
History of Christianity II

Lectures by

Donald Fortson, Ph.D.

REFORMED THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
Virtual Campus

RTS Distance Education

The Virtual Campus of Reformed Theological Seminary offers students the convenience of home study with the quality of on-campus instruction. This course is based on classroom lectures using the GUIDE approach to learning.

Each lesson contains the following:

- G**etting Started To prepare adequately for each lesson, a reading assignment and audio lecture are listed.
- U**nderstanding To maximize student learning, the purposes and objectives for the lesson are given.
- I**nvestigating To integrate readings, audio lectures, and outline, students are encouraged to notate information in a manner that will prove beneficial for study and examination. The study guide allows space for note-taking to expand the outline.
- D**eveloping To further develop the concepts presented, suggested readings and applications are offered.
- E**valuating To help students summarize and synthesize the material covered, study questions are provided.

COURSE SYLLABUS
History of Christianity II, OHT504 3 hours
Dr. Donald Fortson
Reformed Theological Seminary, Virtual

Professor

Dr. Donald Fortson, Associate Professor of Church History and Practical Theology, also serves as the Director of the Doctor of Ministry program in Charlotte. Don, an ordained pastor in the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, brings his experience as a pastor to RTS, having served churches in St. Louis, MO; Dallas, TX; and Charlotte, NC. He received the M.Div. and D.Min. degrees from Columbia Theological Seminary (Decatur, GA), and the Ph.D. from Westminster Theological Seminary with the topic of, “The Presbyterian Creed: Old School/New School Reunion and Confessional Subscription.” Don teaches courses in church history and practical theology.

Course Description

This general introduction to Christianity in the Reformation and Post-Reformation eras focuses on the key persons, movements and ideas that have made significant contributions to the history of the Church. Special attention will be given to exploring how experiences and insights from the Christian past inform contemporary faith and practice. As an outcome of the course, students should have a general grasp of Christian history during these periods and a basic knowledge of the major personalities and ecclesiastical issues of 15th – 18th century Church History in Europe and Britain.

Required Textbooks

Dowley, Tim. Editor. *Introduction to the History of Christianity*. Reprint. Grand Rapids: Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1995.

McGrath, Alister. *Historical Theology: An Introduction to the History of Christian Thought*. Oxford: Blackwell Publishers, 2001.

Fortson, S. Donald. *Colonial Presbyterianism: Old Faith in a New Land*. Princeton Theological Monograph Series, Pickwick Publications, 2007.

Noll, Mark. *Confessions and Catechisms of the Reformation*. Baker Book House, 1991.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS
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Online Student Handbook

The Online Student Handbook has been designed to assist you in successfully navigating the online Virtual campus experience, whether you are taking a single course or pursuing a certificate or degree program. In it you will find valuable information, step-by-step instructions, study helps, and essential forms to guide you through every aspect of your distance education opportunity from registration to graduation. Please use this resource as your first-stop reference manual. You will find it located at the RTS/Virtual website (<http://virtual.rts.edu>) under the Student Services tab.

Summary of Requirements

- * Follow the Study Guide provided
- * Listen to all Recorded Lectures
- * Complete all Readings
- * Participate in Forum Discussions (with other students and Professor)
- * Take the Mid Term Exam
- * Take the Final Exam
- * Submit Reading Report
- * Submit a Biographical Course Paper
- * Submit Mentor Report/Course Application Paper

On-Line Discussion Forums (10%)

The student is to participate in forum discussions in the online tutorial. 10% total (5% student to student, 5% student to Professor, with minimum of 5 posts each, including the introduction and 4 topical Discussion Questions. The student may pose questions of his/her own to the Professor regarding either the research paper topic or course content in the student to Professor forum. The student must then post five interactions with fellow students in the Student to Student forum.

Examinations (Mid-term 20%, Final 20%)

There are two examinations for this course. the Mid Term Examination will cover all the lectures and readings from Lessons 1-4. The Final Examination will cover all the lectures and readings from Lessons 5-10. Both exams will include short-answer sections on important dates, people and ideas.

All exams are to be requested online via the links in the Virtual classroom during week 6 for the midterm and week 12 for the final. all exams are proctored. Be sure to allow time to make the necessary arrangements. Upon completion, please upload your exam in the Virtual classroom.

Reading Report (20%)

The student must complete all of the required reading. Reading assignments are broken down week by week within the Virtual Classroom. The Reading Report will indicate the amount of required reading that has been completed during the semester and must be filled out and submitted

at the end of the course with your Final Exam and Biographical Paper. (Due Date: Course ending Date).

Biographical Paper (25%)

Each student will choose an individual from Christian history that lived during the 15th – 18th centuries (in Europe) and write a 10-12 page typed paper on this person. At least one major biography (200 page minimum) on the person should be read. The paper should include commentary on the person's contribution to the Church and reflection on insights from the person's life that might be useful today. A list of sources should be included. Use the guidelines in the current edition of *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, by Kate L. Turabian. Due date: Course Ending Date.

Mentor Report/Course Application Paper (5%)

Each MAR student must submit a completed Mentor Course Report Form at the conclusion of the course. For students who are not registered in the MAR program, you must submit a 200-word Course Application Paper communicating how this course will fit into the objectives you have for your ministry, your educational goals, or other objectives you wish to achieve in life. Due date: Course Ending Date.

