretical sects, mysticism, Reformation precursors, Renaissance (*Wyclif, Hus, Erasmus.*)

Section C: The Church Reformed

- (10) Reformation in Germany, 1517-1546 (*Martin Luther*)
- (11) Reformation in Geneva, 1536-1564 (*John Calvin*)

| Assessment | Word count | % Final Grade | Due Date |
|------------------|------------|---------------|--------------|
| Character Sketch | 750 | 15% | 21 August |
| Essay | 2500 | 25% | 25 September |

| | | | |
|-------------------|------|-----|------------|
| Short answer test | 1500 | 10% | 28 October |
| Exam (2.5 hours) | | 50% | TBA |

COURSE SCHEDULE

| Week/Date | Topic | Assessment Task |
|------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1 | Course introduction, Topic 1 | |
| 2 | Topic 1 (continued) | |
| 3 | Topic 2, 3 | |
| 4 | Topic 3 (continued) | |
| 5 | Topic 4 | |
| | INTENSIVE WEEK | Character sketch due |
| 6 | Topic 5 | |
| 7 | Topic 6 | |
| 8 | Topic 7 | |
| 9 | Topic 8 | |
| | MID-TERM BREAK | |
| 10 | Topic 9 | Essay due |
| 11 | Topic 10 | |
| 12 | Topic 11, Course summary | Short-answer test |
| Study and Examinations | | |

ASSESSMENT TASKS AND DUE DATES

(1) Character Sketch

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Length: | 750 words |
| Learning outcomes: | (b)-(f) |
| Percentage weighting: | 15% |
| Due date: | 11.59pm, 21 August |

Assessment task: write a 750 word appraisal of the significance to the history of Christianity of any of the individuals whose names are italicised on in the course outline (note carefully the detailed instructions as posted on Moodle).

Criteria for character sketch (all criteria are important, but the most important are highlighted):

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | Use of an appropriate range of quality sources |
| 2 | Absence of unnecessary and irrelevant biographical detail |
| 3 | Character related to his/her wider historical context |
| 4 | Key contributions identified and appropriately appraised |
| 5 | Critical judgement and depth of understanding of relevant concepts and issues |
| 6 | Coherent organisation of material, logical development |
| 7 | Writing skills – clarity, style, grammar, spelling |
| 8 | Technical apparatus – footnotes, bibliography |

(2) Essay

Length: 1500 words
 Learning outcomes: (b)-(f)
 Percentage weighting: 25%
 Due date: 11.59pm, 25 September

Assessment task: write a 1500 word essay on one of the questions as posted on Moodle (note carefully the detailed instructions as posted on Moodle).

Criteria for essay:

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | Use of an appropriate range of quality sources |
| 2 | Coherent organisation of material, logical development |
| 3 | Critical judgment, understanding of the relevant concepts and issues, depth of reflection and treatment |
| 4 | Writing skills – clarity, style, grammar, spelling |
| 5 | Technical apparatus – footnotes, bibliography |

(3) Short-answer Test. Learning outcomes (b) to (f). The test is intended to encourage a review of the whole course as part of preparing for the exam. It will contain 20 questions requiring answers of one or two words, on important names and terms, and a few basic key dates. Questions will be drawn from the Content Overview and class handouts. The test will be held at the beginning of the three final lectures, on 28 October. (It is not essential to pass this test to pass the course, but doing so will contribute to the overall course grade).

(3) Examination (two and a half hours).

Learning outcomes (a)-(c), and (e).

Candidates will need to answer FOUR questions: TWO from Section A and ONE from each of Sections B and C. Questions will be set on about eight of the eleven topic areas in the Subject Outline. Students are strongly advised to study previous examination papers, both early in the Semester and then closer to the exam, so as to get an idea of the sort of questions often asked.

Criteria for exam:

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | Question understood, and directed to the question |
| 2 | Coverage of main points in each |
| 3 | Depth of understanding and reflection |
| 4 | Coherent organisation, logical development |
| 5 | Clarity of expression |

LEARNING HOURS

Class time 36 hours
 Reading for classes 36 hours

| | |
|------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Self-directed learning | 40 hours |
| Assessment #1 | 15 hours |
| Assessment #2 | 25 hours |
| Assessment #3 | 10 hours |
| Total | 150 learning hours (15 credits) |

NOTES

(1) Lectures and study

This is a survey course: to build up a good overview, students should take notes in lectures (annotating or supplementing class hand-outs), and take brief but careful notes from relevant sections of key texts, both before and after each topic is covered in class. It is not necessary to know *every* topic in detail.

(2) Citation

- In assignments you must acknowledge all material you use or quote, with footnotes, and provide a bibliography listing sources you have consulted.
- Footnotes and bibliographies must follow the set out in the Academic Handbook and posted on Moodle (*see "Guidelines for Written Assignments", under "Study Help"*).
- Note the College policies on academic honesty/plagiarism. Plagiarism is copying a passage from books or other sources and passing it off as your own. Plagiarism is defined as more than four consecutive words from an unacknowledged source. When detected, it will result in a fail grade.

