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# CH 500 Turning Points in Church History

D. Allen Tennison

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Syllabus

**Course:** CH500 X1 (SP 2009)  
**Title:** Turning Points in Church History  
**Hours:** 3.00  
**Published:** Yes, on 01/26/2009  
**Prerequisites:**

*None*

**Department:** Church History  
**Faculty:** Mr. Allen Tennison



Email: [allen.tennison@asburyseminary.edu](mailto:allen.tennison@asburyseminary.edu)  
Office: EXL  
SPO:

**Meetings:**

During 02/09/2009 to 05/22/2009 Online via ExL.

**Maximum Registration:** 27

**Catalog Description:** An introduction to selected critical themes in the history of Christianity, examined within their historical contexts. For MA students only.

**Objectives:**

**CH500**  
**Turning Points in Church History**  
3 hours/credits  
Spring 2009  
**D. Allen Tennison**  
Instructor  
Covina, CA  
(626) 437-5475  
[Allen\\_Tennison@asburyseminary.edu](mailto:Allen_Tennison@asburyseminary.edu)

**Welcome:**

I find the study of Church history very exciting! For those of us who are fellow disciples of Jesus, church history is a history of our family. Through it we can understand who we are, how or why we came to this point, and what lessons our spiritual ancestors have to teach us. It also gives us a sense of where we are going, though with the caveat that our future, regardless of our present, is already guaranteed by God. Church history is the study of a community of people who, for two thousand years, have lived in hope through their faith in Jesus.

I am a member of Asbury Seminary's adjunct ExL faculty, and have also served as an adjunct faculty member at Vanguard University and Azusa Pacific University in Southern California. I have also served in some form of pastoral ministry for about a decade. Asbury Seminary is my alma mater, where I earned an M.A. I completed my Ph.D. studies at Fuller Theological Seminary, and received the degree in 2006.

Please ask me anything that is unclear after reading the syllabus, or if you have any questions throughout the course. I will be on-line every other day, but you can expect to talk to me in real time during my office hours.

**Office Hours:** Tuesday and Thursday, 4:00-5:00 p.m. EST.

**ExL Contact Information:**

Virtual Support Contact Information

For technical support, library research support, library loans and virtual media contact Information Commons:  
[Info\\_Commons@asburyseminary.edu](mailto:Info_Commons@asburyseminary.edu) Phone: (859) 858-2233; Toll-free: (866) 454-2733

For general questions and administrative assistance regarding the Virtual program, contact Dale Hale:  
[ExL\\_Office@asburyseminary.edu](mailto:ExL_Office@asburyseminary.edu) Phone: (859) 858-2393

#### Accessing Information Commons Materials

##### 1. General Questions:

a. The Information Commons is a "one-stop shop" for all student research, circulation and technical needs. The Information Commons hours are posted here: [fcp://@fc.asburyseminary.edu,%231008026/information/hours.htm](http://fc.asburyseminary.edu,%231008026/information/hours.htm)

##### 2. Materials Requests:

a. To search the library catalog for available materials, click here: <http://www.asburyseminary.edu/information/index.htm>

b. Virtual Students may request books, photocopies or emailed attachments of journal articles/portions of reference books from Asbury Seminary's Library. Please allow 3-10 business days for all requests to be filled. Contact the Information Commons for costs and instructions on how to make requests.

c. Virtual students are encouraged to make use of local library resources. Students who live within a 50 mile radius of either the Florida or the Kentucky campus should come to campus to obtain their materials.

##### 3. Research Questions:

a. Virtual students are encouraged to contact the Information Commons for research assistance including help determining the best sources to use for a paper, finding book reviews, or research questions about using the online databases or any other library materials.

##### 4. Online Databases:

a. To access the online library resources including the library catalog and full-text journal databases, go to [fcp://@fc.asburyseminary.edu,%231008026/information/index.htm](http://fc.asburyseminary.edu,%231008026/information/index.htm) and enter your 10-digit student ID# number in the login box. Your student ID# is provided on the biographical information section of the student registration webpage. Add a 2 and enough 0's to the front to make a 10-digit number (20000XXXXX where XXXXX = your student id).

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#### **Course Description:** (from Course Catalogue)

**"An Introduction to selected critical themes in the history of Christianity, examined within their historical contexts."**  
 The overarching themes of this course will be a look at the changes in the church in general, from the make-up of the early, persecuted church to the coming of a global church. We will be looking at the whole of church history in brief, with a special emphasis on the development of the church worldwide.

