

Syllabus for
GTHE 571—Church History I - ONLINE
3 Credit Hours
Fall 2015

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

A study in the development of the Christian church from the Apostolic period to the Reformation. Examines the major historical movements and theological issues of the period, particularly the Christological controversies of the Early Church.
Prerequisites: None.

II. COURSE GOALS

The purpose of this course is to enable the student to do the following:

- A. Explore the calling to minister in the context of historic Christianity.
- B. Learn to participate responsibly in the task of developing capable Christian leadership in the contemporary Church.

III. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES FOR THIS COURSE

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

- A. Describe the major persons and events as delineated in class lectures and assigned readings.
- B. Critically discuss the major themes, issues, problems, movements, and trends in the Christian Church from the Early Church to the Reformation.
- C. Discuss the materials covered in this course in chronological and survey fashion.
- D. Present a basic knowledge of the key movements and figures together with their significance in the history of Christianity.

IV. TEXTBOOKS AND OTHER LEARNING RESOURCES

A. Required Materials

1. Textbooks

Gonzalez, Justo L. *Story of Christianity: Volume 1, The Early Church to the Dawn of the Reformation*. 2nd Rev. New York: HarperOne, 2010. ISBN: 9780061855887

Lane, Tony. *A Concise History of Christian Thought*. Ada, MI: Baker Academic, 2006. ISBN: 978-0-8010-3159-5

Dorries, David W. *Spirit-filled Christology: Merging Theology and Power*. San Diego: Aventine Press, 2006. ISBN: 9781593303907

2. Other
None

- B. Optional Materials
 - 1. Textbooks
None
 - 2. Other
None

V. POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

A. University Policies and Procedures

1. Students taking a late exam because of an unauthorized absence are charged a late exam fee.
2. Students and faculty at Oral Roberts University must adhere to all laws addressing the ethical use of others' materials, whether it is in the form of print, electronic, video, multimedia, or computer software. Plagiarism and other forms of cheating involve both lying and stealing and are violations of ORU's Honor Code: "I will not cheat or plagiarize; I will do my own academic work and will not inappropriately collaborate with other students on assignments." Plagiarism is usually defined as copying someone else's ideas, words, or sentence structure and submitting them as one's own. Other forms of academic dishonesty include (but are not limited to) the following:
 - a. Submitting another's work as one's own or colluding with someone else and submitting that work as though it were his or hers;
 - b. Failing to meet group assignment or project requirements while claiming to have done so;
 - c. Failing to cite sources used in a paper;
 - d. Creating results for experiments, observations, interviews, or projects that were not done;
 - e. Receiving or giving unauthorized help on assignments.

By submitting an assignment in any form, the student gives permission for the assignment to be checked for plagiarism, either by submitting the work for electronic verification or by other means. Penalties for any of the above infractions may result in disciplinary action including failing the assignment or failing the course or expulsion from the University, as determined by department and University guidelines.
3. 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.
4. Students are to be in compliance with university, school, and departmental policies regarding Whole Person Assessment requirements. Students should consult the WPA handbooks for requirements regarding general education and the students' majors.
 - a. The penalty for not submitting electronically or for incorrectly submitting an ePortfolio artifact is a zero for that assignment.
 - b. By submitting an assignment, the student gives permission for the assignment to be assessed electronically.

B. Graduate School of Theology and Ministry Policies and Procedures

1. **Completion of Assignments**
Assignments are due on the dates established in the course calendar, which is

published in the syllabus. **Any assignments turned in after the scheduled due date are penalized five percent (5%) of the original value per day including weekends, breaks, and holidays.** All work turned in two weeks after the assignment deadline is received but is granted a grade of zero for that assignment. **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 academic committee by written petition that student's 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 are 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 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 academic committee of the School of Theology and Missions. Students are expected to continue all course work until an incomplete is granted.

3. **Examinations**

- a. Early examinations **are not** allowed. Late examinations without grade penalty are administered only when extenuating circumstances are present (such as a death in the family the week before exams or a sudden and major illness the week of exams that is documented by a physician).
- b. A Petition for Late Examination must be submitted to the academic dean's office. A **\$15 fee**, plus proper documentation, must accompany the petition. The academic committee reviews each petition and grade penalties are assessed. (Late exam fee is not a grade penalty.)
- c. Students taking late exams should expect alternate versions of the original exams.
- d. **Not being present for the final examination automatically results in failure of the course.**

- 4. The Disability Service Center, in compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act, assures that no qualified individual with a disability will be denied reasonable accommodations based upon the individual's needs. It is the responsibility of the student to contact the Disability Service Center and properly register for these services. For more information, call 918.495.7018 or go to www.studentresources.oru.edu.

