

THE CHURCH TO THE MODERN ERA SYLLABUS

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

“A study of Christianity from the second century to the rise of the Enlightenment with special emphasis on the institutional history of the church as well as theological developments in the church.” (DTS Catalogue).

II. COURSE OBJECTIVES AND RATIONALE

- A. The student will know generally the history of the Christian church and the writings of leading Christian thinkers to the Modern Era.
- B. The student will understand the various ecclesiastical traditions of the church through studying their doctrines and practices.
- C. The student will reflect upon his or her understanding of theology through the lens of doctrinal formulation and development through the centuries.
- D. The student will analyze the validity of theological perspectives by studying the thought of various historical figures and their movements.
- E. The student will synthesize the historical development of various trends in theology such as the growth of individualism or the emergence of a specific church tradition, practice, polity, or movement.
- F. The student will perceive the value of historical studies and gain insight for his or her ministry.

III. COURSE TEXTBOOKS

A. Required

Hannah, John D. *Invitation to Church History: World*. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2018.

Leith, John. *Creeeds of the Churches*. Garden City, NY: Doubleday & Co., 1963.

Purves, Andrew. *Pastoral Theology in the Classical Tradition*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2001.

IV. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. Course Format

This course is offered in a hybrid format, integrating online lectures with live classroom discussions. Students are encouraged to watch the online video lectures (available at online.dts.edu) in accordance with the course schedule (posted below).

B. Reading Assignments

1. **General Reading (30%)**: The student should read the required texts according to the course schedule below. The reading will be worth up to 30% of your overall grade in the course, depending on the percentage completed. The student will report the percentage of completed reading to the professor via Canvas by **21 December**.
2. **Elective Reading (20%)**: In addition to the required reading, students will select from the following nine elective reading options or they may propose other primary source reading options to the professor, who will assign point values to the selections. Point values are determined by quantity, difficulty, and value of the readings, not on page count alone. A maximum of twenty (20) reading points may be earned through primary source reading, for a total of 20% of the course grade. Please note that without twenty (20)

points total selected reading, the highest possible score for the semester is an 80 (C). The student will report the percentage of completed reading to the professor via Canvas by **21 December**.

1. *The Apostolic Fathers (Didache, 1 Clement, 2 Clement, Epistles of Ignatius, Epistle of Polycarp, Martyrdom of Polycarp, Barnabas, Shepherd of Hermas, Epistle to Diognetus)* (20 points)
2. Justin Martyr, *Dialogue with Trypho* (10 points)
3. Irenaeus of Lyons, *Demonstration of the Apostolic Preaching* (10 points)
4. Athanasius of Alexandria, *On the Incarnation* (10 points)
5. Eusebius of Caesarea, *Ecclesiastical History* (20 points)
6. Augustine of Hippo, *Confessions* (20 points)
7. Vincent of Lerins, *Commonitorium* (10 points)
8. Anselm of Canterbury, *Cur Deus Homo?* (10 points)
9. Thomas Aquinas, *Shorter Summa* (20 points)
10. Martin Luther, *On the Bondage of the Will* (10 points)
11. John Calvin, *Of Prayer: A Perpetual Exercise of Faith* (10 points)
12. John Calvin, *Institutes*, Book 1 (20 points)

C. Written Assignment

Response Paper (25%): Based on a critical reading of Andrew Purves's *Pastoral Theology in the Classical Tradition*, the student will write a five-page response to the book, addressing the following areas:

1. State the basic thesis (argument) of Purves's book and how he supports it. I.e., what is Purves's "agenda," and to what perspective is he trying to persuade his readers?
2. What are the patterns of contemporary pastoral ministry Purves is attempting to challenge by a reflection on the classical tradition?
3. Discuss what a classical approach to contemporary ministry might look like in your particular ecclesiastical tradition. How might the classical approach challenge your current structures and practices?
4. In what ways has Purves's book challenged your perspective on contemporary pastoral ministry?

Due: 12 October.

D. Quizzes and/or Exams

Final Exam (25%): One objective final exam will be given at the end of the semester covering major figures, themes, events, dates, and developments in the Patristic, Medieval, and Reformation eras. This exam will consist of a variety of multiple choice, matching, brief answer, and true/false questions. It will be a closed-book, closed-note type of exam. A study guide will be provided online. The final exam will be available during Finals Week and must be completed by **21 December**.

V. COURSE POLICIES

A. Weight Given to Course Requirements for Grading

General Reading	30%
Elective Reading	20%

Response Paper	25%
Final Exam	<u>25%</u>
	100%

B. Class Participation

Class sessions are intended to include the interaction of class members. The student is encouraged to participate in class and group discussions for her or his own learning and enrichment. All comments or questions should be collegial, polite, and respectful.

C. Late Assignments

No late papers will be accepted except in the rare case of an emergency. Reading should be completed prior to class on the date it is listed in the course schedule. Without a valid excuse, late homework may lose five points per day of classes.

D. Plagiarism

Take note that *plagiarism* (copying from Internet, articles, or books) or any form of deception or cheating is strictly prohibited and can be grounds for expulsion from the Seminary. All sources should be fully documented and quotation marks used when appropriate. See www.plagiarism.org for current issues in plagiarism. Ignorance of guidelines is not a defense against charges of plagiarism. Please be aware that the Seminary has enabled Turnitin software via Canvas in order to detect possible instances of plagiarism.

E. Use of Electronics

To promote class participation and to avoid distraction, the use of electronic equipment—including cell phones, audio or video players, recording devices (except for recording lectures for personal use only), or internet browsing and text messaging—is prohibited during class. Students may use laptop computers only for taking notes during lectures. Exceptions to this prohibition must be approved by the professor in advance.

F. Absences

Penalties for non-attendance will be assigned according to the *Student Handbook*.

G. Letter/Numerical Grade Scale

	B+ 91-93	C+ 83-85	D+ 75-77	F 0-69
A 96-100	B 88-90	C 80-82	D 72-74	
A- 94-95	B- 86-87	C- 78-79	D- 70-71	

VI. COURSE SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

1. The professor is indebted to Dr. Michael J. Svingel for some of the course material. Course lecture notes (Powerpoint slides) will be made available on online.dts.edu.
2. DTS does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the operation of any of its programs and activities. To avoid discrimination the student is responsible for informing the Coordinator of Services for Students with Disabilities and the course instructor of any disabling condition that will require modifications.

VII. COURSE SCHEDULE

The live portion of the course will occur early in the semester and will cover approximately the first half of the course content. After the live portion of the class, several online lectures will be required. These will be assigned later.