

in partnership with



TS5101 Survey of Church History

3 credit hours. Prerequisites: none.

² Mississauga Campus 'X' Live-Stream ■ Video on Demand

November 10 – December 19, 2025

Term B / Fall 2025 Monday and Wednesday 10AM – 1PM (EST) / 9AM – 11AM (SK)

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Course Goals

Course Description

A survey of the history of Christianity from the early Church through to the present. The course covers the main developments of spirituality, evangelism, worship, organization, and interaction with society.

Relationship to Horizon and MCS's Missions

This course provides students with historical knowledge and research skills that will help them grow in the following:

• *Contextual Awareness* is demonstrated by a maturing orthodox Christian worldview, a healthy self-understanding, and engagement of people and cultures with wisdom and discernment.

Course Competencies and Learning Outcomes

To demonstrate competency in Contextual Awareness students will:

- 1) Identify and describe where and how key events, people, and movements fit in the history of Christianity.
 - Assessment: Textbook Quiz, Final Competency Assessment
- 2) Explain how knowledge of Church history is important for ministry and Christian life.
 - Assessment: Research Paper, Liturgy Reflection, Final Competency Assessment
- 3) Analyze a contemporary Liturgy experience in light of Church history.
 - Assessment: Liturgy Reflection
- 4) Research a specific topic in Church history.
 - Assessment: Research Paper

Course Work

Required Reading

Mullin, Robert Bruce. *A Short World History of Christianity*. Revised edition. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox, 2014. (ISBN-13: 978-0664259631)

**While students have the benefit of accessing many of their textbooks online through the <u>Digital Theological Library</u>, they will not have access to the Digital Theological Library upon graduation. Therefore, we encourage students to purchase select textbooks to build their personal library.

1. Textbook Quiz – 20%

You will take the textbook quiz on Populi. The quiz is open-book, but you should be well prepared to write the quiz before you begin. Please use the study guide provided on Populi as you read. You will have up to three hours to complete the quiz. You must score a minimum of 70% on the quiz (remedial work may be allowed if a student scores lower than 70%). The quiz must be completed by 11:59PM ET on December 7, 2025. After 11:59PM the quiz will no longer be accessible, so you must *finish you quiz before 11:59PM*. Students are encouraged to complete the quiz in advance of the due date.

- Related learning outcome(s): #1.
- **Assignment length**: reading + 3 hours for quiz.
- **Due date:** Sunday, December 7, 2025, 11:59PM ET

2. Research Paper – 35%

Write a *paper* on a key person, an important movement, or an important event in Church history. A list of possible topics is available on Populi. Please confirm with the professor if you choose a topic that is not on that list. Please include a title page and put your thesis statement at the top of

the page following the title page. The **first** ¾ of your paper/presentation you should focus on **reporting** who/what the person, event, or movement was as well as their significance in the history of Christianity. For the last **one to two pages** of your paper you should offer **personal reflections** regarding the contemporary significance of this person, event, or movement. Answer the question: how does studying this event/person/movement help you to better understand or approach something in today's church context? To help you answer this question you might consider current church issues, how your new knowledge might affect ministry or Christian life, or lessons that are applicable in the church today.

Please submit a thesis statement for this paper by Friday, November 14, 2025. Submit this on Populi under the assignment "Research Paper Thesis Statement."

As you write your paper:

- Assignment length: 10-12 pages (minimum 2500 to maximum 3000 words), <u>not including</u> your bibliography, footnotes or title page.
- Please include a title page formatted as indicated in the Horizon & MCS Format Guide.
- Use a <u>minimum</u> of 10 sources scholarly sources (a book is often not *academic* if it does not have footnotes or endnotes) plus the course textbook and available course material.
- Web pages can qualify as a "scholarly" source. Read web pages for more.
- Students are expected to read 300-400 pages for this assignment. Please document your reading in the paper of your bibliography by indicating specific pages read in each source plus the total for that source.
- Follow the Horizon & MCS Format Guide for submitting assignments.
- Related learning outcome(s): #2, 4.
- Assignment Length: 10-12 pages (minimum 2500 to maximum 3000 words).
- **Due date for Thesis:** Friday, November 14, 2025.
- **Due date for final project:** Monday, January 5, 2026.

