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CH 500 Turning Points in Church History

Meesaeng Lee Choi

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CH 500 **Turning Points in Church History**

Meesaeng Lee Choi, Ph.D.
Office: E(stes)105
Direct Line: 859-858-2046
Home (Study): 859-887-2828
meesaeng_choi@asburyseminary.edu

Fall 2004
3 credit hour units
Class: Wednesdays 2:30-5:15pm
Office Hours: Tue 9:20-10:50am, Wed 5:20-6pm, Fri 3:30-4:20pm

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course is designed to be an introduction to **selected critical themes as turning points** in the history of the Christian Church from its origins to the present time. Within the broad sweep of the four main periods of the Church (Early, Medieval, Reformation, and Modern), students will consider key persons, dates, developments, movements, and theological concepts. Special attention is devoted to mastery of the foundations (information, resources, and methodologies) essential for further studies in church history and historical theology. Open to MA students (other than MATS) only.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Students will value the theological resources of the Church, including the creeds, great writings, issues faced, and decisions made by previous generations throughout church history. In order to begin making the fulfillment of that goal possible, this course introduces students to the theological and historical heritage of the Church. By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- identify critical issues of historical study and develop strategies for relating the “data” of historical study to the questions of historiography.
- determine key dates and concepts and analyze that information in light of the students’ own faith commitment.
- explore the work of key individuals and movements and to understand their work in light of the students’ own ministry.
- explore the major developments in the history of the Church and relate them to current discussions in the Church.
- develop and formulate historical and theological constructs which reflect the students’ awareness of biblical, historical, and theological concerns.
- critique various formulations and determine their degree of conformity to biblical, theological, and historical criteria.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Noll, Mark A. *Turning Points: Decisive Moments in the History of Christianity*, 2nd ed. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic Books, 2000.

Olson, Roger E. *The Story of Christian Theology: Twenty Centuries of Tradition & Reform*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1999.

Selected primary source and additional readings cited under each lesson (see the Course and Reading Schedule) are available in electronic and/or library reserves (Intra\School of Theology\Lecture Power Points\Choi, Meesaeng\CH500).

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATION

All work is expected to be completed **on time** as indicated in the requirements (unless prior arrangements are made); late papers will be applied an automatic graduated grade deduction (you will receive **grade only** without any comment). **Inclusive languages** are encouraged for class discussions and **required** for all written work.

1. Class Attendance and Participation: 12%

Each class is one point, and if you attend all the classes, you will get two additional points in the final grading. Three “cuts” mean automatic fail.

2. Reading Assignment (Textbooks): 13%

You must complete the assigned reading from the required texts prior to each class session (see ‘the Course and Reading Schedule’). The Final Reading Report (use **the form** prepared) must be turned in at the end of the final class period (Dec 8). See Handout 1 (“**How to Read Academic Texts Critically**”).

3. Nine Positional Papers for Class Discussions from Primary Source Reading: 35%

You are required to read the assigned primary source text and prepare a one-page (approximately 500 words, single spaced, with a standard 12-point font like Times New Roman and one inch margins) position paper on each text for the class discussions. The positional paper should focus on the evidence which the text provides for understanding ancient Christian beliefs, practices and attitudes. The paper should be submitted at the end of each class. Seven papers will be graded and each paper is worth 5 points.

- DP1 Perpetua, “The Martyrdom of Perpetua and Felicitas” (Intra).
DP2 Athanasius, *The Incarnation of the Word of God* (Intra).
DP3 Benedict, *The Rule of Benedict* (Intra).
DP4 Anselm, *Why God Became Human* (Intra).
DP5 Thomas À Kempis, *Imitation of Christ* (Intra).
DP6 Martin Luther, “The Babylonian Captivity of the Church (1520),” Intra or *Martin Luther’s Basic Theological Writings*, 267-313 (library reserve).
DP7 Philip Spener, “Pia Desideria,” *Pietists*, Classics of Western Spirituality, 31-49 (library reserve).
DP8 Phoebe Palmer, *Entire Devotion to God* (library reserve).
DP9 William Carey, “An Enquiry into the Obligations of Christians to Use Means for the Conversion of the Heathens” (Intra).

Not required, but only for reference. Most of them are in the library:

- "The Schleithem Confession (1527)." In *Confessions and Catechisms of the Reformation*, ed. Mark A. Noll. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1991, 47-58.
- "The Thirty-Nine Articles of the Church of England (1571)." In *Confessions and Catechisms of the Reformation*, ed. Mark A. Noll, 211-27.
- "Canons and Decrees of the Council of Trent (1545-1563)." In *Confessions and Catechisms of the Reformation*, ed. Mark A. Noll, 165-205.
- Wesley, John. *A Plain Account of Christian Perfection*. London: The Epworth Press, 1960.
- Schleiermacher, Friedrich. *The Christian Faith*. Edinburgh, Scotland: T & T Clark, 1989, 1-31.

- Melvin Dieter, *The Holiness Revival of the Nineteenth Century*. Scarecrow, Press, 1996, 15-77
- Donald Dayton, *Theological Roots of Pentecostalism*. Francis Asbury Press, 1987, 63-84
- Harnack, Adolf. *Das Wesen des Christentums* (What Is Christianity?). New York: Harper and Row Publishers, 1957, 1-18, 49-56.
- Barth, Karl. *The Epistle to the Romans*. London: Oxford University Press, 1968, 27-54.
- Hollenweger, Walter. *Pentecostalism*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 1997, 1-5, 17-24.

