



**Midwestern College
Course Syllabus**

Course Title: Church History II
Class Dates and Time: Monday 1:00-4:00
Professor: Dr. Jason Duesing and Dr. John M. Yeats

COURSE DESCRIPTION

A general survey of the history of Christianity from 1500 to the modern age.

COURSE GOALS

Students will focus on the history of the Christian Church from the time of the Reformation through the current day with a goal of understanding the major movements and persons involved in the period of study.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

In this course the student will:

- Demonstrate comprehension of basic information during the period of study including significant persons, dates, events, places and movements.
- Demonstrate the ability to think historically and critically about these significant persons, events and movements.
- Be able to discuss events and movements in history in light of the historical record including critical analysis of their relationship to other concepts and movements.
- Interpret contemporary issues within Christianity in light of the context of church history.
- Be confident in expressing the historical roots of the Christian faith.
- Develop a profound appreciation for Church History that continues to impact your ministry and service to the church from this point forward.
- Learn from those who have journeyed before us in the adventure of faith.

COURSE TEXTS

Required

Introduction to the History of Christianity, ed. Tim Dowley, (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2013), 616 pages. ISBN: 978-0-8006-9969-7

Readings In Christian Thought, ed. Hugh T. Kerr, (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1990), 2nd edition. 403 pages. ISBN: 978-0-687-35547-1

Spener, Phillip Jacob. *Pia Desideria*. (Minneapolis: Fortress Press) ISBN: 0800619536.

Sweeney, Doug. *The American Evangelical Story*, (Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2005) ISBN: 0-8010-2658-X.

Additional texts to be distributed via Blackboard.

Project Texts

Brainerd, David and Jonathan Edwards. *Life and Diary of David Brainerd* (Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1989) ISBN: 978-0801009761

Bonhoeffer, Dietrich. *Discipleship*. Vol. 4 of the series *Dietrich Bonhoeffer Works* (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2003) ISBN: 978-0800683245

Law, William. *A Serious Call to a Devout and Holy Life*. (Alachua, FL: Bridge-Logos Publishers, 2008) ISBN: 978-088270-453-1

Spurgeon, Charles. *The Soul Winner*, (Christian Heritage Press) ISBN: 978-1871676952

Recommended

The Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church, 4th ed. F.L. Cross and E.A. Livingstone. ISBN 019211655X

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- 1.) Reading – In addition to the course textbook, there will also be readings posted on Blackboard. Each reading assignment must be completed by the student **prior** to coming to class. It is expected that students will keep up with the class reading schedule. Failure to do so will result in poor performance on exams and the reduction of your grade. Sections of the exam will extensively cover your reading and there will be a portion of the exam asking if you have read everything for the section. For reading to count, you must read every word on the page -- no skimming or skipping sentences. Use your integrity! Luke 16:10.
- 2.) Exams - There will be three exams through the course of the semester. These will consist of objective questions -- matching, fill-in-the blank, identification of passages from primary sources and short or long essay question. Exam questions will be based on reading, primary source reading and lectures. **Make-up exams are only for true emergencies -- the kind that a church would think was reasonable for a last minute cancellation of a preaching engagement -- and must be verifiable and documented.**
- 3.) Book Review – Each student will author a review of Sweeney’s *American Evangelical Story*. The review should be academic in nature and be between 2-3 pages long. For examples of quality book reviews, students should read examples in journals like the *Midwestern Journal of Theology*, *The Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society* and *Books and Culture*.
- 4.) Project – Each student will be placed in one of four groups to create a presentation and lead the discussion on one of the key books that have a major impact on Evangelicalism: Law’s *A Serious Call*, Brainerd’s *Diary*, Spurgeon’s *The Soul Winner* and Bonhoeffer’s *The Cost of Discipleship*. The group will be subdivided into four sections: Historical and contextual, Content, Critical Interaction and Historical Reception. Each major group will lead the class into a discussion of the book, the author and the reception of the work. This will include the utilization of appropriate classroom lecture tools such as PowerPoint and handouts outlining the content of the lecture and the book.
- 5.) Paper – Based out of their work for the project, each student will produce a 8-10 page paper that discusses each of the four aspects of the book they were assigned that breaks down as follows:
 - i. Historical and contextual issues surrounding the writing of the book (2-3 pages)

- ii. Overview of the content (2-3 pages)
- iii. Critical interaction with the content (2-3 pages)
- iv. Historical Reception (2-3 pages)

The paper is due the same time your group project is due.

