SECOND YEAR

PRE-CLASS WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT

PERKINS COURSE OF STUDY SCHOOL

AT MCMURRY UNIVERSITY - Spring 2013

March 2, April 20 and May 18 (PLEASE NOTE, THE APRIL DATE HAS CHANGED TO THE 20th)

Assignment due dates are unchanged

(212) THEOLOGICAL HERITAGE: EARLY AND MEDIEVAL

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Course Description:

This course reflects critically on significant individuals, decisive events, and fundamental tenets of the Christian faith as found in the early church and in medieval Christianity. Utilizing the categories of *grace* and *faith* as focusing lenses, the student appropriates the Christian heritage and enters into the church's ongoing task of interpreting, articulating, and enacting the gospel for contemporary life. There is some use of primary sources.

Course Objectives:

1. Examination of an emerging Christian orthodoxy in dialogue and debate with Gnosticism, Montanism, Marcionism, and Greek philosophy
2. Study of major theologians and church leaders whose writings focus on key doctrinal issues (for example, Origen, Tertullian, Ireneaus, Augustine, Aquinas, Pseudo-Dionysius)
3. Engagement with pivotal theological concerns in their historical context (for example, faith and reason, authority of predestination, eschatology)
4. Focus upon the distinctive aspects of Eastern Orthodox theologies compared with Roman Catholicism
5. Exploration of major theological developments in medieval Christianity
6. Appreciation and appropriation of the relevance of historical theology for pastoral ministry

Required Texts:

Justo Gonzalez, *The Story of Christianity, Vol. 1: The Early Church to the Dawn of the Reformation*, 2nd ed. (San Francisco: HarperOne, 2010). ISBN: 978-0061855887.

William Placher, *Readings in the History of Christian Theology, Volume 1: From Its Beginnings to the Eve of the Reformation* (Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox, 1988). ISBN: 978-0664240578.

Recommended Resources (but not required):

Cross & Livingston, eds., *The Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church*, 3rd ed. (Oxford, 2005)

G.R. Evans, ed., *The First Christian Theologians: An Introduction to Theology in the Early Church* (Blackwell, 2004)

-------, ed., *The Medieval Theologians: An Introduction to Theology in the Medieval Period* (Blackwell, 2001).

Justo Gonzalez, *A History of Christian Thought*, 3 vols (Abington, 1987)

Christopher A. Hall, *Learning Theology with the Church Fathers* (Intervarsity, 2002)

J.N.D. Kelly, *Early Christian Doctrines* (Harper and Row, 1960)

Jaroslav Pelikan, *The Christian Tradition*, vols 1-3 (Chicago, 1971-1978)

Robert Wilken, *The Spirit of Early Christian Thought* (Yale, 2005)

Recommended Websites:
www.iclnet.org/pub/resources/christian-history.html (Guide to Early Church Documents)
www.voskrese.info/spl/index.html (St. Pachomius Library for Orthodox Christianity)
www.ccel.org (Christian Classics Ethereal Library)
http://people.bu.edu/bpstone/theology/theology.html (Boston U. Christian Theology Resource)
www.yale.edu/adhoc (History of Christianity Resources at Yale University)

Pre-Class Written Assignments:

I. Due on February 15, 2013 (please upload your assignment using the Perkins locker system):
Read: Gonzalez, pp. 1-192.
A. Choose **five** (5) of the following figures, events, or terms, and identify and explain their significance. Be sure to include the time period, the issues which made them important in church history, and why it is important for pastors and leaders in the church to know about them today. Each term should receive approximately one page. Submissions should be typed, double-spaced; maximum six pages.

Martyrdom
Irenaeus of Lyons
Tertullian
Origen of Alexandria
Constantine
Eusebius of Caesarea
St. Antony
Arius
The Council of Nicea

B. Choose **one** (1) of the following essays to answer. Answers should be 4-5 pages, typed, double-spaced. As best as you are able, try to use the primary readings found in Placher to support your answer, although you are certainly free to consult Gonzalez, as well as other recommended sources (see above), to develop your response.

1. (Placher, pp. 11-29): Discuss the prominent features and aspects of early Christian Gnosticism as illustrated, for example, in the texts discovered near Nag Hammadi. Then explain why some early Christians opposed the teachings of Gnosticism. Use Ignatius of Antioch and Irenaeus of Lyons to illustrate this early Christian response to Gnosticism. Be sure to include some reflection on how study of this aspect of church history might bear relevance to your ministry in the church.

2. (Placher, pp. 30-47): Discuss the task facing early Christian apologists. What seem to be the most prominent charges made by the Greeks and Romans against the early Christians? Then explain how early Christian apologists defended the Christian faith against those objections and attacks. Use Justin Martyr and Tertullian to illustrate the way early Christians responded to this pagan critique. Be sure to include some reflection on how study of this aspect of church history might bear relevance to your ministry in the church.