3. *Liturgy Reflection* – 25%

For your liturgy reflection paper, you will first visit an *Oriental (Armenian, Syriac, Coptic)* Eastern Orthodox (Bulgarian, Georgian, Greek, Polish, Russian, Serbian, Ukrainian), Eastern rite (Greek) Catholic, or Roman-Catholic Church for Sunday Worship service (Divine Liturgy/Catholic Mass) or for evening vespers (usually Saturday). Base your assignment on a visit that you make during this course (not based on a previous experience). To complete the assignment:

- When you attend, note these issues of respect: Do not "take notes" like a tourist (especially on your phone), but participate as much as you are able. You may wish to take pictures, with permission only, *after* (not during) the service and include a few with your reflection paper.
- Write a 4–5-page (max 2500 words) *Liturgy Reflection* paper.
- Include the date (must be after November 26, 2025), time, and location of the service you attended on the title page. In your paper, you must demonstrate historical awareness by relating your experience to what you have learned in this class, using citations from both your class notes and the textbook.
- Footnotes and a bibliography are required when you refer to any source (book, website, email conversation, etc.).

In your *Liturgy Reflection* paper, you will relate your experience to what you have in this class by citing both the course material and the textbook. *Please do not complete your visit until after November 26*. In your reflection you might consider things like (but not limited to) the liturgy, the architecture, the iconography, the sacraments, the music, the theology expressed (in spoken words, written liturgy, image, song, but also in other ways). Do <u>not</u> simply report what you experience – what you liked or didn't like. Rather, you should draw on your knowledge of history to explain why things were the way they were and (perhaps) how they differed or were the same as your typical experience in a church service.

Please reference Mullin and course material for this paper. Include a <u>minimum</u> of <u>five</u> citations to Mullin and <u>four</u> to class material, documented with appropriately formatted footnotes and a bibliography.

- Related learning outcome(s): #2, 3.
- **Assignment length:** 4-5 pages (max 2500 words).
- **Due date:** Wednesday, January 14, 2026.

4. Final Competency Assessment – 20%.

The final competency assessment will be based upon all the material covered in class and the readings. It will include both objective questions (e.g., true/false, multiple choice, place in order) and longer essay questions. Visit the "Final Competency Assessment" lesson on Populi to download a detailed study guide. No books, notes, or other sources may be used for this competency assessment; you will be asked to confirm that you did not use any sources on the final question on the competency assessment.

- Related learning outcomes: #1, 2.
- **Assignment length**: 6 hours allowed.
- **Date:** January 16 or 17, 2026.

Video-on-Demand (VOD) Student Requirements

As indicated on the course schedule, this class is offered by VOD. Students taking the course through VOD are required to indicate this during their course registration. While VOD recordings are available for any student who may be absent from class, non-VOD students are expected to attend class live following the class attendance policy.

- For this course, VOD students have the same assignment due dates as in-class students.
- Each week, VOD students are required to watch and engage with all lecture content and in-class activities from that week's classes.
- By Saturday at 11:59pm each week [excluding module courses], VOD students will submit a 2-3 minute video report that 1) affirms you have watched the required recording, 2) summarizes one thing you learned that will help you reach the course learning outcomes, and 3) explains at least one question you had after watching the class recording.
- VOD submission dates:
 - o Week 1: Lectures from November 10 and 12 due by November 15
 - o Week 2: Lectures from November 17 and 19 due by November 22
 - o Week 3: Lectures from November 24 and 26 due by November 29

- o Week 4: Lectures from December 1 and 3 due by December 6
- o Week 5: Lectures from December 8 and 10 due by December 13
- In order to pass the course, VOD students must submit all of their VOD weekly submissions. These submissions are marked are pass/fail based on whether or not they demonstrate thoughtful engagement with the lecture content and in-class activities.
- The Late Assignment and Extension policy applies to all VOD Report submissions.

