I want you to do well in this course, so please let me know if you are having difficulty with the class material.

Course Description:
A survey of the history of Christian theology in its cultural setting from the Protestant Reformations to the twentieth century. Attention is given to Protestant and Catholic doctrinal developments in Europe and America.

Core Values:
Because we love God, we love the church he created and redeemed. Because we love his church, we take its history seriously.

Course Objectives: In light of the school’s mission and objectives, the student who successfully completes this course will be able to:
1) Describe the key figures and movements in the second half of church history.
2) Describe the key figures and theology of the Restoration Movement in particular.
3) Conduct basic research in the field of church history.
4) Articulate how the past affects the present in general and with regard to specific denominations.

Required Course Textbooks:


Recommended Texts:


**Academic Honesty:**
AGST places a high priority on honesty and a biblical commitment to truth. Incidents of cheating, plagiarism, or any other activities deemed dishonest will result in penalties. These penalties may range from receiving a zero (0%) on the assignment to failing the course or dismissal from the school. (According to Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary, to “plagiarize” is to steal and use as one’s own the ideas, words, etc., of another. Collaborating on written assignments that should be done individually would fall under this category of dishonesty. See also the definitions and descriptions in the catalog or student handbook.)

**Course Requirements:**

1. Reading of assigned texts and class participation (25 pts.). You are expected to complete all assigned readings prior to the class meetings. Many readings will be available online. Print, read, and bring them to class with you. The lectures, which will not recapitulate the textbooks, will assume that you have read the assignments and know the material. Be prepared to take notes, discuss, and answer questions about the reading material in class.

2. Mid-term exam (50 pts.). A mid-term exam will assess your grasp of the reading and lecture material thus far.

3. Final exam (100 pts.). The final exam will be an open-note exam that should be done individually. You may also arrange to take it off campus under a proctor’s supervision. In the latter case:
   a. By email, let me know the time and place you wish to take the exam, and provide an email address of a non-family member who will proctor your exam.
   b. As in class, the exam should be hand-written, with a maximum allotment of 3 hours.
   c. Completed exams should be dropped off to my office or scanned and emailed to me before the end of the day on Wednesday, May 13. Late exams will be penalized 10% per day late.

4. Learning from a mentor (50 pts.). Choose a historical figure from the list in the syllabus (vide infra). Choose one of the following two options, and get approval from the instructor before beginning:
   a. Read at least 200 pages from that person’s own writings. Specify the work and the page numbers read. Write a report that summarizes the document/excerpt and answer at least the following questions: Who is the author, and why is he important? What is the specific occasion for this document? What is the author's main concern in this document? What is his point, and how does he get there? What does the document reveal about the main concerns of his day? What main points do you strongly agree and/or disagree with? How does this reading help your understanding
and practice of the Christian faith? The paper should be single-spaced, and at least 1,000 words. It is due on March 30.

b. Read a biography (at least 200 pages long) that focuses on the life and/or thought of the chosen historical figure. Summarize the biography, but focus on answering at least the following questions. What were the major turning points in the person’s life? What are the major writings and the context of those writings? What did the person contribute to the history of theology, and how do his life and thought still influence the church today? The paper should be single-spaced, and at least 1,000 words. It is due on March 30.

5. Research paper (100 pts.). The student will submit a research paper on an approved topic. Topics must be approved by Week 3 of class. Students are also encouraged, but not required, to submit a prospectus that includes a) a statement of the problem to be investigated, b) an indication of the approach to be adopted, and c) a preliminary bibliography.

The paper should be 10-15 pages in length (double-spaced) and should carefully follow Turabian style. A hard copy of the final draft of the paper should be turned in by or before 4:00 p.m., Monday, April 27, to be considered on time. Late papers will be penalized 10%, and then an additional 10% every half a week thereafter.

a. Not optional. A course grade of “F” will be assigned to anyone not turning in a paper. An “Incomplete” may be granted only in special cases of serious illness or family emergency. It must be requested before finals week, and the extension will last no longer than three weeks after the end of the semester. It will not be granted to mitigate the common pressures of the academic vocation.

b. Use proper, academic English style.

c. Read the handouts on writing papers. Assessment criteria will include such things as: clearly stated purpose, logical organization, faultless style, evidence of research, and interaction with sources.

d. No fewer than ten sources are to be used. These sources should include relevant surveys, special monographs, and at least three peer-reviewed journal articles. At least two sources should be primary documents. Do not cite sources in the bibliography unless they are used in the paper.