(3) Assignment due dates

Note the College's policies on late submissions and extensions. Last-minute and late assignments are generally done poorly. Grades are deducted for lateness. Very late assignments can mean you fail the whole course.

(4) Successful course completion

To pass this course, students must attend at least 80% of lectures, complete all pieces of work (submitted by the due date or with an extension authorised by Ed Services), and in all assignments achieve at least a D and an overall course grade of at least C-.

KEY TEXTS (*For each topic, consult the Reality articles and least one other*)

Gonzales, Justo L. *The Story of Christianity, Vol. I: The Early Church to the Dawn of the Reformation*. New York, Harper Collins, 2010.

Gonzales, Justo L. *The Story of Christianity, Vol. II: The Reformation to the Present Day*. New York, Harper Collins, 2010.

Hill, Jonathan. *The New Lion Handbook: The History of Christianity*, 2nd ed. Oxford: Lion Hudson, 2007.

Lange, Stuart M. "Between the Bible and Now", *Reality*, 1999-2005 (An extensive series of articles which relate closely to this course, and which are available on Moodle)

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

SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY (Additional recommended or required readings are listed on Moodle or may be mentioned in class)

(a) **General**

Backhouse, Stephen. *The Compact Guide to Christian History*. Oxford: Lion Hudson, 2011.

Dowley, Tim. *The History of Christianity*. Rev. ed. Oxford: Lion, 1990.

Ferguson, Everett. *Church History Volume 1. From Christ to Pre-Reformation. The Rise and Growth of the Church in Its Cultural, Intellectual, and Political Context*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2005.

Gonzalez, J.L. *A History of Christian Thought*. Vols.1-2. Nashville: Abingdon, 1987.

Klauber, Martin and Manetsch, Scott (eds). *The Great Commission: The History of World Missions*. Nashville: Broadman and Homan, 2008.

MacCulloch, Diarmaid. *A History of Christianity: The First Three Thousand Years*. London: Allen Lane, 2009.

Mullin, Robert. *A Short History of World Christianity*. Louisville: Westminster, John Knox, 2008.

Norris, Frederick W. *Christianity: A Short Global History*. Oxford: One World Publications, 2002.

Woodbridge, John D. *Great Leaders of the Christian Church*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1988.

(b) **Early Church**

Davidson, Ivor. *The Birth of the Church: From Jesus to Constantine AD 30-312*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2004.

Davidson, Ivor. *A Public Faith: From Constantine to the Medieval World, A.D. 312-600*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2005.

Ferguson, E., ed. *Encyclopaedia of Early Christianity*. New York: Garland, 1990.

Guy, Laurence David. *Introducing Early Christianity: A Topical Survey of its Life, Beliefs, and Practices*. Downer's Grove: InterVarsity, 2004.

Hall, Stuart. *Doctrine and Practice in the Early Church*. SPCK, 1991.

Hinson, E. Glenn. *The Early Church*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1996.

(c) **Medieval**

Bossy, John. *Christianity in the West, 1400-1700*. New York: OUP, 1985.

Brown, Peter. *The Rise of Western Christendom: Triumph and Diversity, 200-1000*. Cambridge: Blackwell, 1995.

Fletcher, Richard. *The Conversion of Europe, 371-1386*. London: Fontana, 1997.

Holmes, George, ed. *The Oxford Illustrated History of Medieval Europe*. Oxford: OUP, 1988.

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: Harper-Collins, 2008.

Lynch, Joseph. *The Medieval Church: A Brief History*. Longmans, 1992.

Volz, Carl A. *The Church of the Middle Ages*. St. Louis:Concordia, 1990.

Wessels, Antonie. *Europe: Was it ever really Christian?* London: SCM, 1994.

(d) Reformation

Bainton, R. *Here I stand*. Sutherland: Albatross, 1987.

Bossy, John. *Christianity in the West, 1400-1700*. New York: OUP, 1985.

Bouwsma, W.J. *John Calvin*. New York: Oxford University, 1989.

Cameron, Euan. *The European Reformation*. Oxford/New York: Clarendon/OUP, 1991.

Lindberg, Carter. *The European Reformations*. Oxford: Blackwell, 1996.

Lindberg, Carter, ed. *European Reformation Sourcebook*. Oxford: Blackwell, 2000.

McGrath, A. E. *A life of John Calvin*. Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA: Blackwell, 1990.

McGrath, Alister E. *Reformation Thought: An Introduction*, 3rd ed. Oxford: Basil Blackwell, 1999.

Pearse, Meic. *The Great Restoration: The Religious Radicals of the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries*. Carlisle: Paternoster, 1998.

Steinmetz, David C. *Calvin in Context*. New York: OUP, 1995.

(e) Reference

Baillie, J., McNeill, and J.T. Van Dusen. (eds) *The Library of Christian Classics*. 26 vols. London: SCM, H.P. 1952-1966)

Douglas, J.D. (ed). *New International Dictionary of the Christian Church*. Exeter: Paternoster, 1974.

Stevenson, J. *A New Eusebius*. London: SPCK, 1987.

Stevenson, J. *Creeds, Councils, and Controversies*. London: SPCK, 2nd rev. ed., 1989.