Course Syllabus for General Church History II – CH 512

BMA Theological Seminary
Spring – 2009

Course Textbooks:


Course Objectives:

By the end of this course, the student should . . .

1. know the political, religious, and social conditions prior to the Reformation period.

2. know how the above conditions helped set the stage for the Reformation.

3. know the key religious thoughts that derived from the Reformation and the main personalities associated with them.

4. know the various sects and religious groups that developed from the Reformation.

5. know the forms that Christianity took shape in America.

6. know the key elements of revivalism, the missions movement, and fundamentalism.

7. know a basic history of Bible translation.

8. be able to appreciate church history as a necessary study in one’s theological training.
Course Assignments:

Reading:

1. The student is required to read the portion of Cairn’s book pertaining to this class (chapters 26-42; pages 267-534).

2. The student is required to read in its entirety the book by Alister McGrath pertaining to Reformation Thought (307 pages).

* The reading is assigned throughout the semester and will be reported on 3 x 5 cards and turned in prior to the class session. Failure to turn in a reading assignment on time will result in the loss of five points of the reading points.

Writing:

1. The student will prepare a 10-12 page research paper on a significant event in church history that took place any time between the Reformation and present day. The paper should contain a title page, contents page, main body of the text, and a bibliography of sources used. The paper is to be cited using footnotes below the text. The paper is to be double-spaced using Times New Roman 12 font. The student should strive for at least a full page of bibliography using various sources (monographs, journals, and primary sources). Internet sources may be used, but should not comprise more than 20% of the paper. Internet sources must be footnoted in the body of the paper and placed in the bibliography. This paper will be graded on neatness, proper form, content, research, and writing.

2. The student will choose one significant personality from the period of church history covered in class and present a biographical sketch of that individual. This sketch should include the early years, education (if any), career, significant writings or events, and how this person impacted church history. This small paper can be done in outline form. This paper should be at least 2-3 pages in length.

3. The student will write a critical book review of Alister McGrath’s book. This critical review should include strengths and weaknesses of the book; and evaluation of the author’s purpose and whether or not he accomplished that purpose; whether or not this is a valuable resource and why; and interaction with some of the contents. This review is to be double-spaced, and should be at least 2-3 pages in length.
Course Exams:

There will be two major exams given in this class: a mid-semester test, and a final exam. The final is not comprehensive.

Course Grading:

There is a total of 1,000 points that are possible to earn for this course. The point value and percentage break down of each item is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mid-semester test</td>
<td>200 pts.</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>200 pts.</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Paper</td>
<td>300 pts.</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personality Sketch</td>
<td>100 pts.</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Critical Book Review</td>
<td>100 pts.</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading / Class Participation</td>
<td>100 pts.</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1,000 pts.</td>
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BMATS Grading Scale:

- A 91-100%
- B 81-90%
- C 71-80%
- D 61-70%
- F below 61%
- I Incomplete
- WP Withdrawal while passing
- WF Withdrawal while failing

Class Meeting Time:

This class will meet once a week on Thursday nights from 6:00 to 9:00 PM. We will meet in the Cherokee Room. The first class meets on January 29th.
Course Schedule

Jan. 29 – Introduction to Course / Climate Prior to the Reformation

Feb. 5 – Setting the Stage for the Reformation / The Renaissance
  Reading Report #1: Cairns (267-277)
  McGrath (1-63)

Feb. 12 – Key Personalities and Thoughts of the Reformation
  Reading Report #2: Cairns (280-318)
  McGrath (66-99)

  Reading Report #3: Cairns (320-335)
  McGrath (101-144)

Feb. 26 – The Counter Reformation
  Reading Report #4: Cairns (337-353)
  McGrath (145-167)

Mar. 5 – The Anabaptist Movement
  Biographical Sketch Due

Mar. 12 – MID-SEMESTER TEST

Mar. 19 – Christianity Comes to America / Puritanism
  Reading Report #5: Cairns (355-371)
  McGrath (169–196)

Mar. 26 – Revivalism / Great Awakenings
  Reading Report #6: Cairns (375-416)
  McGrath (197-218)

Apr. 2 – The Missions Movement
  Reading Report #7: Cairns (418-441)
  McGrath (219-234)

Apr. 9 – Fundamentalism
  Reading Report #8: Cairns (444-457)
  McGrath (235-248)

Apr. 16 – A Survey of Bible Translations

Apr. 20-24  SPRING BREAK / BMAA NATIONAL MEETING
Apr. 30 – A Survey of Denominations

*Reading Report #9: Cairns (459-476)*
*McGrath (249-259)*

**Major Research Paper Due**

May 7 – The State of Christianity Today

*Reading Report #10: Cairns (478-534)*
*McGrath (261-277)*

May 14 – FINAL EXAM

**Critical Book Review Due**

* This course schedule is tentative and the instructor reserves the right to change it at his discretion.