4. Final Take-Home Exam: 40 % (Due: Dec 15, 2:30 pm)

Take-home exam is to be answered in essay form with footnotes and bibliography. Detail guides will be given with exam questions. On questions of writing style, see Handout 2 (“Turabian Style: Sample Footnotes and Bibliographic Entries”). For more details see Kate L. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 6th ed. (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1996).

GRADING

A letter grade will be given based on the grades of work done.

- A** (95-100), **A-** (90-94),
B+ (87-89), **B** (83-86), **B-** (80-82),
C+ (77-79), **C** (73-76), **C-** (70-72),
D (60-69), **F** (less than 60).

From the *2001-03 Catalog*, 28:

- A** Exceptional work: surpassing or outstanding achievement of course objectives
B Good work: strong, significant achievement of course objectives
C Acceptable work: basic, essential achievement of course objectives
D Marginal work: inadequate, minimal achievement of course objectives
F Unacceptable work: failure to achieve course objectives.

COURSE AND READING SCHEDULE

Date	Topic	Reading Assignments		Primary Source Reading For Discussion Paper
		<i>Turning Points</i>	<i>The Story</i>	
S1 (Sept 8) Introduction and Overview	Introduction			
	Why Study Turning Points in Church History?	11-22	11-23	
S2 (Sept 15) The Fall of Jerusalem (70)	Christianity's Conflict with State & Culture: Persecution, Martyrdom & Apology Jewish, Hellenistic, and Latin Christianity	25-46	25-67	"The Martyrdom of Perpetua and Felicitas" (Intra).
	Heresy and Church's Response: Canon, Apostolic, and Creeds		68-135	
S3 (Sept 22) Church & Empire: from Nicaea to Chalcedon (325-451)	The Trinitarian Controversy: The Council of Nicaea (325)	47-64	137-96	Athanasius, <i>The Incarnation of the Word of God</i> (Intra).
	The Christological Controversy: The Council of Chalcedon (451)	65-82	197-249	
Sept 29	Video Review (History of Christianity, part 1, 2, 3)			
S4 (Oct 6) Monastic Challenge (530)	Monastic Rescue and <i>The Rule of Benedict</i> (530)	83-105	251-77	Benedict, <i>The Rule of Benedict</i> (Intra).
	Later Monastic Developments: Cluniac (10 th), Cistercian (12 th), and the Mendicants (13 th)			
S5 (Oct 13) Christendom (800) The Great Schism (1054)	The Culmination of Christendom (800) The Rise of Scholasticism	107-27	311-47	Anselm, <i>Why God Became Human</i> (Intra).
	The Great Schism between East and West (1054): Eastern Orthodox and Roman Catholic	129-50	278-310	
S6 (Oct 20) Age of Reform (1250-1550)	Conciliar Movement Mysticism and <i>Devotio Moderna</i> Independent Reform Movement		348-67	Thomas À Kempis, <i>Imitation of Christ</i> (Intra).
	Nominalist Renewal and <i>Via Moderna</i> Revival of Classical Learning: Renaissance and Humanism		"	

Date	Topic	Reading Assignments		Primary Source Reading For Discussion Paper
		Turning Points	The Story	
S7 (Oct 27) The Beginnings of Protestantism (1521)	Luther's Theology of the Cross	151-74	369-96	"The Bablylonian Captivity of the Church (1520)," (Intra) or <i>Martin Luther's Basic Theological Writings</i> , 267-313 (library).
	Zwingli, Calvin, and the Anabaptists		397-428	
S8 (Nov 3) English Reformation (1534) Catholic Reformation (1540)	The English Act of Supremacy (1534)	175-96	429-49	
	Catholic or Counter Reformation (1540)	197-220	"	
S9 (Nov 10) The Wesleys' Revival (1738)	The Rise of Pietism (1675)	221-44	451-517	Philip Spener, "Pia Desideria," <i>Pietists</i> , CWS, 31-49 (library).
	The Wesleys' Revival (1738) The First Great Awakening (1735)	"	"	
S10 (Nov 17) The French Revolution (1789) Holiness Revival	The French Revolution (1789) and the Demise of Christendom (Deism and Enlightenment)	245-68	518-32	Phoebe Palmer, <i>Entire Devotion to God</i> , Intro., chs. 1-3, 15, 16, 21 (library).
	The Second Great Awakenings Holiness Revival Evangelicalism			
S11 (Dec 1) To Modernity	Liberals (Modernism) and Conservatives (Fundamentalism) to Modernity (1901)		533-69	
	Karl Barth and Neo-Orthodoxy		570-89	
S12 (Dec 8) World Missionary Conference (1910) and Global Christianity	Modern Missionary Movement and World Missionary Conference (1910) Evangelical vs. Ecumenical	269-94	590-613	William Carey, "An Enquiry" (Intra).
	Further Turning Points of the 20 th Century: Pentecostalism; Bible Translation; Women; Vatican II; Survival under Communism	295-316	"	
Dec 15	Final Exam Due (2:30pm)			