#### **Course Goals:** (from area of Church History, ATS)

1. To understand and appreciate the Christian tradition so the student recognizes that our generation lives on the growing edge of a vast Christian heritage.
2. To grasp the normative historical expressions of the church that defined its community and mission, with applications to Christian ministry today.

3. To acquire basic factual knowledge of the persons, places, dates, events, and movements that shaped the history of the Christian Church.
4. To comprehend the issues that motivated the Church to develop its beliefs, practices, and structures and to grasp why, from time to time, the Church modified them.
5. To understand the evolution of Christian doctrine with respect to Scripture and tradition and to learn to discern between form and content.
6. To appreciate the importance of primary sources in their original contexts and the nature and effects of historical interpretation.
7. To view the Church's present ministry in the light of the prior beliefs and actions of the Christian community.
8. To evaluate one's Christian vocation in the light of the Christian tradition.
9. To gain insight into the nature and practice of Christian ministry.
10. To acquire insight into the multi-ethnic and cross-cultural nature of ministry.
11. To participate in the task of developing capable and effective Christian ministry and leadership for the contemporary church which will maintain its faithfulness to its vital heritage.
12. To locate the historical discipline within the broad spectrum of theological studies and develop sensitivities to the interrelationship of the biblical, historical, theological and pastoral disciplines.

### Course Requirements:

1. Work through the seven bi-weekly modules by the posted dates.
2. Take part in on-line discussions in the bi-weekly forums. I will grade based on your participation through each module. I will **not** grade based on the quantity alone but based on the quality of your responses - I will ask myself if you participate and respond to your classmates on a regular basis (not necessarily daily, but definitely weekly) with thoughtful responses that show you have worked through the module. This means that you will be expected to both post answers to the questions given at the end of the modules as well as post responses to the answers of at least two other classmates (and I prefer that you respond to classmates who have little to no response yet on their answers rather than jumping in an already large discussion). This does not mean that I must agree with what you say, only that I need to see you are working through the modules.

I will also be participating on a regular basis. Everyone who does participate will receive full credit (10 pts bi-weekly for answering the questions, worth 3 points for each of two answers, and responding to your classmates answers, worth 2 points for each of two responses). If you do not participate fully in the module, I may or may not question you about it (to make sure you are okay, etc.) but it is your responsibility to see that you participate.

3. Write 3 response papers to material chosen by the instructor. These are **not** research papers. I want the first two papers to include a one page summary of the selected documents on the first page, and a three page critique of the work (double spaced) for each paper, and the third paper to be twice that length.

In the critique I want you to tell me what you appreciated most about the material, what you appreciated least, and what value you think the material has for today. While these are based on your opinions rather than research, I will expect the papers to be well-thought out beforehand, well-reasoned (based on your understanding of church history up to that module) and well-written (i.e. grammar, spelling).

The first two papers will be worth 10 pts each. I will award points this way: 5 points for completing the assignment correctly (i.e., one page summary, three page critique), and 5 points for grammar and spelling (I will take off a point for every mistake up to 5 points). The third paper will be worth 20 pts (10 pts for correct completion and 10 pts for grammar and spelling).

The first paper will be due at the end of the first module, the second paper due at the end of the third module, and the third paper is due at the end of the seventh module.

4. Develop and present a group presentation on a particular individual in church history. You have already been placed into a group, and it is up to you to get in contact with the people in your group. As a group, you will decide which individual to study, how to be present this person's life to the class, and then send that presentation to me so I can place it in the appropriate module for everyone's benefit. This assignment will be due at the end of the third module.

I want your presentation to answer three questions - who this person was (their basic biography), what they did (their accomplishments specifically or why they matter to the study of church history), and what lessons we can learn from their lives (your opinion is what I want). Each presentation will be placed in one of the last three modules in the appropriate place so the rest of the class can benefit from your work. Your presentation should be the on-line equivalent to standing up in class and giving a 20 minute presentation.

You may offer an outline with pictures, internet links, bibliography, reading selections, etc. You may even offer a small video file (though it must be small for those who have slow download speeds). I appreciate creativity - just as long as you

are able to satisfactorily answer the questions in a way that helps the rest of the class understand the significance of your subject for the church. I will have objective test questions on your individual for the entire class.

