Course Syllabus for *History of Christianity*
CH 412 – Spring 2016

A course offered at the Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary

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**Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA):** Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary supports the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Students with physical or learning disabilities desiring additional assistance must consult with the Dean’s office prior to enrollment or as early as possible after the disability is diagnosed. Procedures for assisting students will require a physician’s written verification of the disability and probable benefit(s) of specific assistance for student learning, a student’s specific written request(s) for assistance from the seminary, and the informing of the seminary faculty. Reasonable accommodations will be given in accordance with the federal and state laws though the Dean’s Office. Contact the Dean’s Office in the main administration building in person or:
- by mail: Post Office Box 670 (1530 East Pine Street) Jacksonville, TX 75766-5407
- by phone: 800/259-5673
- by email: bmatsem@bmats.edu

Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary is dedicated to helping all students we serve to achieve her or his Christian, educational, and life goals.

**Course Description:**

According to the current catalog (2015-16), this course is described as follows: “The development of Christianity is traced from its inception in the first century to the present. Emphasis is given to the early Church Fathers, the Ecumenical Councils, Western Christianity in its Catholic expression, the Reformation period, denominationalism, revivalism, the modern missions movement, and the origins of contemporary movements in Christianity.” This course is designed to trace the history of Christianity from the time of Christ and His apostles to the present day, covering roughly 2,000 years of history. With such a large timeframe to cover, some elements of Christianity will receive a cursory treatment only.
Course Textbooks:

1. The Bible


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 fathers 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 the importance and impact of the modern missions movement.

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. The student will also read the book of Acts from the Bible and a biography on Martin Luther by Kittelson.
Biography:

Each student is to choose a prominent figure in Christian History and write a 3-5 page biography on that figure. The student should seek at least five sources for this project. This biography paper is to be double-spaced using Times New Roman 12 pt. font. A contents page is not necessary for this project. The student should write according to Turabian format using full bibliographic footnoting and providing a selected bibliography at the end of the paper.

Critical Review:

The student is required to prepare a critical review of Luther the Reformer: The Story of the Man and His Career. 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. The student should write his or her critical review according to the critical review rubric that the professor will provide.

Research Paper:

The student is required to write a 7-10 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 pt. font. The paper should be written according to Turabian, 8th ed. utilizing footnotes. The student should strive for a full page of bibliographic references, including two journal articles. Internet sources can be used, but should 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 are 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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mid-semester test</td>
<td>200 pts. (20%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>200 pts. (20%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Paper</td>
<td>250 pts. (25%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biography Paper</td>
<td>100 pts. (10%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Critical Book Review</td>
<td>100 pts. (10%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>100 pts. (10%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attendance &amp; Class Participation</td>
<td>50 pts. (5%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

BMATS Grading Scale:

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

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 (5 points will be deducted for every class session missed). 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.

Classroom Decorum:

- Students are to be respectful toward other students when engaging in classroom discussion.
- There is to be no eating or drinking beverages when class is in session as this can be distracting for some students. Students may eat or drink prior to class beginning or during the break.
Plagiarism

Although any writing assignment calls for the student’s own thinking on a particular subject, a research paper, by definition, must also be related to the work of individuals other than the writer of the paper. Inherent is such a requirement is the risk of committing a serious error in writing known generally as plagiarism—an error so serious as to constitute “outright fraud” in many cases (Allan A. Metcalf, Research to the Point, San Diego: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, Publishers, 1991).

To say that plagiarism is failure to give credit where credit is due is to oversimplify the issue. Not only must the writer cite the source of any quoted or paraphrased material, he or she must also give credit (at the very least, in the bibliography of the paper) to any source that influenced the writer’s thinking on and approach to the topic. Failure to do so constitutes plagiarism.

Furthermore, proper form is essential for adequate documentation of sources consulted or utilized. For example, the student must designate exact quotations by quotation marks (or, for longer quotes, indented single-spaced lines). Normally, exact page numbers for sources quoted should be placed in footnotes according to Turabian style—not with parentheses (the superscript number in the body should be placed at the end of each citation).

The writer should avoid excessive use of quotations. Borrowing the exact wording of another writer should be saved for the particularly eloquent expressions or for technical explanations or tedious explanations difficult for the student to summarize. Usually the student should summarize in his or her own words the content of sources consulted on a particular topic. This demonstrates that the student understands and has begun to assimilate the material utilized. However, unless this usage of sources is documented by footnotes or other means (providing the specific page numbers), the result is plagiarism. The use of writings from the Internet, when falsely presented as a student’s own work, is considered grounds for suspension from the seminary.

Paraphrasing and summarizing another writer may become plagiarism if the sentence structure or phrases of the original are used. Changing a few words with synonyms or reversing the order of words or clauses in a sentence without giving credit is plagiarism. “When you paraphrase, you must state in your own words what another writer believes or argues” (Lyn Paulos & Rosemaria Menager-Beeley, Understanding Plagiarism: A Student Guide to Writing Your Own Work, Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2006). Summarizing involves more than omitting some sentences, words, or clauses from the original writer. Any work you submit with your name on it is assumed to be original writing, unless you indicate you are using another’s work. The rule of thumb is: “When in doubt, cite!”

A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations (latest edition) by Kate L. Turabian is the official style manual of the BMA Seminary.
Course Schedule:

Jan. 26: Introduction (Cairns, 15-38)

Feb. 2: Christ and Apostles / Early Persecution (Cairns, 39-94) (Book of Acts)

Feb. 9: Early Controversies / Apologists / Early Church Fathers (Cairns, 94-111)

Feb. 16: Canon / Constantine / Post-Nicene Fathers (Cairns, 112-24)

Feb. 23: Ecumenical Councils / Emergence of Bishop / Monastic Movement (Cairns, 125-49)

Mar. 1: Monastic Movement (cont.) / The Papacy (Cairns, 150-83)

Mar. 8: Decline of Roman Christianity (Cairns, 184-217) biography paper due

Mar. 15: MID-SEMESTER EXAM

Mar. 22: Decline of Roman Christianity (cont.) / Climate Prior to Reformation (Cairns, 217-46)

Mar. 29: Climate Prior to Reformation (cont.) / Key Factors Leading to Reformation (Cairns, 246-79)

Apr. 5: Main Personalities of Reformation / Theological Issues / Reformation in England / Radical Reformation (Cairns 280-328)

Apr. 12: Rise of Puritanism / American Expression of Christianity / Religious Awakenings (Cairns 328-74)

Apr. 19: Religious Awakenings (cont.) / Fundamentalism / Modernism (Cairns, 375-443) Research Paper Due

Apr. 26: BMAA National Meeting in Gatlinburg, TN (No Class)

May 3: Missions / Denominationalism (Cairns, 444-534) Critical Book Review

May 10: FINAL EXAM

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

* This class will meet on Tuesday mornings from 8 AM - 12 noon PM in the Cherokee Room (chapel is from 10 AM to 11 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 5 points deducted from my class attendance and participation grade for each class missed. 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 ________________________