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CH 500 Turning Points in Church History

D. William Faupel

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Ch500: Turning Points in Church History

Professor: D. William Faupel
Credit: Three Hours
Enrollment: 22 persons maximum
Spring 2004

Welcome and Available Support:

Welcome to ExL and Turning Points in Church History. I look forward to my opportunity to explore some of the major events in the history of the church with you. Please feel free to contact me at any time when your level of anxiety exceeds the comfort zone!

Email address: bill_faupel@asburyseminary.edu
Office hours: Tuesday and Friday 1:30-3:00
Office Phone (859) 858-2226

In addition, the following people are available to assist you with any concerns you have about technical or administrative issues concerning the ExL program:

For General Information about ExL, contact:

Kevin Osborn
exl_director@asburyseminary.edu

For Technical Support with ExL, contact:

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For Library Assistance regarding Book and/or Article Requests, contact:

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For Interlibrary Loan Information, contact:

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O Obtain Library Materials and Reference Assistance

Email: ats_reference@asburyseminary.edu

Or call Toll-Free Reference Help Line: 1-866-454-2733

All requests for books and journal articles should be e-mailed to the Reference Desk. The Reference workers (Hannah, Robbie, and Joy) are also available to assist ExL students with reference requests, use of the online databases, or formation of research strategies.

To request material from the B.L. Fisher Library, begin by searching the library catalog or one of the restricted journal databases available on the library's website (www.asburyseminary.edu/library - choose "library catalog" or "restricted databases"). Then, send an email to the reference desk citing the sources that you would like to request. Students who live within a 50 mile radius of either the Florida or the Wilmore campus should come to campus to obtain their materials.

Requests normally take 1-2 business days to process. Books are mailed media rate and normally require 5 business days for shipping (longer for addresses in the West). This service is free. Students who need items delivered more quickly may pay for priority or express mail services. Articles and excerpts from reference materials may be scanned and delivered via email for 10 cents per page, or photocopied and mailed media rate for 5 cents per page. Plan ahead and allow enough time for processing and shipping of your requests! Faxes cost \$1.00 for the first page and 25 cents for each additional page but be aware of the fact that it may take up to two days to process.

Description

This course is designed to be an introduction to selected critical themes in the history of Christianity, which will be examined within their historical & cultural context. Focus is placed on the central theological issues which emerged and the historical persons associated with them. Students will be encouraged to reflect upon implications of Christian history in preparing for their vocation and addressing theological and practical issues facing the church today. Open to MA students (other than MATS) only.

Objectives

1. By the time students have completed this course they will be able to understand and appreciate the sweep of the Christian tradition from both an historical and global perspective so that they will be able to articulate that their generation lives on the growing edge of a vast diverse heritage.
2. By the time students have completed this course they will also comprehend the critical forces that motivated the Church to develop its core beliefs, practices and structures and to understand why from time to time, there has been need for reform in light of biblical insight confronting contemporary injustice.
3. By the time students have completed this course they will be able to view the present in the light of prior beliefs and actions of the Christian community, particularly as mediated by the Wesleyan tradition.
4. By the time students have completed this course they will be able to recognize the role of gender and racial diversity of the Christian story as it has been lived out in cross cultural contexts.
5. By the time students have completed this course they will be able to evaluate their Christian vocation and ministry in the light of the historical and theological currents of the Christian tradition.

Texts

Noll, Mark A. *Turning Points: Decisive Moments in the History of Christianity*, 2nd ed. (Grand Rapids: Baker Academic Books, 2000), 352 pp.

Olson, Roger E. *The Story of Christian Theology: Twenty Centuries of Tradition and Reform* (Downers Grove: Inter Varsity Press, 1999), 652 pp.

Requirements

1. Readings
Read assigned texts and participation in the on-line discussion for each module.
10% of course grade
2. Tests
There will be essay tests given at mid-term and a comprehensive test will be given during exam week. In each test, half of the questions will be drawn from the “study questions” in the

back of Mark Noll's *Turning Points*. The remaining questions will be drawn from Roger Olson's *The Story of Christian Theology* and the class lectures. Each test will comprise 25% of the course grade.

50% of course grade

3. Class projects

- a. A 4- 6 page critical book review on a turning point or significant personage.
15% of course grade
- b. A 10 - 12 page term paper focusing on a turning point or significant personage.
25% of course grade

(Guidelines for the term paper and critical book review will be posted at the outset of the course).

4. Policy on late assignments

Students will be docked ¼ letter grade for each day or part of a day an assignment or test is late. (e.g. an "A-" will be lowered to a "B+" if it is a day late)

Course Outline and Assigned Readings

Module 1 The Early Christian Movement [February 9 – February 22]

A: Read Noll 11-46; Olson 11-39

B: Assignment: Introduce yourself to the class
On February 16 join in the class discussion

Module 2 The Christian Church Takes Shape [February 23 – March 7]

A: Read Olson 40 –136

B: Assignment: Class discussion begins March 1

Module 3 The Trinitarian/Christological Debates [March 8 – March 21]

A: Read Noll 47-82; Olson 137-250

B: Assignment: Class discussion begins March 15

Module 4 Monasticism/Islam/Christendom [March 22 – April 4]

A: Read Noll 83- 150; Olson 251-277

B: No class discussion this week. By this time you should have chosen the book for your critical review.

Mid-term exam due in the office by midnight April 4