I am asking you to get with your teams (through the Team folder) before the end of the first week and decide which of the following people you would like to study: **Queen Elizabeth; Menno Simons; Philip Spener; Aimee Semple McPherson; William Carey; and Mother Theresa**. I want each member of your group to e-mail me, or respond in Office, by Monday, February 23 as to your joint decision (I ask for an e-mail from each of you so I will know that you are in agreement). Because I will not allow two teams to cover the same person, it is a first come, first pick basis in deciding which team presents which person. So contact your teammates as soon as possible. If someone drops or adds the course during the first module, I may move someone from one team to another to keep the teams as even as possible numerically (no team should have two less members than any other).

This assignment is worth 40 points. I will award 20 points based on the final outcome, and 20 points based on the individual contribution to the team. This means I will be monitoring the teams, in the Teams forum to see if everyone is contributing by offering suggestions for the presentation, and responding to the suggestions of everyone else. The rest of the team does **not** need to follow your suggestions in order for you to receive full credit - I only want to see that you participated! This assignment must be turned in to the professor by the end of the third module.

5. Successfully answer three exams which will be given throughout the course and which will cover the material given only in the two modules immediately preceding the exam. The first exam will cover the material in modules 1 & 2, and will be given at the end of the second module. The second exam will cover the material in modules 3 & 4 and will be given at the end of the fourth module. The third exam will cover the material in modules 5, 6 & 7 and will be given at the end of the seventh module.

Because there are three exams, each will be shorter than a usual test, consisting only of thirty objective questions worth one point each and two short essay questions worth ten points each. The essay questions will be taken directly from the questions, given at the end of each module, to be discussed on-line. The objective questions will be twenty multiple choice, and ten true/false questions - based on the words **highlighted in bold** in the modular lesson. While there are more than thirty **highlighted** names, there will be no questions not directly related to what I have already **highlighted** for you.

The exams will be posted during the second week of the bi-weekly module. You may take it any time after it has been posted.

### Online Etiquette:

I expect you to use correct grammar and spelling in all our communication (though I will **not** grade your grammar and spelling in the Discussion Center - but everyone benefits in understanding when we all follow the same rules of grammar and spelling). Also please do not use normal e-mail abbreviations such as "LOL" or "BTW" since others (like your instructor) may not understand their meaning. Two exceptions to this rule are that you can communicate however you desire in Chat Center and can use any emoticons to describe your tone.

### Grading:

**Catalog guidelines:** The ATS Academic Catalog lists the grading system (pg. 28). The grade of "A" is defined as "Exceptional work: surpassing, markedly outstanding achievement of course objectives." I will hold everyone to that standard if they want to achieve an "A" for the course. This means you must do more than simply turn in all the assignments - in regard to the papers and presentation you are expected to do "exceptional" work (defined according to the Catalog). In regards to the tests, it means that you have successfully answered 90% of the objective and subjective test questions (the essays will be graded according to the knowledge of the course material you show in your answer). In regard to the on-line discussions, "A" work is consistent participation in regards to module questions and responses to classmates. I total grades by the percentage of points you earned out of 300 points possible. So if you earn 270 points, which is 90% of 300, you will receive an "A -" for the course.

The following is the breakdown of the point value of assignments:

### Assignment Point Value Total

|                                 |         |                |
|---------------------------------|---------|----------------|
| 7 Bi-Weekly On-Line Discussions | 10 pts. | 70 pts.        |
| 4 Paper Responses               | 10 pts. | 40 pts.        |
| Group Presentation              | 40 pts. | 40 pts.        |
| 3 Tests                         | 50 pts. | <u>150 pts</u> |

Total Points Possible: 300 pts.

### Expectations:

**What you can expect of me:**

1. Prompt replies to questions (twice a week in the late evening during office hours. I am still involved in pastoral ministry in the Los Angeles area, so there is always the chance I will need to visit a hospital, courtroom, jail, etc., during my office hours. This will not happen, however, if it is not a critical situation.
2. Interaction, participation, and direction in the ongoing discussions that will occur over the course of the semester on a weekly basis.
3. Prompt feedback and assessment on assignments, within a week from the due date. This will be private communication and not made public to the rest of the class. I will be grading your most recent assignments at the same time, so you cannot expect to receive your grade back a week from when you turned it in, only from the due date when I will return all the grades at the same time.
4. Hopefully no more than occasional mistakes as I am, even after a few courses under my belt, still learning this mode of teaching. I will be asking you for feedback on the course and the instructor as we go along, so I can have the opportunity to improve along the way, and next semester.

