

Syllabus for
THE 461—History of Christianity I : Early Church
3.0 Credit Hours
Fall 2002

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course acquaints the student with the basic information concerning the important people, events, and dates in the history of the Church from the Apostolic Age to the Medieval Period.
Prerequisite: None

II. COURSE GOALS

This course is designed to introduce the student to the development and spread of Christianity from its Jewish heritage to the eve of the barbarian invasions and to do the following:

- A. Acquaint the student with the basic information concerning the important persons, events, and dates in the history of the Church.
- B. The student will learn the major personalities and their contributions to this period of Church history.
- C. Introduce the student to the major movements and trends during this period.
- D. Expose the student to literature on key topics of Christian history during this period from various traditions.
- E. **ORU believes in spiritual ecumenicity.**
ORU exists to serve the whole Body of Christ, **worldwide**. It is not concerned with changing the church allegiance of its students; rather, it seeks to bring all students into a more personal, vital relationship with Christ, to assist them in receiving Christ as their personal Savior, to acquaint them more fully with the charismatic power of the Holy Spirit, to encourage them to release their prayer language of the Spirit (private devotional tongues with interpretation), and to acquaint them with the operation of the gifts of the Holy Spirit through their personal witness for Christ. ORU also seeks to give them a clearer understanding of the unlimited Christ and the principles of IN THE NOW Christian living and to send them back to their own church as more committed and understanding disciples of Jesus Christ, our Lord—ORU Catalog p. 27. This is the express goal of this course and its instructor.

III. COURSE OBJECTIVES

As a result of successfully completing this course, the student will be able to do the following:

- A. Critically analyze and discuss the major themes, issues, problems, movements, and trends in the first five hundred years of the Christian church. This is demonstrated in the reading outlines, discussions, and examinations (see Course Procedures).

- B. Synthesize the materials covered in this course in a chronological and comprehensive fashion. This is attained in the timeline exercise (see Course Procedures).
- C. Dialogue with the major theological schools of the early church and to benefit from the strengths of those traditions.

IV. TEXTBOOKS

A. Required Texts

Bettenson, H. *The Early Christian Fathers*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1956.

Gonzalez, Justo. *Story of Christianity. Vol. I: Early Church to Dawn of Reformation*. Harper Collins Trade, 1984.

Gonzalez, Justo E. *A History of Christian Thought, Vol. I: From the Beginning to the Council of Chalceon in A.D. 451*. Abingdon Press, 1987.

B. Recommended Texts

Walton. *Chronological Charts of Church History*.

Bowden, J. and Richardson, A. *The Westminster Dictionary of Christian Theology*.

Brauer, J. C. *The Westminster Dictionary of Church History*.

Hamell, Patrick. *Handbook of Patrology*.

Lightfoot, J. B. and Harmer, J. R. *The Apostolic Fathers Greek Texts with Introduction and English Translations*.

Bettenson, H. *Documents of the Christian Church*.

V. POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

A. University Policies and Procedures

1. Attendance at each class or laboratory is mandatory at Oral Roberts University.
2. Double cuts will be assessed for absences immediately preceding or following holidays.
3. Excessive absences can reduce a student's grade or deny credit for the course.
4. Students taking a late exam because of an unauthorized absence will be charged a late exam fee.
5. Students and faculty at Oral Roberts University adhere to all laws addressing the ethical use of others' materials, whether it is in the form of print, video, multimedia, or computer software.
6. Final exams cannot be given before their scheduled times. Students need to check the final exam schedule before planning return flights or other events at the end of the semester.

B. Department Policies and Procedures

Note: Attendance policy is enforced. Excessive absences will affect your grade. See syllabus attendance policy.

1. Completion of a Course
 - a. All assignments are due on the dates established in the course calendar, which is published in the syllabus or assigned in class. **Any assignments turned in after the scheduled due date will be penalized five percent (5%) of the original value per day including weekends, breaks, and holidays.**
 - b. **No work** is accepted after the final date of regular classes.
2. Incompletes
 - a. An incomplete is given only after the student establishes with the instructor and the department chair by written petition that his or her work is incomplete for good cause (i.e., lengthy illness, death in the family). **Incompletes are rarely granted.** Only those absences that are incurred within the time period of the extenuating circumstances prompting an incomplete will be excused. The student is still accountable for any other absences and will be penalized for them according to the attendance policy.
 - b. A Petition for Incomplete Grade with all supporting documentation must be submitted for approval at least one week prior to the end of normal classes. The submitting of a petition does not automatically ensure the granting of an incomplete. The petition must be approved by the appropriate academic committee of the Undergraduate Theology Department.
3. Examinations and Other Assignments
 - a. Early examinations **are not** allowed.
 - b. Late examinations are administered only when extenuating circumstances are present (such as a death in the family the week before exams, sudden and major illness the week of exams that is documented by a physician). In fairness to all students, some persons should not have more time to prepare for an examination than others. **The granting of a late examination request is rare.**
 - c. A Petition for Late Examination without penalty must be signed by the professor and the chair. Proper documentation must accompany the petition and must be submitted to the Undergraduate Theology Department. The student must schedule the makeup exam with the professor of the course. The exam must be taken no later than five (5) calendar days after the approval of the petition. **Grade penalties may be applied as indicated by the Academic Affairs Committee.**
 - d. **All** exams will be given as scheduled. It is the student's responsibility when purchasing airline tickets, for example, to take this schedule into consideration. **Not being present for the final examination automatically results in failure of the course.**
 - e. These requirements apply to all quizzes, tests, and examinations administered by the Undergraduate Theology Department.
4. Attendance
 - a. The Official Attendance Policy for the Undergraduate Theology Department is as follows for a three-semester hour class:
 - (1) If the class meets three times a week, the missing of 6 class sessions will result in a grade reduction of one letter grade.

