

## HS 2499: MODERN CHRISTIANITY

SPRING 2006

Tuesdays, Fridays, 9.40 – 11 a.m.  
Mudd 102

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### **Course Description:**

This lecture/discussion course is a survey of the history of Christianity in its theological, institutional, and social development from the eve of the Reformation to the present. In particular, we will examine the principal ideas and issues that have shaped Christian belief, worship, churches, and spirituality since the fifteenth century. At the conclusion of this course, the student should have a basic understanding of the historical context within which Christianity has developed and spread throughout the world since about 1400.

### **Required Texts:**

For a general interpretive survey, we will rely on Brian Moynahan, *The Faith: A History of Christianity* (New York: Doubleday Press, 2002). Students may find it helpful to read in advance chapters 1-13, which cover the early and medieval Church, as a background review for the early modern period with which our course begins. Please note the reading assignment to prepare for the first day of class is chapter 14.

The major emphasis for class discussion will be on primary texts available in a reader at Copy Central on Hearst near Euclid; and on the web. To locate them, try the contacts suggested in the syllabus and if all else fails, go to [www.google.com](http://www.google.com). VAT in the syllabus is the Vatican website which is good for church documents.

We will also read the following books available at the GTU bookstore:  
Guilio Cesare Corara, S.J., *On the Suppression of the Society of Jesus: A Contemporary Account*, trans. and ed. by John P. Murphy, S.J. (Chicago: Loyola Press, 1999).

James M. Byrne, *Religion and the Enlightenment: From Descartes to Kant*. (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 1997). This synthesis examines Enlightenment thought within the religious context of the times.

### **Essays:**

During the semester each student will write two essays (7-10 pages each). The first will deal with the Reformation and will be written as a presentation to be given to an ecumenical group. The topic for the second essay will be up to the student in order to provide an opportunity to pursue personal interests. Some suggestions for this essay will be

provided later in the semester. Please note the dates for these assignments in the syllabus.

**Exams:**

The mid-term will be a take home essay exam. For the final exam students may elect to take an oral (20 minutes) or a written exam in class on the last class day.

**Schedule of Classes and Assignments**

January 31

Conciliarism: The Issue at the Council of Constance.

Reading: *The Faith*, Ch. 14, pp. 295-323. You will find it helpful to read Chapter 3 of *Lumen Gentium* (The Dogmatic Constitution on the Church) from Vatican II.

The Crisis over Conciliarism (excerpts from documents).

February 3

The Church on the Eve of the Reformation.

Reading: *The Faith*, Ch. 15, pp. 324-39

Erasmus, *In Praise of Folly*, (excerpts).

February 7

Martin Luther: The First Phase of the Reformation.

Reading: *The Faith*, Chs. 16 & 17, pp. 340-69.

Luther, *The Babylonian Captivity of the Church*, (excerpts).

Sample the Ninety-Five Theses and the Augsburg Confession on the web.

February 10

From Zwingli to Calvin.

Reading: *The Faith*, Ch. 18, pp. 370-97.

Zwingli, "Concerning Choice and Liberty respecting Food"

Menno Simons, *Foundations of Christian Doctrine* (excerpts)

Calvin, *Institutes* (excerpts)

### February 14

How the English Became Anglicans.

Reading: *The Faith*, Ch. 19, pp. 398-414.

*The Book of Common Prayer, of 1549, 1552, 1559, and 1662* (excerpts)  
Acts of Uniformity of 1549 and 1552.

### February 17

The Council of Trent.

Reading: *The Faith*, Ch. 20, 415-31.

*Canons and Decrees of the Council of Trent* (excerpts)

### February 21

Confessionalization and the Wars of Religion.

Readings: *The Faith*, Ch. 22, pp. 455-78.

Ignatius Loyola to Companions setting out for Germany, 1549.

The Peace of Augsburg, 1555. (excerpt)

The French Wars of Religion, 1562-98. (selected documents)

The Thirty Years War, 1618-48. (selected documents)

Sample The Westminster Confession of Faith 1646, and other confessions at  
<http://www.reformed.org/documents/index.html>

### February 24

Inquisitions: The Galileo Affair.

Readings: *The Faith*, Chs. 21 and 23, pp. 432-54, 479-503.

Selected documents from the Case of Galileo Galilei.

FIRST ESSAY DUE TODAY.

### February 28

The Missionary Outreach: Africa and the Americas.