Estimate of Time Investment (individual time investments may vary)

	Time (approx.)	Due Date	Assignment Weighting
Class Engagement	30 hours	n/a	
1. Textbook Reading Quiz	25 hours	Dec. 7	20%
2. History Paper	35 hours	Jan. 5 (Thesis Nov.	35%
		14)	
3. Liturgy Reflection	20 hours	Jan. 14	25%
4. Final Competency Assessment	10 hours	Jan. 16 or 17	20%
TOTAL	120 hours		

All assignments are due at 11:59pm ET unless otherwise indicated.

Course Outline / Class Schedule Class Plan

1. Introduction

- a. Introduction to the course: Why is history important?
- b. Overview of the course and syllabus clarification
- c. The world before Christ

2. The Beginning of the Church - Acts and After Jesus

- a. The Acts of the Apostles: The Early Church after Jesus
- b. The Early Establishment of the Church
- b. The Apostolic Fathers

3. The Church Under Pressure

- a. Early Persecution and Conflict
- b. The Apologists and Heresies
- c. The Formulation of Doctrine

4. The Imperial Church

- a. Further development of the Doctrine
- b. Constantine and the New Empire: Christendom
- c. Councils and Creeds

5. The Medieval Church

- b. The Early Medieval Church
- c. The Divided Church
- d. The Late Middle Ages

6. The Protestant Reformation

- a. Preconditions for the Protestant Reformation
- b. The Protestant Reformation and the Peace of Westphalia
- c. Colonization and Missionary Work

7. The Enlightenment

a. Preconditions for the Enlightenment

- b. The Enlightenment Project
- c. The Enlightenment and Christian Theology

8. The Brave New World

- a. Fragmentation
- b. Modernity: The Era of Certainty and Further Fragmentation
- c. The Great Awakenings

9. Christianity After the Holodomor and the Holocaust

- a. The Rise of Ideologies and the Two World Wars
- b. The Sexual Revolution and the Fall of the Iron Curtain (Late 20th Century)
- c. Christianity in the Early 21st Century

Assignments will not be accepted after January 19, 2026.

Academic Policies

General Guidelines for the Submission of Written Work

Please see the <u>Horizon & MCS</u> Format Guide for assignment submission, grammar, and formatting guidelines. The length of papers should fall within +/- 10% of the stated length. Papers that fall outside the length guidelines may not be graded. Assignments should be submitted via Populi under *Submissions* (not *Comments*). The resource at this <u>link</u> explains how to submit assignments on Populi.

Late Assignments and Extensions

Please contact the professor well in advance if you would like to request an adjustment to any of your due dates. No extensions will be granted beyond the end of the course unless approval is granted by Horizon's Assistant Academic Dean.

A late penalty will be assessed for all overdue assignments: 1-3 days late, penalty of 10%; 4-6 days late, penalty of 20%. After six days late, an assignment receives a grade of 0.

Grading

Grade	Dorgantaga	GPA	Descriptor
Grade	Percentage	GPA	Descriptor
A+	97-100%	4	Exceptional
A	93-96%	4	Excellent
A-	90-92%	3.7	Excellent
B+	87-89%	3.3	Good
В	83-86%	3.0	Good
B-	80-82%	2.7	Good
C+	77-79%	2.3	Satisfactory
C	73-76%	2.0	Satisfactory
C-	70-72%	1.7	Satisfactory
D+	67-69%	1.3	Minimal Pass
D	63-66%	1.0	Minimal Pass
D-	60-62%	0.7	Minimal Pass
F	<60%	0	Failure

Academic Integrity

Students learn best when practicing academic integrity. A lack of integrity is displayed in acts such as deception, abuse of confidentiality, cheating, inappropriate collaboration, or plagiarism. Plagiarism occurs when a student presents the words or ideas of another person or an artificial intelligence (AI) tool in such a way as to give others the impression that it is their own words or ideas. In academic writing, there should be no doubt which words or ideas are the student's and which are drawn from other sources or AI. Students are expected to submit their own original work and give due recognition to sources from which all substantial phrases, sentences or even ideas are drawn. Note also that you may not submit work done in one course to satisfy the requirements of another course (unless both instructors agree beforehand to accept such work). See here for examples of plagiarism and further guidelines in the Student Handbook.

