

Reynolds Institute for Pastor Education and Development
New England District Church of the Nazarene
SYLLABUS: HIS-2013 – THE WESTERN WORLD IN
ANCIENT AND MEDIEVAL TIMES
SUMMER TERM, 2010

PROFESSOR: David W. Heughins.
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3 Semester Credit Hours
Mondays 6:00-9:40 PM, May 17 – August 2, 2010
First Church of the Nazarene, Worcester, MA

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

A survey course that traces the social forces (sacred and secular) contributing to the development of Western Civilization in global context from the Hellenistic period (1000 BC) to the Reformation era. The study of key events, ideas, personalities, and movements that have contributed to the major periods of history and the passages between them increases students' understanding of and appreciation for God's redemptive purposes. The course will study ways to build bridges from historical understanding to personal spiritual formation, the role of the church in society, and contemporary ministry.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

The following are competencies for Ordination Course of Study which are achieved by this course:

1. Ability to describe the impact of the historical background of the New Testament on the message of Jesus and Paul. (CN-12)
2. Ability to describe the general story line of Church History and the development of the major doctrines and creeds. (CN-24)
3. Ability to identify and describe the significance of the major figures, themes, and events of the Patristic and Medieval periods of Church History. (CN-25)
4. Ability to describe how the church implemented its mission in the various periods of Church History. (CN-26)
5. Ability to describe and interpret the relationship between culture and individual behavior. (CX-5)
6. Ability to understand, appreciate, and work sensitively to explain the nature of cultures and subcultures. (CX-6)

Additional objective: An appreciation for the devotion and spirituality of different periods in Christian history in context of their times, supported by primary readings.

COURSE PROFESSOR:

David W. Heughins (“Prof Dave’). PhD, MA University of Minnesota, 1971, 1983; BA Eastern Nazarene College, 1966. History Professor, Canadian Nazarene College, 1972-79; Continuing Education Administrator, Post University & Eastern Nazarene College 1980-96. Retired 2007 – present.

COURSE TEXTBOOKS

1. Sherman, Dennis and Salisbury, Joyce, The West in the World. 2nd ed. Boston, MA: McGraw-Hill, 2004. ISBN: 0072878304.
2. Noll, Mark A., Turning Points: Decisive Moments in the History of Christianity. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House. 2001. ISBN: 080106211X
3. Spickard, Paul, and Cragg, Kevin, M., A Global History: How Everyday Believers Experienced Their World. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academics, 1994. ISBN: 0801022495.

(NOTE: All three books are used for both Western World in Ancient and Medieval Times and Western World and the Emerging Modern Society courses.)

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

1. Mid-term and Final Examinations: Essay and short answer will test mastery of classroom and text material.
2. Weekly Questions/Reports: Students will prepare answers to broad questions each week, based on their reading assignments (texts and primary resources) and material presented in class.
3. Research paper: “Another Turning Point in Christian History” (list to be provided). This will require original research, at least one primary source, and proper documentation.

COURSE EVALUATIONS :

1. Class Attendance and Participation = 10% of final grade*
2. Research and Reflection Paper = 30% of final grade
3. Weekly Questions/Reports = 30% of final grade*
4. Mid-term Exam = 15% of final grade
5. Final Exam – 15% of final grade

*One absence, for any reason(or the lowest weekly questions score), will be forgiven. More will hurt your grade.

COURSE SCHEDULE/OUTLINE HIS 2013

- I. The Ancient Mediterranean and Middle East
Assignment for 1st class: Obtain text books
- A. The Foundations of Western Civilization May 17
1. Introductions
2. History, Christianity, and Civilization
3. Athens and Jerusalem
Reading for next week: S&S ch 3 & 4, S&C ch 1 & 2, Noll Preface & ch 1,
- B. Pagan Rome and the World of the New Testament May 24
1. Reprise: Plato
2. "The glory that was Rome"
3. Rome at the time of the Apostles
4. The Fall of Jerusalem
5. The Post-Apostolic "Gap"
Reading for next week: S&S ch 5, S&C ch 3, Noll ch 2, Didache,
- C. The Triumph of Christianity June 7
1. The Ante-Nicene Fathers
2. Diocletian and Constantine
3. Nicaea
Reading for next week: Noll ch 3, Augustine selections
- D. Christian Rome and Beyond June 14
4. Chalcedon
5. The long crisis of the late Roman Empire
6. Ambrose, Augustine, and the early Papacy
7. Review and special topics
Reading for next week: S&S pp185-87, S&C pp 67-78, Noll ch 4, Rule of St. Benedict
- II. The Medieval West
- A. Light in the "Dark Ages" June 21
1. Augustine's City of God
2. The Fall of the West and survival of the East
3. Converting the Invaders
4. Benedict's Rule
5. MID-TERM
Reading for next week: S&S pp 187-208, S&C pp 78-124, Noll ch 5, selections from Bernard of Clairvaux
- B. The Age of Faith June 28
1. Mid-Term Autopsy
2. Byzantium, Mecca, and Charlemagne
3. Cluny & Reform
4. Saints & Scholastics
Reading for next week: S&S pp 230-274, S&C 6, Noll 6, selections from Aquinas

- C. The High Middle Ages July 12
- 1.. The Medieval West 1050-1300
 2. The Great Schism
 3. The Crusades
 4. Aquinas
 5. The Friars
- Reading for next week: S&S ch 9, selections from Ockham*

III. Late Middle Ages & Renaissance

- A. The Waning of the Middle Ages July 19
1. Whatever became of the Middle Ages?
 2. The Decline and Fission of the Imperial Papacy
 3. Scholastics and Mystics

Reading for next week: S&C ch 7, selections from Thomas a Kempis, Imitation of Christ, ALL WORK DUE (next week!)

- B. The Renaissance July 26
1. The World of the Renaissance
 2. Italian Humanism and the Church
 3. Northern Humanism & Reform
 4. Review

Reading for next week: S&S pp 336-354

- C. On the Eve of the Reformation August 2
1. Reformation Begins
 2. Wrap-up
 3. FINAL EXAM