

TS5101 Survey of Church History

3 credit hours. Prerequisites: none.

👤 Saskatoon Campus 'A' Livestream 📺 Video on Demand



January 12 – April 17, 2026

Winter Semester 2026 (*note breaks on Horizon calendar*)

Tuesday, 9AM – Noon, 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's Mission

Horizon's mission is "*Advancing God's Kingdom by Preparing Competent Christian Leaders for Spirit-Empowered Life and Ministry.*" As part of Horizon's mission to prepare competent Christian leaders, 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 Exam
- 2) Explain how knowledge of Church history is important for ministry and Christian life.
 - *Assessment*: Research Paper; Orthodox Liturgy Reflection; Final Exam
- 3) Analyze a contemporary Orthodox Liturgy experience in light of Church history.
 - *Assessment*: Orthodox Liturgy Reflection
- 4) Research a specific topic in Church history.
 - *Assessment*: Research Paper

Course Work

Course Textbook

Butler Bass, Diana. *A People's History of Christianity: The Other Side of the Story*. San Francisco, CA: HarperOne, 2010. (ISBN: 978-0061448713)
 DTL: <https://thedtl.on.worldcat.org/oclc/419848398>

****While students have the benefit of accessing many of their textbooks online through the [Digital Theological Library](#), 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.**

Course Assignments and Activities

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 on February 13, 2026. After 11:59PM the quiz will no longer be accessible, so you must *finish your quiz before 11:59PM*. Students are encouraged to complete quiz in advance of the due date.

- Related learning outcome(s): #1.
- **Due date:** February 13, 2026 @ 11:59PM.

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. If you want to choose a different topic that what is on the list, please request approval before submitting a thesis statement. 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 **the 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 the date indicated. Submit this on Populi under the assignment "Research Paper Thesis Statement." The thesis should be one sentence, a minimum of 25 and maximum of 50 words, and keep it to a topic from the list or one that has good academic resources and is approved by the professor. Check here for more:

https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/general_writing/the_writing_process/thesis_statement_tips.html

As you write your paper:

- Assignment length: 10-12 pages (minimum 2500 to maximum 3000 words), not including your bibliography, footnotes or title page.
- Please include a title page formatted as indicated in the Horizon & MCS Format Guide.
- Use a minimum of 5 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 500-700 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:** February 3, 2026.
- **Due date for Final Project:** February 27, 2026.

3. *Orthodox Liturgy Reflection* – 25%

For your historical reflection paper you will first visit an *Orthodox Church* for a Sunday worship service (divine liturgy) or for evening vespers (usually Saturday). This needs to be in person and not on-line. To prepare, read [here](#).

Base your assignment on a visit that you make during this course after March 1 (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) *Orthodox Liturgy Reflection* paper.
- On the title page, include date/time and where you attended a service.
- Footnotes and a bibliography are required when you refer to any source (book, website, email conversation, etc.).

Here are three Orthodox Churches in Saskatoon to choose from: Saint Vincent of Lerins Orthodox Church (www.orthodoxsaskatoon.com), Holy Resurrection Orthodox Church (www.hrochurch.ca) and Holy Covenant Evangelical Orthodox Church (<https://www.holycovenantchurch.net>). If you do not live in Saskatoon, please choose the Saturday Vespers or Sunday Worship of an Orthodox church in your community. Please talk to the professor if you have questions about this. Visiting a service in person is very important for this assignment.

In your *Orthodox 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 March 1.* 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 not 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 the textbook and course material for this paper. Include a minimum of five citations to Butler-Bass and four 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:** March 31, 2026.

4. Final Exam – 20%.

The final exam 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 Exam” lesson on Populi to download a detailed study guide. No books, notes, or other sources may be used for this exam; you will be asked to confirm that you did not use any sources on the final question on the exam.

- Related learning outcomes: #1, 2.
- **Assignment length:** 6 hours allowed.
- **Date:** April 9 or 10, 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.
- By Saturday at 11:59PM 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, VOD students will submit a 2-3-minute video report (**maximum of 3 minutes**). The video report will be submitted on Padlet (link available on Populi) and should include:

- 1) affirmation that she/he watched the required recording for the last seven days,
- 2) a summary of one thing she/he learned that week that will help her/him reach the course learning outcomes
- 3) an explanation of at least one question she/he has after watching the class recording,
- In order to pass the course, VOD students must submit all of their VOD weekly submissions. These submissions are marked pass/fail based on whether or not they demonstrate thoughtful engagement with the lecture content and in-class activities.
- The Extensions and Late Assignments policies apply to all VOD Report submissions.

Estimate of Time Investment (individual time investments may vary)

	<i>Time (approx.)</i>	<i>Due Date</i>	Assignment Weighting
Class Engagement	33 hours	n/a	
1. Textbook Reading Quiz	25 hours	Feb 13	20%
2. History Paper	35 hours	Feb 27 (Thesis due Feb 3)	35%
3. Historical Reflection	20 hours	Mar 31	25%
4. Final Exam	10 hours	Apr 9 or 10	20%
TOTAL	123 hours		

- All assignments are due at 11:59PM SK time unless otherwise indicated.