GRADES

Grades will be determined by the following scale: 100-98 (A+); 97-93 = A; 92-90 (A-); 89-88 (B+); 87-83 (B); 82-80 (B-); 79-78 (C+); 77-73 (C); 72-70 (C-); 69-68 (D+); 67-63 (D); 62-60 (D-); Below 60 = F.

Activity	Points
Exams	300 total (150 each)
Book Review	100
Project	200
Paper	250
Reading Reports	75
	(50 each report)
	<u>1,000 total points</u>

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Plagiarism is a serious ethical and legal matter and instances of plagiarism will result in an “F” for an assignment and possibly an “F” for the course. Students are to read and abide by the section entitled “Integrity in Seminary Studies” in the MBTS Academic Catalog.

SPECIAL NEEDS

Midwestern is committed to facilitating students with disabilities. Students seeking effective auxiliary aids for a current documented disability need to conform with Seminary policies and procedures as listed in the *Midwestern Students with Disabilities Information Brochure* available in the Student Development Office. Students are responsible for contacting the Student Development Office for verification and recommendations for any disability case. The Student Development Office will then recommend to the professor any necessary effective auxiliary aids.

CLASS SCHEDULE

<i>Week</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Assignment</i>	<i>Lecture Topic</i>
1	18-Jan	D: 275-292	Introduction, Historiography, Pre-Reformation Review
2	25-Jan	D: 293-327; RCT: 135-156	The Renaissance; Luther
3	1-Feb	D: 328-340; RCT: 169-17, 179-181	Zwingli; The Anabaptists

4	8-Feb	RCT: 157-169; Spener: 1-75	Calvin and Geneva
5	15-Feb	RCT: 172-175, 182-185; Spener: 76-125	The English Reformation, Puritanism,
6	22-Feb	D: 341-366, 408-419; RCT: 175 <i>Pia Desideria</i> Discussion	The Catholic Reformation, Early Enlightenment, Pietism
7	29-Feb	D: 386-407; RCT: 186-208; William Law Group Presentation	Later Enlightenment, First Great Awakening
8	7-Mar	No Class Meeting	Online Mid-term Exam
9	14-Mar	D: 368-385, 472-494; Brainerd Presentations	The Modern Missions Movement,
10	21-Mar	No Class – Easter Break	
11	28-Mar	D: 440-464; Spurgeon Presentations	The Second Great Awakening, The New Divinity, Finney
12	4-Apr	D: 420-439; Sweeney 9-78 NO CLASS - Reading Catch-up	NO – CLASS – Reading Week
13	11-Apr	No Class – Spring Break	
14	18-Apr	D: 465-471; RCT: 212-274; Sweeney 79-131 Bonhoeffer Group Presentation	Schleiermacher-Protestant Liberalism
15	25-Apr	D: 495-549; RCT: 278-314, 357-383; Sweeney 133-185	Karl Barth, Roman Catholicism
16	2-May	D: 550-590 ; RCT: 384-394, Book Review (Sweeney) Due	Fundamentalism, Evangelicalism, Pentecostalism
17	9-May	Final Exam	

COURSE BIBLIOGRAPHY

Church History Overviews

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- Walker, Williston, Richard A. Norris, David W. Lotz, and Robert T. Handy. *A History of the Christian Church*. 4th ed. New York: Scribner, 1985.

Historical Theology

- Berkhof, Louis. *The History of Christian Doctrines*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1975.
- Bromiley, Geoffrey W. *Historical Theology: An Introduction*. Edinburgh: T&T Clark, 1978.
- Fisher, George Park. *History of Christian Doctrine*. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1896.
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Reformation Period

Primary Sources

- Creeds: Augsburg Confession, Council of Trent, Second Helvetic Confession, Schleithem Confession, Heidelberg Catechism, Thirty-Nine Articles, Synod of Dort, Westminster Confession, First London Confession. See Schaff, *The Creeds of Christendom*.
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Christianity in the Early Modern Period (1650-1800)

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