**What I expect of you:**

1. Weekly participation in online discussion in the modules.
2. On time completion of assignments. If you cannot complete an assignment, for reasons of an unexpected emergency only, please contact me before the due date as I will be moving the class forward almost immediately to the next module. Asbury Theological Seminary will not allow any student to take an "incomplete" for a course for any reason except "**unexpected emergency**" which does not include outside work-related problems. If you realize you cannot finish the course and we are still in the first half of the semester, it would be more advantageous to you to drop the course. However, please talk to me privately first.
3. Your honest questions when you don't understand the material or the instructions. If you have a question about the material or about the assignments, please ask in the discussion center, so everyone may benefit from your question. If you have a problem with me or with another classmate (that cannot be resolved on its own), please e-mail me privately to see if we can resolve the problem.
4. Your patience as we work together in this medium.

**Online Etiquette:**

I expect you to use correct grammar and spelling in all our communication (though I will not grade your grammar and spelling in the Discussion Center - but everyone benefits in understanding when we all follow the same rules of grammar and spelling). Also please do not use normal e-mail abbreviations such as "LOL" or "BTW" since others (like your instructor) may not understand their meaning.

**Required Reading:**

Henry Bettenson. *Documents of the Christian Church*. (London: Oxford University Press, 1967).

Justo Gonzalez, *The Story of Christianity, Vol. 1 and 2*. (New York: HarperCollins, 1985).

Hugh T. Kerr, editor. *Readings in Christian Thought* (Nashville: Abingdon, 1990).

Philip Jenkins, *The Next Christendom* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2002).

**Course Schedule:** Spring 2009 session begins February 9 and ends May 22. (Modules include due dates for their completion in bold)

**I. Early Christianity****A. Module #1: *The Early Church***

1. Gonzalez V. 1: 7-108, Bettenson 1-15, and Kerr 13-50.
2. Take part in on-line discussion based on module questions by at least the end of the first week.
3. Complete three page response paper to Perpetua, "A Vision of Truth" in Kerr, 25-28
4. Study for first exam.

**Module #1 Completion Date: Friday, February 20, 11:59 p.m. EST**

**B. Module #2: *The Imperial Church***

1. Read Gonzalez V. 1: 113-219; Bettenson, 15-19, 44-61; and Kerr 51-77.
2. Take part in on-line discussion based on module questions by at least the end of the first week.
3. Study for, then take first exam.

**Module #2 Completion Date: Friday, March 6, 11:59 p.m. EST**

**II. Transitional Christianity**

A. Module #3: *The Medieval Church*

1. Read Gonzalez V. 1: 231-341, 362-374; Bettenson 79-82, 89-133; and Kerr 79-131.
2. Take part in on-line discussion based on module questions by at least the end of the first week.
3. Complete three page response paper to Julian of Norwich's "The Mother in the Trinity" in Kerr, 127-130.
4. Turn in group presentation on the individual you have studied.
5. Study for second exam.

**Module #3 Completion Date: Friday, March 20, 11:59 p.m. EST**

B. Module #4: *The Reformed Church*

1. Read Gonzalez V. 1: 342-361, V.2: 6-124; Bettenson 135-136, 182-216, 261-266; Kerr 135-154, 157-169, 175-181
2. Take part in on-line discussion based on module questions by at least the end of the first week.
3. Study for, then take second exam.

**Module #4 Completion Date: Friday, April 9, 11:59 p.m. EST**

## III. Modern Christianity

A. Module #5: *The Rational and Revivalist Church*

1. Read Gonzalez V. 2: 132-230; Bettenson 256-258; and Kerr 190-221.
2. Take part in on-line discussion based on module questions by at least the end of the first week.
3. Read the first half of Jenkins and work on response paper.
4. Study for third exam.

**Module #5 Completion Date: Friday, April 24, 11:59 p.m. EST**

B. Module #6: *The Global Church I*

1. Read Gonzalez V. 2: 234-273, 282-302, 338-387 and Kerr 282-300, 347-357, 361-373, 384-394.
2. Take part in on-line discussion based on modular questions by at least the end of the first week.
3. Read the second half of Jenkins and work on response paper.
4. Study for third exam.