Course Outline / Class Schedule

<u>Section</u>	<u>Class Content (tentative)</u>
1	Intro to the course - why is history important?
2	Intro to the course and syllabus clarification
3	The beginning of the Church - Acts - after Jesus
4	Early persecution and conflict
5	Formulation of doctrine
6	Constantine
7	The New empire - Christendom
8	Councils and Creeds
9	Monasticism and Rome
10	Early middle ages - 500-1000
11	The <u>East/West</u> Schism!
12	The Crusades
13	Late middle ages - 1000-1500
14	Reformation
15	Enlightenment
16	Fragmentation
17	Modernity - the era of certainty - more fragmentation
18	20th century movements
19	Post-Christendom - the Western church today
20	Complete the course, course evaluations

****No Class Tues Feb 24 (Reading Week) and Tuesday March 3 (Module Week)****

- No submissions of assignments will be accepted after April 17, 2026.

Academic Policies**General Assignment Guidelines**

Please see the [Horizon](#) & [MCS](#) 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 [link](#) 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	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
B	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 has 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 [Student Handbook](#).

Accessible Learning Services Information

Horizon is committed to provide safe and inclusive learning environments which equalize the opportunity for students with disabilities to meet the requirements of the institution, 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 Horizon's Academic Accommodations Coordinator, Richelle Bekkattla at rbekkattla@horizon.edu. All Academic Accommodations will adhere to the Guiding Principles listed in the [Student Handbook](#).

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 encourages 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.

Course Bibliography

Web pages

Christian Classics Ethereal Library (CCEL): <http://www.ccel.org/>

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.

Brauer, Jerald C., ed. *The Westminster Dictionary of Church History*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox, 1971.

Butler Bass, Diana., *A People's History of Christianity: The Other Side Of The Story*. San Francisco, CA: HarperOne, 2010.

Davies, J.G., ed., *The New Westminster Dictionary of Liturgy and Worship*. Philadelphia, PA: The Westminster Press, 1986.

Douglas, J. D., Philip W. Comfort, and Donald Mitchell, ed. *Who's Who in Christian History*. London: Tyndale House, 1992.

Douglas, J. D. *The New International Dictionary of the Christian Church*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1974.

Fahlbusch, Erwin, *et al.*, ed. *The Encyclopedia of Christianity*. 5 vols. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1998-2008. (link to [vol. 5](#); other vols. available in our library)

Farmer, David Hugh. *The Oxford Dictionary of Saints*. 5th revised edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011. (link to [5th edition](#), 2004; first edition from 1982 available in our library)

Ferguson, Everett, ed., with Scholer, David M. and Finney, Paul Corby., *Studies in Early Christianity, Vol XV. Worship in Early Christianity*. New York, NY: Garland Pub., 1993.

Jackson, Samuel Macauley, ed. *The New Schaff-Herzog Encyclopedia of Religious Knowledge*. 13 vols. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1949-1954.

Kurian, George, ed. *The Encyclopedia of Christian Civilization*. 4 vols. Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell, 2011.

Lewis, Donald M. *The Blackwell Dictionary of Evangelical Biography: 1730-1860*. 2 vols. Oxford: Blackwell, 1995.

Moyer, Elgin Sylvester, and Earle E. Cairns. *Wycliffe Biographical Dictionary of the Church*. Revised Edition. Chicago: Moody, 1982.

Wace, Henry, and William C. Piercy, ed. *A Dictionary of Christian Biography and Literature to the End of the Sixth Century A.D., with and Account of the Principle Sects and Heresies*. Peabody: Hendrickson, 1994. (originally published 1911, [full text online](#))

Wainwright, Geoffrey, and Karen Westerfield Tucker, eds., *The Oxford History of Christian Worship*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2005.

Walsh, Michael, ed. *Dictionary of Christian Biography*. London: Continuum, 2005.

Webber, Robert E. ed., *The Complete Library of Christian Worship. Volume Two: Twenty Centuries of Christian Worship* Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Pub., 1993.

Other Resources

Bass, Diana Butler. *A People's History of Christianity: The Other Side of the Story*. New York: HarperOne, 2009.

Bradshaw, Paul F. *Early Christian Worship: A Basic Introduction to Ideas and Practices: Second Edition*. Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 2011.

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- Foxe, John. *Foxe's Book of Martyrs*. 1563. [Full-text available online at: <http://www.ccel.org/f/foxe/martyrs/home.html>]
- Giakalis, Ambrosios, *Images of the Divine: The Theology of Icons at the Seventh Ecumenical Council*. New York, NY: E. J. Brill, 1994.
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- _____. *Story of Christianity: Volume 2: The Reformation to the Present Day*. Rev. ed. New York: HarperOne, 2010.
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