



## CH502 – Church History: The Second Millennium

### Short Syllabus

**Instructor: Stephen L. Dolson-Andrew, PhD**

### Course description

This course surveys the Western Church from the time of the First Crusade (1095) down to today's latest renewal movements. "The Church reformed must always reform itself" is a central theme. The course addresses the Western (Roman) Church at the height of its power, the crisis that triggered the Reformation, and the "great ideas" of Luther and Calvin. Then come the challenges of the Enlightenment, the rise of science, the pivotal introduction of Christianity into the Western Hemisphere, and the challenges of today. Culture, theology, and grassroots spirituality dynamically interact in this broad overview, with a focus on how the Holy Spirit has led his people through the many peaks and valleys of history.

**Estimated workload:** In order to do well in this course, the student will need to invest a total of 150 hours, or about 12 hours per week of reading, participating on the website, and writing papers.

### Required textbooks

Three texts will be needed. Please obtain these books before the course begins. To find the lowest prices, you may find it helpful to use [www.bookfinder.com](http://www.bookfinder.com).

Bass, Diana Butler. *A People's History of Christianity: The Other Side of the Story*. New York: Harper Collins, 2009. ISBN 978-0-06-144871-3. \$14.99 pb. A refreshing “grassroots” view by a respected scholar.

Jenkins, Philip. *The Lost History of Christianity: The Thousand-Year Golden Age of the Church in the Middle East, Africa, and Asia—and How It Died*. New York: HarperOne, 2009. ISBN 978-0-06-147281-7. 315 pages. About \$12 paperback. (Note: If you read Jenkins for CH501, we'll have to discuss a substitute.)

Spickard, Paul R. and Kevin M. Cragg. *A Global History of Christians: How Everyday Believers Experienced Their World*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2001. ISBN [0-8010-2249-5](#) (approx. \$6 used to \$22.95 new).

**You will also need a fourth book for a book review; you can choose one of the options below:**

Cahill, Thomas. *Heretics and Heroes: How Renaissance Artists and Reformation Priests Created Our World*. New York: Anchor Books, 2013. ISBN 978-0385-49558-5. \$17. [Culture study of how the church interacted with art and civilization after the Middle Ages].

Cairns, Earle E. *Christianity through the Centuries: A History of the Christian Church*. 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1996. ISBN 978-0310-20812-9. \$22.50. [A classic study spanning the history of the church through the 20<sup>th</sup> century.]

Gregory, Brad S. *Rebel in the Ranks: Martin Luther, the Reformation, and the Conflicts That Continue to Shape Our World*. New York: HarperCollins, 2017. ISBN 978-0062-47118-5. \$18. [The unintended consequences of the Reformation on our own time—very readable profile of Luther's theology].

- Kimball, Dan. *They Like Jesus But Not The Church: Insights from emerging generations*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2006. ISBN 978-0-310-24590-2. \$18.99. [Strategies for answering pertinent complaints against the church].
- McGrath, Alister. *Christianity's Dangerous Idea: The Protestant Revolution* (to page 196). San Francisco: HarperOne, 2007. ISBN 9780060822132. [Interesting and readable, reinforces course concepts]
- Menocal, Maria Rose. *Ornament of the World: How Muslims, Jews and Christians Created a Culture of Tolerance in Medieval Spain*. Boston: Little, Brown & Company, 2002. ISBN 0-316-56688-8. [Encouraging in our times.]
- Nicolson, Adam. *God's Secretaries: The Making of the King James Bible*. HarperPerennial, 2005. ISBN-10:0-06-083873-6. [An inspiring case history of how God works through politics]
- Noll, Mark. *God and Race in American Politics*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2008. ISBN 978-0-691-14629-4. [A leading American historian addresses a timeless subject]
- Olson, Roger E. *The Story of Christian Theology: Twenty Centuries of Tradition and Reform*. Westmont, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1999. ISBN 978-0830-81505-0. 652 pages. Approx. \$36. [A very readable and entertaining account of the theological debates that formed the church throughout the centuries.]
- Schaeffer, Francis. *How Should We Then Live: The Rise and Decline of Western Thought and Culture*. Old Tappan, N.J. Fleming H. Revell Company, 1976. ISBN 0-1152-2513882-1. [Culture history from a respected evangelical philosopher in a tumultuous decade]. Used books should be available.
- Shapiro, Ben. *The Right Side of History: How Reason and Moral Purpose Made the West Great*. New York: Broadside, 2019. \$18. ISBN: 0062857908. [Like Schaeffer, Shapiro explores the impact of the church on Judeo-Christian culture.]
- Torrance, Thomas F. *Theological and Natural Science*. Eugene: Wipf & Stock, 2002. ISBN 9781579107901. [The "scientific theologian" shows how the new physics of Einstein and Bohr is congenial with biblical concepts.]

Wilken, Robert Louis. *The First Thousand Years: A Global History of Christianity*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2013. ISBN 978-0300-19838-6. 416 pages. Approx. \$18.50 paperback. [Another seminal study on the 1<sup>st</sup> millennium of Christianity by a world-class scholar.]

## Requirements and assignments

Quiz #1: Covers weeks 1-3 and readings in the assigned texts. Open book (may be taken with all notes and books open). To be completed during week three. **10 percent of the final grade.**

Forum Discussions: Five discussions total. Each of the five discussions requires three posts from the student, and each discussion is worth 2 points. **10 percent of the final grade.**

Book Report #1: Five pages on Jenkins. Due during week seven. **20 percent of the final grade.**

Final Exam: Proctored, non-cumulative, open book. Reflection essay of 3-4 pages (15 points) and 25 multiple-choice questions (25 points), to be completed in the same time period, during week eleven. **40 percent of the final grade.**

Book Report #2: Five pages on a book to be chosen from the foregoing list. Due at the end of week twelve. **20 percent of the final grade.**