

HORIZON COLLEGE AND SEMINARY  
History of the Christian Era  
Syllabus

Instructor: D. Munk Ph.D.  
Winter, 2010  
3 hrs.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

In preparing for a lifetime of Christian service, lay or vocational, we can learn much from the input of other Christians during the past two thousand years. To this end, this course provides an overview of the history of Christianity. Both external factors such as names, dates and movements and internal factors such as theological controversies will be studied.

Note: This course has university transfer credit.

TEXTBOOK: Cairns, Earle. Christianity Through the Centuries. Zondervan, 1996.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Students will have the opportunity to:

1. Know the most important events, movements, and persons in the history of the Christian era, as covered in this course.
2. Understand the major doctrinal controversies that the church was engaged in, especially during the first few centuries.
3. Become familiar with the measures taken by church leaders to combat false teaching and to ensure purity of doctrine.
4. Interpret history from a Christian perspective.
5. Understand the guiding hand of God over the affairs of humankind as reflected in history
6. Appreciate the contribution that the major figures in history exerted on the doctrine and the thinking of the church.
7. Appreciate some of the difficulties faced by Church leaders with false doctrine and appreciate the valuable lessons that history teaches.
8. Enjoy learning from history through learning of the enrichment the study of history can bring to one's life.

9. Describe the strengths and weaknesses of Christianity through the centuries.
10. Identify the factors that accounted for the phenomenal growth of the early church.
11. Identify a selective list of persons, places, events and issues which are important to the history of Christianity.

### TENTATIVE CLASS OUTLINE:

#### Part One: The Ancient Church (5 B.C. to 590 AD)

1. Introduction: The Fullness of Time
2. Christianity spreads--persecution
3. Organization of the Church
4. Monasticism
5. Controversies of the Church

#### Part Two: The Medieval Church (590-1517)

1. Charlemagne
2. English missions
3. Gregory I
4. The Eastern Empire
5. The Sacraments
6. The Crusades
7. The Papacy--the power of the popes
8. Scholasticism
9. Decline of the Papacy--early reformers

#### Part Three: The Modern Church (1517- )

1. Luther
2. Calvin and the Reformed churches
3. Anabaptists
4. The English Reformation
5. The Catholic Reformation
6. Thirty years war
7. Puritanism
8. Pietism
9. John Wesley and Revival
10. Great Awakening
11. Missionary Expansion
12. Recent Developments in Catholicism
13. Third World Christianity

EVALUATION:

1. Diploma/Degree students

Midterm: 25%

Final: 40%

Exams (2) on assigned

reading from text: 35% (January 19 and end of March)

2. Certificate students

Midterm: 25%

Final: 40%

Exams (2) on assigned

reading from text: 25% (January 19 and end of March)

Participation: 10%

BIBLIOGRAPHY: see attached.