Course Number: CH511  
Course Title: General Church History I  
Professor: Dr. Thom South

Course Description:
This course is a survey of Christian history from the origin of the church in New Testament times through the Medieval period. Special emphasis is given to the rise and progress of the Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox Churches and the impact of the Christian religion on western culture. Leading personalities and movements will be studied to show the progress and alteration of New Testament Christianity through the first fifteen centuries of Christian history.

Required Textbooks:

Suggested Supplemental Texts: (not required)

Course Objectives:
Upon the completion of this course the student should:
1. Be familiar with the persons and events of the first 1,500 years of Christian history;
2. Be able to discuss intelligently the theological issues of the first four general church councils;
3. Be able to articulate the development of Christian doctrines faith, and practice from Pentecost to the Reformation;
4. Be able to trace the process by which certain documents came to be regarded as authoritative and formed the biblical canon;
5. Be able to describe the monastic movement and its impact on Christianity;
6. Be able to list the prominent elements of early Christian worship;
7. Reflect upon the impact the early Christian community had upon contemporary Christianity;
8. Be able to delineate the three divisions of Christian history before the Reformation: Early Church, Catholic Church, and Medieval Church.

Course Requirements:
1. Reading -

Required Text - The “Introduction” and chapters 1-25 of Cairns and Part I - Part II, section VII of Bettenson should be read before the week of classes. The sections related to each day’s discussion should be reviewed before class each day. See the class schedule for the specific pages to be read before each class period. The student will be responsible for the material assigned for each day.

2. Exams

Two exams will be given, a mid-term and final. See the class schedule for the approximate times for the exams. The nature and content for the exams will be explained later.

3. Biography Papers

Each student is required to prepare three short (3-5 pages) papers in the form of biographical sketches. (Bachelor students will write one biographical sketch.) Each student will select one individual from each of the three categories listed below to research and write about. Form and structure will be a part of the grade, however, quality of research and presentation of the topic is more important than the form of the paper. The criteria for grading the paper is as follows:

- organization (outline, arrangement of topics) 10%;
- bibliography (number and variety of sources, format) 15%;
- format (appearance, grammar, form) 10%;
- content 55%(presentation of topic 15%, evidence of research 20%, accomplish purpose of paper 20%);
- miscellaneous (promptness to deadline, general observations) 10%.

Research papers will be due on the date that the topic of the paper will be discussed in class (see class schedule). The student will be expected to make a short oral presentation to the class to introduce the discussion of the paper’s topic at the time scheduled. Class presentations should not exceed 15 minutes.

Students should submit to the instructor via email their top three choices in order (1st, 2nd, 3rd) from each period (Early Church, Catholic Church, Medieval Church) by June 1, 2008. (You will submit a total of nine names, three choices for each of the three papers.) Each topic will be assigned only to one student and will be assigned on a “first come, first served” basis. Every effort will be made to assign each student at least one 1st choice topic. Research and organization should be completed prior to the week of class. For students not on campus, resources may be obtained for research by contacting the Kellar Library staff.

A minimum of 5 resources should be referenced for each paper and included in a bibliographical listing. Resources for the research may come from the internet, but only 2 internet sources may be used in each paper. For each internet source used, there must be at least three other sources consulted (books and/or scholarly journal articles). At least one scholarly journal article on each topic should be referenced. All sources referenced for research should be included in the “Selected Bibliography.”

Suggested topics for the biography papers are (select one from each column):

**EARLY CHURCH**
Ignatius            Irenaeus            Athanasius
Polycarp            Tertullian          Clement of Alexandria
Justin Martyr      Cyprian            Eusebius of Caesarea
Montanus            Origen            Ambrose of Milan
CATHOLIC CHURCH
Cappadocian Fathers: Basil, Gregory of Nyssa, Gregory of Nazianzus
John Chrysostum

Augustine Cyril of Alexandria Nestorius
Jerome
Benedict of Nursia

Leo I (the Great) Gregory I (the Great) Patrick
Donatus

MEDIEVAL CHURCH
Hildebrand (Gregory VII) Peter Abelard Bernard of Clairvaux Anselm
Francis of Assissi

Albertus Magnus Thomas Aquinas Peter Waldo John Wyclif

Innocent III Leo III Savonarola Jan Hus

Grading:
Grades will be determined by the two tests (20% each) and research papers (20% each: 15% for the written paper and 5% for the oral presentation).

Class Schedule
The tentative daily class schedule is from 8:30 a.m. until 6:30 p.m. with periodic breaks and a lunch break. The schedule may be adjusted to fit the material being covered, to allow for discussion of pertinent topics related to the course subject but not specifically listed in the syllabus, and for the comfort of the students and teacher.

MONDAY - Cairns chapters 1-10 and Bettenson Part I, sections I - III

Ancient Church A.D. 30-600

New Testament Church A.D. 30-100
1. The Setting of the Early Church Chapters 1-3
Jewish, Roman, and Greek influences
Jewish Diaspora

2. New Testament Christianity and expansion to the Roman Empire Chapters 4-5
Apostles and Jewish Persecution
Early Christian Writings
Apostolic Fathers: Clement of Rome, Barnabas, Papias,

3. Persecution Chapters 7
Ignatius of Antioch
Polycarp

Expansion of Christianity A.D. 100-325
4. Early Heresies Chapter 8
Gnosticism
Manicheanism
Neoplatonism
Montanism
Monarchianism
Church Divisions
Novatianists
Donatists

5. Apologists Chapter 9
Justin Martyr
gnosticism
Irenaeus
Clement of Alexandria
Origen
Tertullian
Cyprian
Novatian

6. Development of the Catholic Church  Chapters 6, 10
Constitution
Canon
Marcion
Creed
Church
Worship in the early church

TUESDAY  -  Cairns chapters 11-16; Bettenson Part I, sections IV - X

Development of Catholic Church A.D. 325-600

7. Imperial Christianity Chapter 11
Constantine
Church and state wed
Facing the Barbarians
Fall of Western Empire

8. Controversy and Creeds  Chapter 12
Arian Controversy and Council of Nicea
Arius
Athanasias
Nestorian and Pelagian Controversies
Nestorius
Pelagius

9. Christian Fathers in the Golden Age  Chapter 13
John Chrysostom
Theodore of Mopsuestia
Eusebius of Caesarea
Cappadocian Fathers: Basil, Gregory of Nyssa, Gregory of Nazianzus
Ambrose
Jerome
Augustine

10. Monasticism  Chapter 14
Anthony
Simon Stylite
Basil & Athanasius
Benedict of Nursia

11. Expansion and Outreach
Patrick in Ireland
Columba
Conversion of Clovis

12. Consolidation of Catholicism  Chapter 15
Developing papacy
Growth of Liturgy
13. The First Pope
   Innocent I
   Leo the Great
   Gregory the Great (the first real pope) Chapter 16

WEDNESDAY - Cairns chapters 17-20; Bettenson Part II, sections I-II, II (Page 110)

14. Church Councils
   Nicea (325)
   Constantinople (381)
   Ephesus (431)
   Chalcedon (451)
   Constantinople II (553)

Catholic Church  A.D. 600-1000

15. Rise of Islam  Chapter 17
   Muhammad
   Conquest of Asia
   Conquest of North Africa and Spain

16. Politics and Popes  Chapter 18
   Barbarian rulers
   Merovingian rulers
   Carolingian rulers
   Charles Martel
   Charlemagne
   Otto the Great

   Church and the Empire/ Pope and Emperor: struggle for primacy

17. Eastern Church
   Iconoclastic controversy

18. Holy Roman Empire Chapter 19
   Feudalism
   European expansion
   Barbarian invasions

19. Great Schism  Chapter 20
   Renewal efforts
   Doctrine of the Mass
   Cunia reforms

   East - West division 1054

THURSDAY  Cairns chapters 21-23; Bettenson Part II Section II, III - section V

Medieval Era     A.D. 1000-1517

20. Papal Supremacy  Chapter 21
   Gregory VII (Hildebrand)
   Innocent III
   Boniface VIII

21. Crusades  Chapter 22
   First
   Second
   Third
   4th - 6th
   Children’s Crusade

22. Renewal and reform
Bernard of Clairvaux
Francis of Assisi
Dominicans
Albigenses
Peter Waldo and the Waldensians

23. Medieval Worship and Learning  Chapter 23
   Architecture
   Scholasticism
   Anselm
   Peter Abelard
   Thomas Aquinas

FRIDAY  Cairns chapters 25-26; Bettenson Part II, sections VI - VII

24. Collapse  Chapter 24
   The Plague
   “Babylonian Captivity” of the papacy
   Pre-Reformers: Wycliffe, Hus, and Savonarola

25. Renaissance  Chapter 25
   Humanism
   Mysticism
   Nation-states

26. Spain invades the New World

Miscellaneous Information
>Due date - All written assignments are due on the date assigned. Any work turned in late will be lowered a minimum of one letter grade.
>E-mail - My e-mail address is <tsouth@cbc.edu> in case you have questions or need to contact me before or after the class sessions.
>Cell phones and pagers should be turned off during class. A ringing cell phone is disruptive to the whole class.
>The student should make every effort to attend each class session. According to seminary policy, students who miss more than 1/4 of the classes, will not receive a passing grade for the course. Because of the concentration of the material, the student should take great care to attend and be on time for all class sessions.
>Discussion and questions are encouraged. Discussion is a must if everyone is to benefit from the educational experience. All students should be involved in class discussions. Efforts will be made to prevent one or two dominating the class discussion time.
>It is the task of the instructor to be prepared for each class session. He has pledged to do his best to challenge, inform and prepare the student. However, this is not a one-sided proposition. The students must pledge to do their best also. Students should come to class prepared, awake, attentive, and ready to learn. Just being in class does not qualify one to be a student
>The format for this course is such that it will be a hard week for both the students and the instructor. In order to cover the material and meet the required classroom instruction hours there must be cooperation by all involved. Breaks will be given when necessary throughout each day. If an emergency arises the student may leave the classroom. However, constant entering and leaving the classroom while the class is in session is disruptive, should not be warranted, and will not be tolerated.
>Although it will be a difficult week, it should be a rewarding week. Much information and inspiration will be attained by studying those who have served our Lord before us. I look forward
to a great week of learning.