



COURSE SYLLABUS

AREA OF MINISTERIAL PRACTICE: 15. Understanding of Heritage

Course Number	UOH 15A
Course Title	<i>Understanding of Heritage: Church History</i>
Course Dates	May 1 st to June 25 th , 2023
Instructor	Rev. Jerry Albright 5215 West Benton Street, Lincoln, NE (402)209-4040; Email: revalbright@hotmail.com

Rev. Jerry Albright is a full-time bereavement chaplain at St. Croix Hospice. Jerry began his ministry as an Elder in the First Christian Church in Sioux City, IA. He entered the Upper Midwest reading and study program for licensed lay pastors in 1985. Pastor Albright served the Cleghorn, IA Christian Church as a supply preacher and then installed licensed minister from 1989 until 1996. During this time he also attended Morningside College in Sioux City, IA where he studied religion, history and classical literature. In 1996 Jerry entered Phillips Theological Seminary in Enid/Tulsa, OK where he graduated with a Master of Divinity degree in 2001. Prior to graduation from Phillips, Albright completed one unit of Clinical Pastoral Education at the Counseling and Mediation Center in Wichita, KS. He was ordained in 2001 at Bethany Christian Church in Lincoln Nebraska. In addition to his pastoral ministry, Jerry was the President of the Cotner College, a continuing education organization for clergy and laity of the Christian Church in Nebraska and he was the Executive Director of Interchurch Ministries of Nebraska.

Course Description

This is a history class with one major exception - there is little emphasis on remembering dates except as "markers" in Christian History. By markers I mean paradigm shifts and movements in the transformation of the church from age to age. It is more important to grasp the movements in Christian History and just use dates as general "markers" or benchmarks during which the church was in transition or reformation. The course will include the use of "primary sources," historical documents from church history.

Prerequisite None



Course Overview

The church exists within the milieu of cultures, politics, economies, and the challenge of evolving sociological relationships. *Understanding of Church Heritage: Church History*, is a survey of the church as it responds to crisis, change, and growth. This course will challenge the student to reflect critically on pivotal movements within the flow of church history to gain perspective on where the church has been while holding out hope for the continued relevance of the church in the new century.

Required Texts

- Primary text; *Turning Points: Decisive Moments in the History of Christianity*, by Mark A. Noll, Third Edition. Baker, 2012, 356 pages.

Recommended Texts

- *The Story of Christianity: The Early Church to the Dawn of Reformation, Vol. 1* by Justo L. Gonzalez. Harper Collins, 2010 (Revised and Updated) 512 pages.
- *The Story of Christianity: The Reformation to the Present Day, Vol. 2* by Justo L. Gonzalez. Harper Collins, 2010 (Revised and Updated) 550 pages.
- *Documents of the Christian Church*. Eds. Henry Bettenson & Chris Maunder. Oxford, 2011. Fourth Edition, 529 pages.

Course Objectives

By the end of this class, students will:

- Be able to identify nine key periods, or “turning points” in the history of the church including early growth, key councils and creeds, monasticism, the medieval church, schisms, developments in the renaissance and reformation movements, e.g. magisterial, catholic, and radical reformation.
- The student also will become somewhat familiar with some of the primary texts of the church.

Course Requirements

The first six weeks of class will hinge on the readings from the required text book and its discussion. Weeks 7 & 8 will be for the student to do independent research on a topic of their choosing with consultation from the instructor. A research paper will be due at the end of the 8th week. Please use your best grammar and spelling making sure that you site your resources for quotes and paraphrases in the body of the text (in text citation). The recommended text books



provide good examples for personal study and writing. **Remember, the reading, discussions, and paper constitute 100% of the grade for this class.**

Course Schedule and Assignments

- Week 1: Read Turning Points (TP) Introduction {pp. 1-12}, and the Afterword (307-327). "The Church Pushed Out on Its Own" {pp. 13-38}.
- Week 2: Read TP Ch. 2 "Realities of Empire: The Council of Nicaea" {pp. 39-58} Ch. 3 "Doctrine, Politics, and Life in the Word: The Council of Chalcedon.
- Week 3: Read TP Ch. 4 "The Monastic Rescue of the Church: Benedict's Rule" and "Ch. 5 The Culmination of Christendom: The Coronation of Charlemagne." Ch. 6 "Division between East and West: The Great Schism" Take a breath and relax a little. Think about possible research topics. **Begin Discussing Possible Research Projects with the Instructor.**
- Week 4: Read TP Ch. 7 "The Beginnings of Protestantism: The Diet of Worms" and Ch. 8 "A New Europe: The English Act of Supremacy."
- Week 5: Read TP Ch. 9 "Catholic Reform: The Founding of the Jesuits" and Ch. 10 "The New Piety: The Conversion of the Wesleys" and Ch. 11 "Discontents of the Modern West: The French Revolution" **Finalize Research Assignment with the Instructor.**
- Week 6: Read TP Ch. 12 "A Faith for All the World: The Edinburgh Missionary Conference," and Ch. 13 Mobilizing for the Future: The Second Vatican Council and the Lausanne Congress on World Evangelization."
- Week 7 & 8: Individual research and writing. The paper is due at the end of the eighth week. It should be no less than 8 pages, double spaced, 12 point font and no more than 12 pages. The use of "Wikipedia" is NOT acceptable ex.

Weekly discussion topics will be posted based on your reading and your original responses should reflect your understandings of the readings in a succinct manner (no more than 3 paragraphs). Students should read these carefully and reflect on the readings to prepare for the forums. There are no true right or wrong answers in this. I will be paying attention to how you understand the reading and interact in our discussions.



Grading Scale

40% - Readings and discussions

50% - Research Paper

10% - Timely completion of the work

***Zoom discussion participation

will be offered weekly for

discussions with classmates and the

instructor.***

Other Policies and Information

- ✓ I am available for consultation with students by phone, fax, or email. I am more accessible in the late afternoon or early evening. I will try to respond to emails as soon as possible—within 24 hours.
- ✓ I will post an annotated bibliography of additional resources the first week of class. Some of the books, articles, or documents may be useful for research material for your paper.
- ✓ I hope you will avail yourself of a good library for your research projects. Wikipedia is not an acceptable resource and other online resources should be fully cited if they are used.
- ✓ Please use inclusive language in your papers and discussion posts.
- ✓ My approach to this class is that we are co-learners. I expect to learn and grow from my interaction with you.

This class was designed to address the following section of the

Disciples of Christ Sixteen Areas of Ministerial Practice

15. Understanding of History: Have knowledge of and appreciation for the history and thought of Christianity and of the history, structure, practices, and ethos of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Learning Outcomes: (Outcomes in bold to be emphasized)

- **Describe the historical context and institutional expressions of Christianity in the first four centuries.**
- **Describe the general development of the Medieval Church in Europe (5th-15th centuries), especially with respect to the formation of monasticism and the relationship between the papacy and state.**
- **Compare and contrast major reform movements in sixteenth century Europe, both Protestant and Catholic.**
- **Describe major developments in early modern history of Christianity, including the rise and decline of Puritanism, the impact of the Enlightenment on the faith, and the rise and spread of Pietism-Methodism-Revivalism.**
- **Describe developments of Christianity in the 20th and 21st Century and beyond.**