Missing 12 class sessions will automatically result in a grade of "F."

(2) If a class meets twice a week, the missing of 4 class sessions will result in a grade reduction of one letter grade. Missing 8 sessions will automatically result in a grade of "F."

(3) If the class meets once a week, then missing 2 class sessions will result in a grade reduction of one letter grade. Missing 4 class sessions will automatically result in a grade of "F."

b. **The absences allowed prior to grade reduction are designed to allow for emergencies and illnesses, and are not designed for indiscriminate use.** Many students incorrectly assume that they may use these allowable absences as unexcused "cuts" from class. Administrative excuses are granted only when a student is on official University business and has received approval in advance from the University administration.

c. Students are expected to be prompt for classes. **Two tardies will equal one absence.**

a.

C. Evaluation Procedures

1. Grade scale:

90+ = A; 80+ = B; 70+ = C; 60+ = D; 59- = F

2. Semester grades will be determined by the following ratio:

a. Seminar Assignments 40%

b. Mid-Term Exam 30%

a. Final Exam 30%

TOTAL 100%

3. A mid-term examination and a final examination will be scheduled.

4. The student will read all assigned material and will construct a detailed outline of this material. These are due weekly.

5. The student will regularly participate in the class discussions and oral examinations.

6. Course structure is Seminar Format; details will be handed out in class.

VI. COURSE CALENDAR

LECTURES

<u>Week</u>	<u>Topic</u>
1	Introduction, Biblical Background
2	The Didache, I Clement and Ignatius
3	Gnosticism, Montanism
4	The Didache
5	The Emergence of the Catholic Church

6	Irenaeus, Tertullian
7	Logos Christology, the Alexandrian School
8	Video Series : <i>The Trial and Testimony of the Early Church</i>
9	Video Series : <i>The Trial and Testimony of the Early Church</i>
10	Church and State from 180-260, the early development of the Sacraments
11	Manicheism, the Arian Controversy
12	The Cappadocians
13	Monasticism, Ambrose and Chrysostom
14	The Christological Controversies
15	Augustine
16	FINAL EXAM

ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE

1	Read <i>Story</i> , chps. 1-4; <i>Thought</i> , ch. 1. Write: Outlines for the above Class: Discussion
2	Read <i>Story</i> , chps. 5-7; <i>Thought</i> , ch. 2. Write: Outlines for the above Class: Discussion
3.	Read <i>Story</i> , ch. 8; <i>Thought</i> , ch. 3. Write: Outlines for the above Class: Discussion
4.	Read <i>Story</i> , chps. 9-10; <i>Thought</i> , ch. 4. Write: Outlines for the above, term paper. Class: Discussion
5.	Read <i>Story</i> , chps. 11-12; <i>Thought</i> , ch. 5. Write: Outlines for the above Class: Discussion
6.	Read <i>Story</i> , chps. 13-14; <i>Thought</i> , ch. 6. Write: Outlines for the above Class: Discussion
7.	Read <i>Story</i> , ch. 15; <i>Thought</i> , ch. 7. Write: Outlines for the above Class: Discussion
8.	Read <i>Story</i> , ch. 16; <i>Thought</i> , chps. 8, 9 . Write: Outlines for the above, mid-term exam Class: Discussion
9.	Read <i>Story</i> , chps. 17-18; <i>Thought</i> , ch. 10. Write: Outlines for the above Class: Discussion
10.	Read <i>Story</i> , chps. 19-20; <i>Thought</i> , ch. 11-12.

Write: Outlines for the above
Class: Discussion

11. Read *Story*, ch. 21; *Thought*, ch. 13-14
Write: Outlines for the above
Class: Discussion
12. Read *Story*, ch. 22; *Thought*, ch. 15-16.
Write: Outlines for the above
Class: Discussion
13. Read *Story*, ch. 23; *Thought*, ch. 17.
Write: Outlines for the above
Class: Discussion
14. Read *Story*, ch. 24; *Thought*, ch. 18.
Write: Outlines for the above
Class: Discussion
15. Read *Story*, ch. 25; *Thought*, ch. 19.
Write: Outlines for the above
Class: Discussion

VII. ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

<u>Dr. Daniel Thimell</u> Name of Instructor	<u>THE 461</u> Course No.	<u>History of Christianity I</u> Title of Course	<u>Undergraduate Theology</u> Name of Department
<u>MISSION</u> The lifestyle at ORU is rooted in the word "Wholeness." ORU seeks to educate the whole person, with balanced emphasis placed on the development of mind, spirit, and body.	<u>MAJOR OUTCOMES</u> Provide a foundation for historical approaches to theology. Assist the student in gaining an historical perspective on the student's own faith community. Provide the opportunity to articulate in writing an overview of the major theological movements in the period. Develop the skills to identify, critique, and learn from various theological perspectives.	<u>COURSE GOALS</u> Acquaint the student with basic information concerning important persons, events, and dates in the history of the church. Supply solid foundation for further study in the discipline of church history. Demonstrate the abiding value of historic, orthodox, and charismatic faith. Identify and analyze qualities of writing style and form.	<u>ASSESSMENT OF COURSE GOALS</u>
<u>GENERAL OUTCOMES</u> 1. Spiritual Development 2. Physical Development 3. Communication 4. Analysis 5. Problem Solving 6. Valuing in Decision Making 7. Social Interaction 8. Global Perspectives 9. Effective Citizenship 10. Aesthetic Responsiveness		<u>STIMULI:</u> Selected reading Research papers Class discussions Videos Exams <u>CRITERIA:</u> The ability to articulate knowledge in major areas of theology and church history. The ability to formulate and express one's own theological perspectives concerning God, Christ, sin, the Church, and so on.	