**Module #6 Completion Date: Friday, May 8, 11:59 p.m. EST.**

C. Module #7: *The Global Church II*

1. Read Gonzalez V. 2: 274-281, 303-322, 388-397; Bettenson 327-334
2. Take part in on-line discussions based on module questions by **Friday, May 22, 11:59 p.m. EST**
3. Study for, then take the third exam by **May 22, 11:59 p.m. EST.**
4. Turn in final response paper on Jenkin's *The Next Christendom* by **Friday, May 22, 11:59 p.m. EST.**

## Required Texts:

Henry Bettenson. *Documents of the Christian Church*. (London: Oxford University Press, 1967).  
 Justo Gonzalez, *The Story of Christianity, Vol. 1 and 2*. (New York: HarperColins, 1985).  
 Hugh T. Kerr, editor. *Readings in Christian Thought* (Nashville: Abingdon, 1990).  
 Philip Jenkins, *The Next Christendom* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2002).

## Evaluation:

### Assignment Point Value Total

|                                 |         |                |
|---------------------------------|---------|----------------|
| 7 Bi-Weekly On-Line Discussions | 10 pts. | 70 pts.        |
| 4 Paper Responses               | 10 pts. | 40 pts.        |
| Group Presentation              | 40 pts. | 40 pts.        |
| 3 Tests                         | 50 pts. | <u>150 pts</u> |
| Total Points Possible:          |         | 300 pts.       |

## Class Schedule:

**Course Schedule:** Spring 2009 session begins February 9 and ends May 22. (Modules include due dates for their completion in bold)

**I. Early Christianity**A. Module #1: *The Early Church*

1. Gonzalez V. 1: 7-108, Bettenson 1-15, and Kerr 13-50.
2. Take part in on-line discussion based on module questions by at least the end of the first week.
3. Complete three page response paper to Perpetua, "A Vision of Truth" in Kerr, 25-28
4. Study for first exam.

**Module #1 Completion Date: Friday, February 20, 11:59 p.m. EST**

B. Module #2: *The Imperial Church*

1. Read Gonzalez V. 1: 113-219; Bettenson, 15-19, 44-61; and Kerr 51-77.
2. Take part in on-line discussion based on module questions by at least the end of the first week.
3. Study for, then take first exam.

**Module #2 Completion Date: Friday, March 6, 11:59 p.m. EST**

**II. Transitional Christianity**A. Module #3: *The Medieval Church*

1. Read Gonzalez V. 1: 231-341, 362-374; Bettenson 79-82, 89-133; and Kerr 79-131.
2. Take part in on-line discussion based on module questions by at least the end of the first week.
3. Complete three page response paper to Julian of Norwich's "The Mother in the Trinity" in Kerr, 127-130.
4. Turn in group presentation on the individual you have studied.
5. Study for second exam.

**Module #3 Completion Date: Friday, March 20, 11:59 p.m. EST**

B. Module #4: *The Reformed Church*

1. Read Gonzalez V. 1: 342-361, V.2: 6-124; Bettenson 135-136, 182-216, 261-266; Kerr 135-154, 157-169, 175-181
2. Take part in on-line discussion based on module questions by at least the end of the first week.
3. Study for, then take second exam.

**Module #4 Completion Date: Friday, April 9, 11:59 p.m. EST**

**III. Modern Christianity**A. Module #5: *The Rational and Revivalist Church*

1. Read Gonzalez V. 2: 132-230; Bettenson 256-258; and Kerr 190-221.
2. Take part in on-line discussion based on module questions by at least the end of the first week.
3. Read the first half of Jenkins and work on response paper.
4. Study for third exam.

**Module #5 Completion Date: Friday, April 24, 11:59 p.m. EST**

B. Module #6: *The Global Church I*

1. Read Gonzalez V. 2: 234-273, 282-302, 338-387 and Kerr 282-300, 347-357, 361-373, 384-394.
2. Take part in on-line discussion based on modular questions by at least the end of the first week.
3. Read the second half of Jenkins and work on response paper.
4. Study for third exam.

**Module #6 Completion Date: Friday, May 8, 11:59 p.m. EST.**

C. Module #7: *The Global Church II*

1. Read Gonzalez V. 2: 274-281, 303-322, 388-397; Bettenson 327-334
2. Take part in on-line discussions based on module questions by **Friday, May 22, 11:59 p.m. EST**
3. Study for, then take the third exam by **May 22, 11:59 p.m. EST.**
4. Turn in final response paper on Jenkin's *The Next Christendom* by **Friday, May 22, 11:59 p.m. EST.**