Grading Scale:
90-100% = A  80-89 = B (“Good”)  70-79 = C (“Average”)  60-69 = D  0-59 = F

Course Schedule:
(Gonzalez readings are listed according to chapter numbers. Stanglin readings are listed by selection numbers. Other readings are listed by page numbers.)

Week 1, January 19  NO CLASS!  MLK Day.

Week 2, January 26  Backgrounds of Reform

1) Gonzalez 1
2) Stanglin 1-11

Week 3, February 2  First Outbreak of Reform: Luther
1) Gonzalez 2-4
2) Stanglin 12-21
3) Watch Luther documentary, part 1 http://youtu.be/PyVrPlp4QsA and part 2 http://youtu.be/xsDT1pYOW2c

Week 4, February 9 Zwingli and the Radicals

1) Gonzalez 5-6
2) Stanglin 22-25, 31-39

Week 5, February 16 Calvin; England

1) Gonzalez 7-11
2) Stanglin 26-30

Week 6, February 23 Roman Catholic Counter-Reformation

1) Gonzalez 12-15
2) Stanglin 40-46

Week 7, March 2 Protestant Confessionalization and Conflict

1) Gonzalez 16-20
2) Stanglin 47-54

Week 8, March 9 Mid-Term Exam

March 16 READING BREAK. No class.

Week 9, March 23 Arminian Controversy

1) Gonzalez 21
2) Stanglin 55-60
3) Stanglin, “Arminian, Remonstrant, and Early Wesleyan Theologies”
Week 10, March 30  
Enlightenment and Skepticism

1) Gonzalez 22
2) Stanglin 61-68

Week 11, April 6  
Pietist and Methodist Revival

1) Gonzalez 23-24
2) Stanglin 69-78

Week 12, April 13  
American Christianity

1) Gonzalez 25-30
3) Stanglin 79, 81-83

Week 13, April 20  
The Restoration Movement

2) Stanglin 80

Week 14, April 27  
Liberal Protestantism

1) Gonzalez 31
2) Stanglin 84-88

Week 15, May 4  
Critique: Kierkegaard and Fundamentalism

1) Gonzalez 32-37
2) Stanglin 89-97, and three additional selections from chapter 9

Week 16, May 13  
Final Exam

Due Dates:
Week 3  
Research paper topic and prospectus

Week 8  
Mid-term exam
Week 10       Learning from a mentor
Week 14       Research paper
Week 16       Final exam

Reading Guidelines:

Gonzalez, our secondary source, serves as a decent introduction for those who have had no exposure to historical theology and as a good refresher for those already familiar with this period of Christian history. It provides a good sense of the major turning points in church history. The *Oxford Concise Dictionary of the Christian Church*, recommended for the course, is a great resource to have on the shelf for quick reference to (almost) all things theological.

Primary sources, however, are the most important portion of the course readings. The assumption behind this choice is that there is no better way to understand the major figures under discussion than to read large chunks of their own writings. Here are some general methodological guidelines. 1) The reader should primarily be attentive to the thesis or central idea of each reading selection. What main point is the author trying to get across? 2) The reader should discern how the author proceeds to support the thesis. How does the author support his case? What are his arguments? If it is readily available in the editorial note or introduction, the reader should keep in mind the occasion for writing and the intended audience, which help to illuminate the main idea and method of argumentation. 3) The reader should always be on the lookout for any relevant presuppositions, beliefs, values, and themes that illustrate the author's *Sitz im Leben* and that connect with his larger corpus and that of his contemporaries. 4) Finally, look for threads of influence that precede the author and for the seeds of theological trajectories that follow him. Whom does the author quote or seem to follow, and who later appeals to the author and seems to follow him?

In other words, as in biblical studies, the best way to understand an author is to put one's exegetical skills to work. At the very least, this kind of reading will require annotating one's textbooks and printed copies, and perhaps taking separate notes on the readings.

