Course Syllabus for *History of Christianity*

CH 412 – Spring 2011

A course offered at the Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary

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Course Description:

According to the current catalog (2010-12) on p. 72, this course is described as follows: “The development of Christianity is traced from its inception in the first century through twentieth-century Christianity. Special emphasis is given to the Conciliar period from 325-451, the Renaissance, the Reformation period, denominationalism, rationalism, revivalism, and the ecumenical movement.” This course is designed to trace the history of Christianity century by century placing primary emphasis on the items mentioned above.

Course Textbook:

1. The Bible

   (ISBN: 0-310-20812-2)
Course Objectives:

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

1. be able to state and appraise the prominent issues dealt with by the church during the Conciliar period.

2. be able to define what is meant by the Renaissance period and what specific issues, thoughts, and circumstances characterized this period.

3. be able to identify the major movements involved with the Reformation period and the major personalities involved.

4. be able to explain how and why major denominations developed, and to compare and contrast those major denominations.

5. be able to explain what is meant by rationalism.

6. be able to evaluate the effects of revivalism on Christianity and the various societies it impacted.

7. be able to define what is meant by ecumenicalism and identify the effects this movement has had on Christianity.
Course Requirements:

Reading:

The student is required to read the textbook (Cairns) for this course in its entirety. The student should follow the reading schedule on the course schedule. The student will be asked on the final exam as to what percentage he or she has read.

Biography:

Each student is to choose a prominent figure in Christian History and write a 5-7 page biography on that figure. The student should seek at least five sources for this project. This bibliography paper is to be double-spaced using Times New Roman 12 pt. font. A contents page is not necessary for this project.

Critical Review:

The student is required to prepare a critical review of Christianity Through the Centuries. A critical review is more than just a summary of the book. A good critical review examines the author’s thesis, and determines whether or not the author stayed true to that thesis. The student should also comment on the strengths and weaknesses of the book (pertaining to both content and format), interact with portions of the book, and make a determination of the usefulness of this resource for one’s ministry. This review should be 3-5 pages in length and double-spaced.

Research Paper:

The student is required to write a 10-12 page research paper on any major event of Christian History including the evaluation of the major impacts of that event. This paper must include a title page, table of contents, and a selected bibliography. The page count includes the body of the paper only. The paper should be typed double-spaced, using Times New Roman 12
The paper should be written according to Turabian utilizing footnotes. The student should strive for a full page of bibliographic references, including two journal articles. Internet sources can be used, but should not comprise of no more than 20% of the research.

**Late Work:**

All late work will be deducted two percentage points for everyday it is late.

**Tests:**

Two major tests will be given in conjunction with this course: A mid-semester examination and a final examination. The final is not cumulative. *These tests must be taken according to the course schedule.*

**Course Grading:**

There is a total of 1,000 pts. that may be earned for this course. Percentage points will not be rounded up. For example, if a student earns 907 points for the course, the percentage will be 90.7%, which is a “B.” The percentage breakdown and point value for the course is as follows:

- Mid-semester test: 200 pts. (20%)
- Final Exam: 200 pts. (20%)
- Research Paper: 250 pts. (25%)
- Biography Paper: 100 pts. (10%)
- Critical Book Review: 100 pts. (10%)
- Reading: 100 pts. (10%)
Attendance & Class Participation 50 pts. (5%)

BMATS Grading Scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>91-100%</td>
<td>F  below 61%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>81-90%</td>
<td>I  Incomplete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>71-80%</td>
<td>WP Withdrawal while passing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>61-70%</td>
<td>WF Withdrawal while failing</td>
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Class Attendance and Participation:

The students are to be in class for each class session. Missing class will result in a reduction in one’s overall grade. Missing more than ¼ of class sessions (4 absences constitutes more than ¼ - students can technically miss only 3 class periods), except for extenuating circumstances, can place the student at risk of failing the course. Students are allowed to use their personal computers in class for taking notes only (no internet usage is allowed during class unless allowed by the professor). Any violation of computer privileges can result in the loss of such privileges.
Course Schedule:

Jan. 27: Course Introduction

Feb. 3: 1st century Christianity (Cairns, 15-79)

Feb. 10: 2nd & 3rd century Christianity (Cairns, 80-111)

Feb. 17: 4th – 6th century Christianity (Cairns, 112-55)

Feb. 24: 7th & 8th century Christianity (Cairns, 159-83)

Mar. 3: 9th – mid 11th century Christianity (Cairns, 184-201)

Mar. 10: Mid 11th – 13th century Christianity (Cairns, 202-38)

biography paper due

Mar. 17: 14th & 15th century Christianity (Cairns, 239-63)

Mar. 24: MID-SEMESTER EXAM

Mar. 31: 16th – mid 17th century Christianity (Cairns, 267-307)

Apr. 7: 16th – mid 17th century Christianity, cont. (Cairns 308-54)
Apr. 14: SPRING BREAK

Apr. 21: Mid 17th – 18th century Christianity (Cairns, 355-91)

Research Paper Due

Apr. 28: 19th century Christianity (Cairns, 392-443)

May 5: 20th century Christianity (Cairns, 444-534) – Critical Book Review due

May 12: FINAL EXAM

* The professor reserves the right to make changes to this syllabus or course schedule at his discretion.

* This class will meet on Thursday mornings from 8-12 in the Mt. Olive room. This class will dismiss for chapel at 9:45 AM, and will resume after chapel at 11:10 AM.

Course Syllabus Contract
I have carefully read through the syllabus for this course. I fully comprehend what is expected of me as a student in this course.

I have duly noted the due dates on the course schedule and agree that I will turn in all assignments on time.

If I am late for any assignments, I understand that they will be deducted 2 percentage points for every day they are late.

I understand that the tests must be taken on the dates they are scheduled.

I understand the 1,000 point grading scale for this course, and further understand that percentage points will not be rounded up.

I understand that attending class is vital to my seminary education, and that missing class will result in points deducted from my class attendance and participation grade. I further understand that three tardies is equal to one absence according to the BMATS catalog.

By affixing my signature below, I fully comply with the procedures for this course:

Printed Name ____________________________

Date ___________ Signature ____________________________