Assignments

Best practice for your time management is for you to submit all assignments at the end of the week in which they fall in the Virtual classroom, using the upload links provided. all work must be submitted by midnight of the course end date, per your course start letter. you are responsible for turning in all assignments on time. no late submissions are permitted. any student who needs an extension must get approval from the Registrar prior to that time.

Contact Information

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COURSE BIBLIOGRAPHY
History of Christianity II, 0HT504 3 hours
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Church History Surveys

- Bainton, Roland. *Christendom: A Short History of Christianity and its Impact on Western Civilization*. 2 Vols. New York: Harper and Row, 1966.
- Chadwick, Henry, and Owen Chadwick, gen. eds. *Oxford History of the Christian Church*. Multi-volume set. New York: Oxford University Press, 1977.
- Dowley, Tim, ed. *Eerdmans' Handbook to the History of Christianity*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1978.
- Gonzalez, Justo. *The Story of Christianity*. 2 Vols. New York: Harper and Row, 1984.
- Latourette, Kenneth Scott. *A History of Christianity*. Revised ed. 2 Vols. New York: Harper and Row, 1975.
- _____. *A History of the Expansion of Christianity*. 7 Vols. in 8. New York: Scribner, 1882-1910.
- Jedin, Hubert and John Dolan, eds. *History of the Church*. 10 Vols. New York: Seabury, 1979.
- Schaff, Philip. *History of the Christian Church*. 8 Vols. Reprint. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1949-50.
- Walker, Williston. *A History of the Christian Church*. 3rd ed. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1970.

History of Doctrine

- Berkhof, Louis. *The History of Christian Doctrines*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1976.
- Bettenson, Henry. *Documents of the Christian Church*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1967.
- Cunningham, William. *Historical Theology*. London: Banner of Truth Trust, 1960.
- H. Cunliffe-Jones. *A History of Christian Doctrine*. Edinburgh: T&T Clark, 1999.
- Gonzalez, Justo. *A History of Christian Thought*. 3 Vols. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1992.
- Harnack, Adolf. *History of Dogma*. 4 Vols. Gloucester, MA: Peter Smith, 1976.
- _____. *Outlines of the History of Dogma*. Boston: Beacon Press, 1957.
- Lane, Tony. *Exploring Christian Thought*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1984.
- Lohse, Bernhard. *A Short History of Christian Doctrine From the First Century to the Present*. Translated by F. Ernest Stoeffler. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1985.
- McGrath, Alister. *Historical Theology*. Oxford: Blackwell Publisher, 2001.
- Pelikan, Jaroslav Jan. *The Christian Tradition*. 5 Vols. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1971-89.
- Seeberg, Reinhold. *History of Doctrines*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1977.
- Tillich, Paul. *A History of Christian Thought*. New York: Harper and Row, 1968.
- Bromiley, Geoffrey. *Historical Theology: An Introduction*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1978.
- Forell, George W., ed. *Christian Social Teachings*. Minneapolis: Augsburg Publishing House, 1971.
- Leith, John. *Creeeds of the Churches*. Atlanta: John Knox Press, 1977.
- McGrath, Alister, ed. *The Christian Theology Reader*. Cambridge: Blackwell Publishers, 1995.
- Schaff, Philip. *Creeeds of Christendom*. 3 Vols. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1993.

Encyclopedias, Handbooks, and Dictionaries

- Beinert, Wolfgang and Francis Schussler Fiorenza. *Handbook of Catholic Theology*. New York: The Crossroad Publishing Company, 1995.
- Brauer, Jerald C., ed. *The Westminster Dictionary of Church History*. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1971.
- Cross, F. L. and E. A. Livingstone, eds. *The Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church*, Oxford University Press, 1997.
- Douglas, J. D., ed. *The New International Dictionary of Church History*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1978.
- Edwards, Paul, ed. *The Encyclopedia of Philosophy*. 8 vols. New York: Macmillan, 1967.
- Elwell, Walter., ed. *Evangelical Dictionary of Theology*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1984.
- Ferguson, Sinclair B., David F. Wright, and J. I. Packer, eds. *New Dictionary of Theology*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1988.
- Harrison, Everett F., ed. *Baker's Dictionary of Theology*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1981.
- Hart, Trevor. *The Dictionary of Historical Theology*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2000.
- Hastings, James, ed. *Encyclopedia of Religion and Ethics*. 12 vols. New York: Scribners, 1908-34. Reprint. Scribners, 1961.
- Jackson, Samuel M., ed. *The New Schaff - Herzog Encyclopedia of Religion*. 12 vols. New York: Funk and Wagnalls Company, 1908-1914.
- McClintock, J. and J. Strong, eds. *Cyclopedia of Biblical Theological and Ecclesiastical Literature*. 10 vols. New York: Harper & Bros., 1867-87.
- McDonald, William J., ed. *The New Catholic Encyclopedia*. 15 vols. New York: McGraw-Hill, 1967.
- Muller, Richard A. *Dictionary of Latin and Greek Theological Terms*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1985.
- Richardson, Alan and John Bowen, eds. *The Westminster Dictionary of Christian Theology*. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1983.

COURSE OUTLINE
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Lesson 1

Understanding the Reformation

Lesson 2

Luther's Reform of the Church

Lesson 3

Zwingli and the Anabaptists

Lesson 4

Calvin and the Reformed Tradition

Lesson 5

Reformation in England and Scotland

Lesson 6

Roman Catholic Reform

Lesson 7

English Puritans and Separatists

Lesson 8

Pietism, Methodism, and the Enlightenment