Readings: *The Faith*, Chs. 24, 25, 26, pp. 504-28, 537-52.

Bartolome de las Casas, *The Only Way to Draw All People to a Living Faith*, pp. 68-116.

### March 3

Christian Missions: Asia and the Chinese Rites Controversy.

Readings: *The Faith*, Ch. 27, pp. 553-67.

Francis Xavier, *Letters and Instructions* (selections).

Zucher, "Jesuit Accommodation and the Chinese Cultural Imperative."

The Chinese Rites (selected documents).

### March 7

Early Modern Spiritualities: Catholic and Protestant.

Readings: Francis de Sales, *Introduction to the Devout Life* on web.

John Bunyan, *Pilgrim's Progress* on the web.

### March 10

Grace, Free Will, and Jansenism.

Readings: Pascal, *The Wager*.

Byrne, *Religion and the Enlightenment*, pp. 1-98.

March 14

Religion and the Enlightenment.

Reading: Finish Byrne, *Religion and the Enlightenment*.

March 17

The Suppression of the Jesuits.

Readings: *The Faith*, Ch. 25, pp. 528-36.

Guilio Cesare Cordara, S.J., *On the Suppression of the Society of Jesus: A Contemporary Account*.

March 21

Religion in the Age of Revolutions: the Problem of Church and State.

Readings: *The Faith*, Ch. 29, pp. 593-95.

Thomas Jefferson, "A Bill for Establishing Religious Freedom."

James Madison, "Memorial and Remonstrance."

French Assembly, "Declaration of the Rights of Man," and

"The Civil Constitution of the Clergy."

March 24

Protestant Pietism and Revivalism.

Readings: *The Faith*, Chs. 28, 30 and 31, pp. 568-92, 610-50.

John Wesley, *Christian Perfection*.

Jonathan Edwards, *God Glorified in Man's Dependence*.

Charles Grandison Finney, *What a Revival of Religion Is*.

The mid-term exam will be given out just before the beginning of:

SPRING BREAK

April 4

Catholic Revivals in Europe and the Americas.

Readings:

*Guadalupe from the Aztec Language*.

Rene Laurentin, *Bernadette of Lourdes*, pp. 31-90.

The mid-term exam will be collected at the beginning of class.

April 7 NO CLASS TODAY

April 11

John Henry Newman and the Oxford Movement.

Reading: *The Faith*, Ch. 32, pp. 651-57.

Newman, *Essay on the Development of Doctrine* (excerpts)

April 14 GOOD FRIDAY

April 18

The Church Besieged: Pius IX and Vatican I.

Readings: *The Faith*, pp. 657-662.

Sample: Pius IX: *Quanta Cura* and *Syllabus of Errors*. (VAT)

Vatican I: *First Dogmatic Constitution on the Church of Christ.*

April 21

Social Christianity in Europe and America: Catholic and Protestant

Readings: *The Faith*, Ch. 29, 595-609.

Leo XIII, *Rerum Novarum* (VAT)

April 25

Modernism: Protestant and Catholic.

Readings:

Walter Rauschenbusch, *A Theology for the Social Gospel*, pp. 1-9, 240-79.

Horace Bushnell, *The Christian Trinity a Practical Truth*.

J.G. Machen, *Christianity and Liberalism* (excerpts)

Shailer Mathews, *The Faith of Modernism* (excerpts)

Pius X, *Pascendi Dominici Gregis* (VAT)

April 28

Pentecostalism in the Americas.

Reading: *The Faith*, Ch. 34.

May 2: NO CLASS TODAY.

May 5

Pentecostalism in Africa and Asia.

Reading: *The Faith*, Ch. 35.

SECOND ESSAY DUE TODAY.

May 9

The Challenge of Communism: China as a Case Study.

Readings: *The Faith*, Ch 33.

Pius XII, *Ad Sinarum Gentem* and *Ad Apostolorum Principis* (VAT)

Richard Madsen, "The Catholic Church in China Today: A New Rites Controversy?"

May 12

Vatican II: Forty Years Later.

Reading: *Gaudium et Spes: The Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World*. In *Documents of Vatican II*.

May 16

John Paul II: The Challenge of Ecumenism.

Reading: "The Terror in the Ukraine."

Lutheran-Catholic Joint Declaration on Justification.

Dulles, "Two Languages of Salvation: The Lutheran-Catholic Joint Declaration."

May 19 FINAL WRITTEN EXAM IN CLASS.