Horizon and MCS have a subscription to software that ensures the originality of academic writing, verifies the proper citation of all sources, and detects AI-generated content. When you submit an assignment, you will automatically receive a summary on Populi that includes your submitted files along with an originality score (a high originality score is positive).

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Usage

In keeping with the Academic Integrity policy above, students must disclose on the title page of all assignments whether or not they have used AI and how they have used it. If the assignment has no title page, the student must disclose this to the instructor by some other means, such as in a comment on Populi. Students are expected to follow the policy for acceptable use of AI that is published in the Horizon and MCS Student Handbooks.

Accessible Learning Services Information

Horizon and MCS are committed to provide safe and inclusive learning environments which equalize the opportunity for students with disabilities to meet the requirements of the institutions, programs, and courses. The application for Academic Accommodations begins with a student disclosing a medical diagnosis or professionally documented learning disability during the application process. Enrolled students may contact Accessibility services personnel (at MCS, the Director of Academic Success, Wendy Holmes at wendy.holmes@mcs.edu; at Horizon, the Academic Accommodations Coordinator, Richelle Bekkattla at rebekkattla@horizon.edu). All Academic Accommodations will adhere to the Guiding Principles listed in the Student Handbooks.

Class Attendance (On Campus or Livestreaming)

Students should attend all classes in order to facilitate competency development. Students are expected to be present through the delivery method that they registered for, either on campus or through livestreaming with their camera on. A student must be present for the full duration of a class period in order to be registered as present for the class. In the case of illness or other unforeseen circumstances, students may miss the equivalent of six hours of class (e.g., one day of a module course or two three-hours classes) without academic penalty. Students who are absent for more than this will automatically fail the course. Students wishing to be exempted from this policy due to extenuating circumstances may make an academic appeal, where they

will need to document and verify those circumstances. Students who miss a class are responsible to get missed notes or handouts from another student, rather than from the professor.

Livestreaming Etiquette

Students taking the course through livestreaming are required to indicate this during their course registration. While livestreaming access is available for on-campus students who are unable to attend class due to illness, on-campus students are expected to attend class in person following the class attendance policy.

If attending class online via livestream, in order to be marked present for class, you must keep your camera on and stay present and attentive throughout the class session, extending the gift of full engagement. Access your class with a computer (preferably) or tablet, not a cell phone. Arrive to class on time, and dress as you would if you were attending class on campus. Join the class from a quiet space with minimal background noise, and mute your microphone until you wish to speak to the class.

Use of Technology

Horizon and MCS encourage the use of electronic devices in the classroom to enhance learning. Careful consideration must be given to privacy issues, copyrighted materials, and the general care and concern for others. Please respect the following classroom policies:

- Please use online access for course learning only. This is a matter of respect for the instructor's teaching, your own learning, and fellow students who may be distracted by other uses.
- Students should secure permission from the instructor to record any teaching material.
 This includes PowerPoint slides, white board illustrations, notes, and any form of audio or video.
- Student feedback is a valuable input for course improvements. Please resolve any classroom grievance about the instructor or course with the instructor personally, through the Horizon College and Seminary grievance procedures, or the Populi-based course evaluations. It is inappropriate to air classroom grievances on a social media platform.
- When instructors use recording mechanisms in the classroom, recorded materials will be used for the sole purpose of instruction and cannot be released to any social media outlet without the written consent of the students whose images have been recorded.
- In general, it is not acceptable to share photographs or videos of students in the classroom setting without permission from those whose images appear in such media.

Bibliography

Web pages

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History of Christianity Virtual Reading Room:

http://www.tyndale.ca/seminary/mtsmodular/reading-rooms/history
The Catholic Encyclopedia. 15 vols. New York: Robert Appleton Company, 1907-1912.

http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/

Encyclopedias/Dictionaries

- Benedetto, Robert, ed. *The New Westminster Dictionary of Church History: Volume One: The Early, Medieval, and Reformation Eras.* Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox, 2008.
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Other Resources

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