C. Course Policies and Procedures

1. Evaluation Procedures

- a. Grading:

Assignments	106 pts
Threaded Discussions	24 pts
Final Research Paper	<u>70 pts</u>
Total	200 pts
- b. Grading scale:
 - A=90-100%
 - B=80-89%
 - C=70-79%

D=60-69%
F=59% and below

2. Whole Person Assessment Requirements
 - a. All students entering the seminary are required to enroll in PRF 059—ePortfolio: Whole Person Assessment, which provides specific training to develop the skills needed to create an ePortfolio.
 - b. WPA requirements for this course:
 - (1) All students, regardless of degree program, must submit the research paper for GTHE 571 to the course professor on ePortfolio, on the same date the assignment is also due in class.
 - (2) Failure to correctly submit designated artifact assignments on time to the course professor on ePortfolio will result in an Incomplete grade for the course. When a student submits the missing artifact to the professor on ePortfolio, he or she may fill out a Change of Grade Request with all relevant information and submit it to the course professor for approval and final grade change.
3. Other Policies and/or Procedures
 - a. Assignment Questions

Each week, the student will be responsible for responding in essay fashion to the assignment questions. Answers must be submitted electronically no later than 12 midnight of the Sunday evening of the week in question. Each question is valued between 0 and 2 points. By the conclusion of the course, a total of 53 questions will have been answered, for a maximum of 106 points. This component represents 53% of the final course evaluation. Specific instructions are given at the beginning of each week's assignment questions.
 - b. Threaded Discussion

On six different occasions during the course, the student will be required to participate in threaded discussions online with classmates. On each occasion, the student will respond to the instructor's original question, and follow the discussion as it progresses in order to contribute again at some point before the discussion concludes. The possibility of receiving full credit for each threaded discussion hinges upon the student contributing **at least twice** to the discussion. In addition, receiving full credit also requires that the student's participation be relevant and meaningful, demonstrating familiarity with course content. Maximum credit for each discussion is four points. Therefore, the maximum number of points that can be earned in the six threaded discussions is 24 points.
 - c. Research Paper. Write a 12-15 page research paper on an approved topic derived from the course content encompassing the historical period from AD 100 to 1300. Complete instructions on D2L.

VI. COURSE CALENDAR

Week	Topic
1	The Church: Peoples of a New Covenant
2	Early Leadership and Literature
3	State Against Church: Martyrs and Miracles
4	The Apologists
5	Gnosticism; Irenaeus
6	Montanism
7	Origen and the Beginnings of Christological Controversy Arianism and the Athanasian Refutation
8	Apollinarianism and the Council of Constantinople
9	Nestorianism and the Council of Ephesus
10	Eutycheanism and the Council of Chalcedon
11	Pelagianism and the Augustinian Refutation
12	Semi-Pelagianism and the Council of Orange
13	From Constantine to Scholasticism
14	Medieval Scholasticism

**Inventory for Student Learning Outcomes
Graduate School of Theology and Ministry
Master of Divinity**

GTHE 571—Church History I - ONLINE

Dr. Daniel Thimell, Instructor

Fall 2015

This course contributes to student learning outcomes for the Master of Divinity degree as indicated below:

Significant Contribution – Addresses the outcome directly and includes targeted assessment.

Moderate Contribution – Addresses the outcome directly or indirectly and includes some assessment.

Minimal Contribution – Addresses the outcome indirectly and includes little or no assessment.

No Contribution – Does not address the outcome.

Degree Program Outcomes	Significant Contribution	Moderate Contribution	Minimal Contribution	No Contribution
Scripture in Cultural/Historical Context				
Articulate a foundational knowledge of the content of Scripture within its cultural and historical context with application to selected contemporary situations.		X		
Exegetical Tools to Translate/Analyze Biblical Text				
Interpret the biblical writings in the Greek and/or Hebrew languages using critical exegetical tools, and write a hermeneutical and exegetical paper.			X	
Knowledge of Christianity				
Present a basic knowledge of the key movements and figures together with their significance in the history of Christianity.	X			
Knowledge of Christian Theology/Doctrine				
Exhibit a basic knowledge of contents and methods of Christian theology.	X			
Biblical/Theological Basis for Ministry Strategies				
Present practical ministry skills and strategies.		X		
Christian Ethics for Social Issues				
Analyze and discuss contemporary social issues affecting the Church and society based upon biblical, theological, and ethical principles.	X			
Theology and Theory of Ministry				
Develop and articulate a theology and theory of ministry that is relevant to the student's background and calling.		X		
Skills for Contemporary Ministry				
Demonstrate skills for contemporary ministry within a variety of traditions, churches, and cross-cultural contexts.			X	

**Inventory for Student Learning Outcomes
Graduate School of Theology and Ministry
M. A. Practical Theology**

GTHE 571—Church History I - ONLINE Dr. Daniel Thimell, Instructor

Fall 2015

This course contributes to student learning outcomes for the M. A. Practical Theology degree as indicated below:

- Significant Contribution** – Addresses the outcome directly and includes targeted assessment.
- Moderate Contribution** – Addresses the outcome directly or indirectly and includes some assessment.
- Minimal Contribution** – Addresses the outcome indirectly and includes little or no assessment.
- No Contribution** – Does not address the outcome.

Degree Program Outcomes	Significant Contribution	Moderate Contribution	Minimal Contribution	No Contribution
Foundational Knowledge of OT/NT Scripture				
Articulate a foundational knowledge of the content of Scripture within its cultural and historical context with application to selected contemporary situations		X		
Basic Methods of Biblical Interpretation				
Exhibit competence and understanding in the Word of God by utilizing basic methods of biblical interpretation.			X	
Theology and Christian Doctrines				
Exhibit a basic knowledge of the contents and methods of Christian theology	X			
History of Christianity				
Research and synthesize key movements and figures together with their significance in the history of Christianity	X			
Communication Through Preaching/Teaching				
Effectively communicate the message of Christianity through the medium of preaching or teaching.			X	
Supervised Practice in Ministry Context				
Demonstrate understanding and skills for contemporary ministry contexts.		X		