



Course Syllabus

HISTORY OF CHRISTIANITY II: HIST 562W

WINTER 2012

Online, Web-based Interactive Course: There Are No Specified Class Times

DATES: 9 January to 9 April

INSTRUCTOR: DR. C. MARK STEINACHER

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I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

The excitement and the trauma of the Reformation period in Europe extended over two hundred years. Events changed the face of the continent. However, as the period came to an end, Christians emerged with another focus, and it was once again global. Migrations and missions saw them establish their faith around the world. However, intercontinental conditions coupled with emerging attitudes in Europe and the Americas stimulated surprising changes. By the middle of the twentieth century, the centre of Christian life was shifting from the northern hemisphere to the south. This course tracks with these developments and the thought underlying them. Writings from the participants lead students into the fervour of the times.

II. LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the end of the course, students should be able to:

- a/** sketch the broad outlines of the development of Christian thought
- b/** explain the general periods from the Reformations to the early 21st Century
- c/** develop an intellectual framework for further historical and theological studies
- d/** appreciate and discern the inescapable impact of an author's setting on the content of her/his writing and the direction of its argument
- e/** integrate more readily insights from historical documents into life and ministry
- f/** communicate ideas more succinctly and clearly than before
- g/** recognize the dynamism of the Christian tradition in its many forms
- h/** formulate a global perspective of "the faith once delivered to the saints"
- i/** acquire greater respect for a breadth of traditions claiming allegiance to Christ

j/ discover new means to enhance their personal spirituality

NOTE: Outcomes **a**, **b** and **c** relate essentially to intellectual content
Outcomes **d**, **e** and **f** are connected primarily to historiographical process.
Outcomes **g**, **h**, **i** and **j** predominantly pertain to issues of spirituality.

III. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. REQUIRED TEXTS

1. Justo L. Gonzalez, *The Story of Christianity, Vol.2 The Reformation to the Present Day* San Francisco: Harper Collins, 1985 (The 2-in-1 volume available in the Bookstore has the same content. It is cheaper than buying the two separate books.)
2. Steven Ozment, *The Age of Reform: 1250-1550* New Haven: Yale University Press, 1980 (This text is used for both History of Christianity I and II.)
3. Primary Sources Readings: (Available in the [Online Reading Room](#)) Links to the documents are embedded in the reading list at the end of this syllabus.
4. Audio-content of lectures is provided online for listening or downloading.

B. REGULAR AND FULL PARTICIPATION ON THE ONLINE COURSE PAGE (MOODLE ONLINE CLASSROOM SOFTWARE):

Students do not need to download any special software.
The “portal” for the MOODLE course web-page is at class.tyndale.ca
Login using the Tyndale student identity
(i.e. your email minus ‘@tyndale.ca’).

C. ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

1. **Nine Weekly Online Integration Papers: Each is worth 3%. Total value: 27% of final grade**
NB: This course is NOT self-paced, but designed to take advantage of the group-interaction features of the MOODLE online classroom software.

Students must contribute in a timely fashion to every weekly assignment. Small groups may be assigned. Students are *required* to read all postings each week. They are also *required* to respond to issues raised by peers. **A minimum of six responses per week must be made.** Responses should contain substantial comments concerning the content and process of colleagues’ postings. There is no “Like” button, as on Facebook; make your comments more profound than ‘Way to go!’ and/or ‘I agree’. Support your view logically and in some detail.

Please also consult the separate guide on “netiquette” for online work.

NB: Tyndale Seminary policy requires students to complete all course assignments. *A student may not receive credit for an online course unless all assigned listening and marked assignments have been completed.*

It is expected that students will review carefully all assigned reading and audio by Tuesday evening of the week in which it is assigned. Students are required to contribute to online discussion in a meaningful way. In order to do this, students will have to read or listen to the material carefully and arrive at the discussion with insights upon the text and thoughtful questions for discussion.

Students will be assigned a question each Tuesday. Their task will be to reflect upon the audio lecture's content and upon both Ozment and Gonzalez's texts. This will include summarizing some key elements of the material, but students will be expected to go beyond mere reiteration. They are encouraged to ponder why the material is significant, both in its own setting and for today. The reflection on current relevance should constitute about one-fifth of the posting.

These responses should be roughly 275-300 words in length and must be posted in the class threaded discussion by the Friday of that week. Postings will be visible to other students. Students may post before the closing time; late submissions will not be accepted. The exception is for students who *arrange beforehand* because of an expected absence during the course. These students will complete an alternate assignment. Students may write up to three substitute assignments. Missing more than three weekly sessions contravenes Seminary academic policy and may result in the student's failing the course. This segment is worth two of each week's three marks.

Each student is expected to respond to other students' postings. *Do not* read other postings until you have posted your own. When responding, be polite, as if you were present in a classroom. Also be concise; aim to discuss the core issue. This segment is worth one of each week's three marks.

2. Critical Book Review: Due on Friday, 30 March 2012; 13% of final grade

If you have not taken History of Christianity I, this report needs to be on the *Gonzalez* text (ca. 650 words). If you have taken History of Christianity I, review the *Ozment* text. The review needs to be short (ca. 1000 words). This will force you to concentrate more on the ideas than on the details of content. A longer report will change the nature of the resulting review; keep to the assigned length. Marked book reports are not returned with comments.

As you prepare your review, think about the author's overall theme. What is his* apparent agenda? He has a purpose in writing; identify it and talk about it. How does he order his materials to achieve his purpose? Granted, chronology has a lot to do with it, but there is more going on. How does this book do more than simply repeat facts? To answer these questions you will need to include some content, but try to focus on the broad scale issues that he raises.

* Note: Both authors happen to be male. Otherwise use gender-inclusive terms.

3. Two Exegetical Papers: Each is worth 30%; Total value: 60% of final grade

Paper #1 will be on either the “Afonso, King of the Kongo” or “The Tears of the Indies” document (i.e. a “Reformation Church” reading):1,600 to 1,800 words.

Paper #1 is **Due: Friday, 17 February 2012; 30%** of the final grade.

Paper #2 will be based on either the John Wesley documents or the full set of Charles Finney’s letters (i.e. a “Modern Church” reading):1,600 to 1,800 words.

Paper #2 is **Due: Friday, 6 April 2012; 30%** of the final grade.

NB: BOTH MAJOR PAPERS AND THE BOOK REPORT WILL BE SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY TO ME BY EMAIL: mstein@tyndale.ca

Use only Microsoft Word, OpenOffice or WordPerfect. Do not send .pdf format.

D. GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR THE SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN WORK

Students should consult the current *Academic Calendar* for academic polices on Academic Honesty, Gender Inclusive Language in Written Assignments, Late Papers and Extensions, Return of Assignments, and Grading System. The Academic Calendar is posted at <http://www.tyndale.ca/registrar/calendar>. An excerpt is attached with this syllabus for easy reference.

E. SUMMARY OF ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

Nine Weekly Online Integration Papers	27%
Critical Book Review	13 %
Exegetical Paper #1	30 %
Exegetical Paper #2	30 %
Total Grade	100 %