The goals for reading are threefold. As already stated, the primary proximate goal of the reading is to begin to understand the authors on their own terms, before making any judgments about their orthodoxy or heterodoxy. As Herbert Butterfield wrote, “Real historical understanding is not achieved by the subordination of the past to the present, but rather by our making the past our present and attempting to see life with the eyes of another century than our own.” Similarly, Etienne Gilson said, “It takes much more cleverness to understand a philosophy than to refute it.” Moreover, an understanding of the reading selections will increase the student's grasp of the class lectures, and vice versa. Accurate, descriptive understanding is requisite for and leads to fair evaluation, which is the remote goal of the reading. After understanding and basic evaluation, the question of how the material can inform our own faith and practice in a positive way should be addressed as the ultimate goal. What can be gained from this historical perspective? What have we learned about ourselves in the process? How does this material impact the theology and
controversies of the present day and help the church move forward? Based on our understanding and evaluation, how can we be more faithful disciples, both individually and corporately, leading us to the eternal enjoyment of God?

The more proximate the goal, the more attention will be given to it during class meetings. Nevertheless, each of the three goals, though distinct, should never be pursued in isolation from the others.

Note well that getting a good grade was not listed as a goal for the reading. In an academic institution, however, grades must be assigned, and a good grade, though not a goal per se, should rightly flow from and reflect the student's clear understanding of the readings (as well as the lecture material). In light of this necessity, the professor's assessment of a student's grasp of the readings will be based both on classroom discussion, where students will be required to participate in conversations based on the readings, and on the two examinations.

**Mentors:**
- Didache and 1 Clement
- Ignatius of Antioch and Polycarp of Smyrna
- Justin Martyr
- Irenaeus of Lyons
- Tertullian
- Clement of Alexandria
- Origen
- Eusebius of Caesarea
- Athanasius of Alexandria
- Gregory of Nyssa
- Jerome
- Augustine of Hippo
- John Cassian
- (Pseudo-)Dionysius the Areopagite
- Gregory the Great
- Maximus the Confessor
- John of Damascus
- Anselm of Canterbury
- Peter Lombard
- Bernard of Clairvaux
- Bonaventure
- Thomas Aquinas
- John Duns Scotus
- William of Ockham
- Thomas à Kempis
- Jean Gerson
- Martin Luther
- Ignatius of Loyola
- John Calvin
- Jacob Arminius
- John Locke
- Philipp Jakob Spener
- Jonathan Edwards
- John Wesley
- Søren Kierkegaard
- John Henry Newman
- Karl Barth
Research Paper Suggestions:

Research papers should be historical in nature, dealing with the time period covered in the course (ca. 1300 to present). As such, they should demonstrate a healthy dose of primary source research along with secondary sources. The best topic is one that interests you. After doing (or glancing through) the readings, what strikes your fancy?

a) You may examine a particular thinker, idea, or event of church history. Of course, you will need to make sure your topic’s scope fits the desired length of the paper. Combine a group or thinker with a doctrine or event. The following topic suggestions are not meant to limit your selection, but to get the intellectual juices flowing. Other suggestions are welcome.

Some groups to consider: Roman Catholic, Eastern Orthodox, Lutheran, Anabaptist, Reformed, Arminian, Socinian, Pietist, Evangelical.

For individual figures, see primary readings and textbook indices.

Ideas, doctrines, events:

- Canon of Scripture
- Biblical interpretation
- Sin and anthropology
- Christology
- Church organization
- Missions
- Persecution
- The state church
- Church councils
- Identification and treatment of heretics
- Baptismal theology and practice
- Eucharistic theology and practice
- Popes
- Predestination
- Early reform efforts
- Confessionalization
- Thirty-Years’ War
- Enlightenment
- First or Second Great Awakening
- Indian Conversions
- Impact of philosophy on theology
- Christian interaction with other religions
- Early ecumenical movement

b) Or…You may discuss the impact of church history on a particular area of life, church, art, family, worship, or confessions and catechisms, etc. You may trace the influence of a particular thinker, event, or doctrine. I want to know how church history impacted a particular area of life of interest to you.
Church History Select Bibliography

I. Reformation/Post-Reformation:


______. For my more extensive introductory bibliography of English-language secondary sources on historical theology, visit my resource page at http://austingrad.edu/resources/faculty


II. Modern:


