

**HIST5200 HISTORY OF CHRISTIANITY: EARLY - MEDIEVAL**  
**New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary**

**Disclaimer:** This syllabus is intended to give the student a general idea of the content, format, and textbooks used for this class. The professor will submit a full syllabus at the beginning of the class which will contain a course schedule and the instructor's information.

**Seminary Mission Statement**

The mission of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary is to equip leaders to fulfill the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries.

**Course Description**

This course provides a general historical survey of the Christian movement from its inception through the medieval period. A brief introduction to historical method and historiography is followed by the study of significant ideas, individuals, movements, and institutions in the rise and development of Christianity prior to the Protestant Reformation.

**Objectives**

- Demonstrate knowledge of basic information about significant persons, dates, events, places, and movements in the overall flow of church history from its background pre-dating Christ to the dawn of the Reformation.
- Develop the ability to think both historically and critically, to see persons, movements, and ideas within a chronological framework, and to analyze their relationships to other concepts and movements as well.
  - Evaluate historical issues according to Scripture and personal convictions.
  - Interpret contemporary issues in the Christian sphere in light of their historical roots
  - Recognize your connection to the church throughout the ages in order to determine your own identity against the backdrop of Christian heritage and to function more effectively as a minister and a witness.

**Required Texts**

There are two (2) required books for this class: a textbook and a documents book. The text describes and interprets the people, events, and concepts that have been important throughout Christian history. The documents book provides representative and influential confessions of faith important to our heritage. These books compliment one another as tools for understanding our Christian heritage.

[G] Gonzalez, Justo L. *The Story of Christianity*. San Francisco: Harper & Row, 1984.

[B] Bettenson, Henry and Chris Maunder, eds. *Documents of the Christian Church*. 3d ed. New York: Oxford University Press, 1999.

Recommended:

Leith, John H., ed. *Creeds of the Churches: A Reader in Christian Doctrine from the Bible to the Present*. 3d ed. Atlanta: John Knox Press, 1982.

Maier, Paul L. *Eusebius: The Church History*. Kregel

All texts are available through the New Orleans LifeWay Christian Store: (800) 570-0250. An additional source is Christian Book Distributors ([www.christianbook.com](http://www.christianbook.com)). There will be additional required reading from primary sources that are available on the Internet.

## Requirements

**A. Tests:** There will be six (6) tests, each worth 25 points, given throughout the semester. The lowest test grade will be dropped. Tests will be available throughout the course and must be completed by midnight on the last day of the unit. Each test will last 15 minutes and be timed. Exams should be taken without notes in front of you. Please study for the test, then take it “open memory.” You are on the honor system. Tests can be taken any time prior to the due date. The final day by which unit requirements must be completed is as follows:

**B. Assigned Reading:** Students are expected to read the assigned pages listed for each unit. A report is due on the last day of each unit on the percentage completed (in 20% increments) of that unit's assigned reading. Each report is worth up to 5 points. Reading Reports are found at the end of each unit's assignments under Course Documents. An additional 5 point bonus will be awarded to students who have completed **all** the assigned reading by the time of the Unit 6 Exam. This allows you to catch up on reading you have missed during the semester.

**Additional Bonus Reading:** This year we will be endeavoring to read through the Bible together. As an added incentive, students who participate in this can earn up to 10 bonus points. At the end of the semester, students will report how much of the Fall Semester Bible Reading Plan they have completed (in 20% increments).

**C. Book Review:** Each student will write a review of either a biography of someone from the Early or Medieval Church, or a history of a movement during this time period. The book must be approved by the professor. Email the professor the title and author of the book you wish to review by --. Biography assignments will be posted in Course Information within 2 weeks after that time.

The review will be written as though for an academic magazine or journal. It should:

- 1) identify the book's main thesis or purpose,
- 2) give a brief summary of the contents,
- 3) include an evaluation of the work's strengths and weaknesses.

All quotations and direct references to sections in the book should be indicated by page numbers within parentheses. Citations or paraphrases from other sources should be noted

and documented using either footnotes or endnotes. Reviews should be 4-6 pages in length, double-spaced. The review is worth 30 points. **Due --.**

Possible subjects for a biography:

Ignatius

Justin Martyr

Irenaeus

Tertullian

Clement of Alexandria

Origen

Cyprian

Athanasius

Arius

Constantine

Basil the Great

Macrina

Jerome

John Chrysostom

Augustine

Pelagius

Patrick

Benedict of Nursia

Gregory I the Great

Mohammed

Boniface (Wynfrith)

Charlemagne

Anselm of Bec

Thomas Becket

Peter Abelard

Bernard of Clairvaux

Peter Lombard

Leo IX

Gregory VII

Urban II

Alexander III

Hildegard of Bingen

Innocent III

Francis of Assisi

Dominic de Guzman

Catherine of Siena

Thomas Aquinas

Boniface VIII

John Wycliffe

John Huss

**D. Interactive Discussions:** Each student will participate in five (5) threaded discussions. During the time the unit containing the interactive discussion required, you will enter the discussion at least three times: once near the beginning of the unit and twice toward the end as you respond to your classmates' comments (see above for unit completion dates). Your initial comments express your opinion on the topic. You must then respond to **at least** two (2) people, but **not more** than five (5) in any one discussion. This means that for each discussion you will have a minimum of 3 entries and a maximum of 6 entries. There must be **at least** two days time span between your initial comments and your response to your classmates. Be sure to plan accordingly so that you leave enough time to respond before the end of the unit. Failure to do so will affect your grade. You will be graded on your contributions to the discussion **and** on your interaction with what other students have said. It is **EXTREMELY** important that students remember to use courtesy when critiquing the ideas of their fellow students. Speak truth, but only in love and let your conversations be characterized by grace. The first interactive discussion will not be graded. This will allow you to become familiar with the program. The others are worth **15 points** each. The graded discussions will be on the following topics:

**Unit 1** (not graded): Please describe yourself. Please include your educational background (where you went to school, major), current degree plan, desire for future ministry, and information about your family (married/children/unique experience growing up, etc.). Include only information that you feel comfortable sharing with the class.

**Unit 2** (graded): The early church was both strengthened and challenged by persecution. Drawing upon what you have learned from the early church, what effect would persecution of Christians have on the church in America?

**Unit 3** (graded): The legalization of Christianity and its union with the state had a tremendous impact on the church in the fourth century. What influence has it had on church history since then? Has it had a positive or negative effect?

**Unit 4** (graded): During medieval times, pilgrimages and relics of the saints gained in popularity. In what ways did they aid Christian devotion and in what ways did they hinder it. Do you see the same influences today?

**Unit 5** (graded): Evaluate the purposes and consequences of the Crusades. In your opinion, does the conflict between Christians and Muslims during the Crusades influence current hostilities in the Middle East?

**Unit 6:** No discussion.

**E. Research Paper:** Each student will write a research paper comparing a modern cult with an early church heresy. **See Course Documents for additional project information.**

Assignments will be determined after the first week of class. Students assigned the same cult may work together as a group. The group component is designed to be a “think tank” where students may share thoughts, insights, and research. However, each student is responsible for writing his/her own paper and should not “cut and paste” information gathered from other students. Note that some students may be tardy in sharing research and one should not overly rely on such shared information.

The paper **must** have a title page, table of contents, footnotes or endnotes (parenthetical citations are not acceptable), and bibliography. It should be double spaced and follow Turabian, sixth edition, for style. However, **do not** use chapters to separate sections of your paper (chapters require a new page for each new chapter and the project is not long enough to justify this). Use section headings instead. The appendix should come before the bibliography and be single spaced.

The text of your report (not counting table of contents, appendix, or bibliography) should be 8-12 pages in length (no more, no less). Papers will be graded on clear organization, spelling, and grammar as well as content.

Your paper **must** be posted on the appropriate area under the “Groups” area on Blackboard as a .pdf document. [WordPerfect can save a document in .pdf and you can download a program from the Software Downloads to be used in NOBTS Blackboard Courses link that will work for MS Word documents (MS Works is not acceptable).

Posting your paper in .pdf format preserves your margins and spacing. Failure to post your paper on Blackboard will result in a **5 point penalty**. Failure to post your paper in a .pdf format will result in a **5 point penalty**. A late project will be assessed an initial **10 point penalty**. Each calendar day after the due date an **additional 10 point penalty** will be assessed.

For examples of form, see the NOBTS Turabian Tutor Site. The research paper is worth 100 points. **Due --.**

### **Penalties**

**A. Tests:** Unit tests must be completed by midnight (Central Standard Time) of the date of the unit completion. Exams may be taken prior to that date, but will not be available after the due date.

**B. Papers:** A late paper will be assessed an initial **10 point penalty**. For each calendar day after the due date an **additional 10 point penalty** will be assessed.

**C. Interactive Discussions:** Failure to adequately participate in the threaded discussions and to do so in a timely manner will affect the amount of points awarded.

**D. Plagiarism:** New Orleans Baptist Seminary maintains high academic standards and is not tolerant of plagiarism. If you copy another author’s work and present it as your own, you will be caught, and the penalty could be failure on that assignment or the course or

expulsion from the Seminary. In order to help you avoid plagiarism, written assignments will be checked with SafeAssign. This will compare your paper with a database of other papers so that you may see how much of your paper comes from other sources. The draft option is available, allowing you to check your work while it is in progress.

### **Submission of Assignments**

**A. Unit Tests and Reading Reports** are within their respective unit in Course Documents. They are accessed within each unit by clicking on the appropriate link.

**B. Discussion Threads** will be conducted on Blackboard. Go to the Discussion Board to add your threads. Click on a thread to respond to it.

**C. Book Reviews and Research Papers** should be posted in the appropriate area in Groups. Attach your paper by clicking on the Browse button and finding the copy of your paper. Remember to click Submit or the paper will not post properly. This allows the rest of the class to read your paper and learn from your research. I want you all to be able to benefit from the others' research and writing. Your paper **must** be posted a .pdf document. [WordPerfect can save a document in .pdf and you can download a program from the Software Downloads to be used in NOBTS Blackboard Courses link that will work for MS Word documents (MS Works is not acceptable)]. Posting your paper in .pdf format preserves your margins and spacing. Failure to post your paper in a .pdf format will result in a **5 point penalty**.

Please do not send your assignments to me as email attachments unless I request you to do so or unless there is a compelling reason. You may send me an email announcing that you have submitted an assignment, but, if you follow the correct procedures, I will find it. I enjoy hearing from my students, but my Inbox fills up pretty quickly with attachments, and then I have to shift them over to the proper location.

### **Possible Points & Grading Scale**

Possible Points Grading Scale

Reading: 30 pts. A = 321-345 pts.

Tests (5 x 25): 125 pts. B = 293-320 pts.

Discussions: 60 pts. C = 266-292 pts.

Book Review: 30 pts. D = 241-265 pts.

Research Paper: 100 pts. F = 240- 9 pts.

Total Points: 345 pts.

### **Netiquette: Appropriate Online Behavior**

Each student is expected to demonstrate appropriate Christian behavior when working online on the Discussion Board. The student is expected to interact with other students in a fashion that will promote learning and respect for the opinions of others in the course. A spirit of Christian charity will be expected at all times in the online environment.