3. (Placher, pp. 48-62): Discuss the issue at stake in the Trinitarian controversy of the fourth century. What were the various positions being taken, and what did the church decide at the Council of Nicea? How did Christians after Nicea attempt to defend and further explain the significance and meaning of the Trinity? Use figures such as Athanasius, Basil of Caesarea,

Gregory of Nazianzus, and Gregory of Nyssa to illustrate your answer. Be sure to include some reflection on how study of this aspect of church history might bear relevance to your ministry in the church.

II. Due on April 5, 2013 (please upload your assignment using the Perkins locker system):
Read: Gonzalez, pp. 193-325

A. Choose **<u>five</u>** (5) of the following figures, events, or terms, and identify and explain their significance. Be sure to include the time period, the issues which made them important in church history, and why it is important for pastors and leaders in the church to know about them today. Each term should receive approximately one page. Submissions should be typed, double-spaced; maximum six pages.

Athanasius
The Cappadocians
Ambrose of Milan
John Chrysostom
Jerome
Augustine of Hippo
Council of Chalcedon
Papacy
Islam
Iconoclastic Controversy
Charlemagne

B. Choose **<u>one</u>** (1) of the following essays to answer. Answers should be 4-5 pages, typed, double-spaced. As best as you are able, try to use the primary readings found in Placher to support your answer, although you are certainly free to consult Gonzalez, as well as other recommended sources (see above), to develop your response.

1. (Placher, pp. 63-75): Discuss the issue at stake in the Christological controversy of the fifth century. What were the various positions being taken, and what did the church decide at the Council of Chalcedon? Use the figures of Apollinaris, Theodore of Mopsuestia, Nestorius, Cyril of Alexandria, and Pope Leo I to illustrate the controversy and its conclusion. Be sure to include some reflection on how study of this aspect of church history might bear relevance to your ministry in the church.

2. (Placher, pp. 76-99): Discuss the development of an “eastern” and a “western” Christianity. Include in your answer the distinctive differences between these two forms of Christianity including their liturgical practices, their theology, and their understanding of ministry and authority. Use figures such as Maximus the Confessor, Psuedo-Dionysius, John of Damascus, and Theodore the Studite to illustrate your answer. Also discuss what lead to their final division and their attempts at reconciliation. Be sure to include some reflection on how study of this aspect of church history might bear relevance to your ministry in the church.

3. (Placher, pp. 100-121): Discuss the significance of Augustine of Hippo for Christian theology (especially in the west). Be sure to explore the importance of Augustine’s role in helping the Christian church think through the role of Platonic philosophy, the issue of free will and predestination, the understanding of the efficacy of sacraments in the Donatist controversy, and the place of Christians in society. Use his own writings to illustrate your answer. Be sure to include some reflection on how study of this figure in church history might bear relevance to your ministry in the church.

III. Due on May 10, 2013 (please upload your assignment using the Perkins locker system):
Read: Gonzalez, pp. 327-490

A. Choose **five** (5) of the following figures, events, or terms, and identify and explain their significance. Be sure to include the time period, the issues which made them important in church history, and why it is important for pastors and leaders in the church to know about them today. Each term should receive approximately one page. Submissions should be typed, double-spaced; maximum six pages.

Benedict of Nursia	Peter Lombard
Cluny	Thomas Aquinas
Gregory VII	Avignon
The Crusades	Catherine of Siena
Bernard of Clairvaux	Wycliffe & Huss
Francis of Assisi	Julain of Norwich
Anselm	*Devotio moderna*

B. Choose **one** (1) of the following essays to answer. Answers should be 4-5 pages, typed, double-spaced. As best as you are able, try to use the primary readings found in Placher to support your answer, although you are certainly free to consult Gonzalez, as well as other recommended sources (see above), to develop your response.

1. (Placher, pp. 122-143): Discuss some of the significant theological concerns and developments of the early Middle ages, including veneration of the saints, the renewal of monasticism, and the presence of Christ in the sacrament of holy communion. Use the figures of Jerome, St. Antony, John Cassian, Radbertus, and Ratramnus to illustrate your answer. Be sure to include some reflection on how study of this period of church history might bear relevance to your ministry in the church.

2. (Placher, pp. 144-170): One of the greatest concerns of the High Middle Ages and medieval scholasticism was the relationship between faith and reason. Explore the ways Christian thinkers during this period understood and articulated that relationship. Use figures such as Anselm, Bonaventure, and Thomas Aquinas to illustrate your answer. Be sure to include some reflection on how study of this period of church history might bear relevance to your ministry in the church.

3. (Placher, pp. 171-196): The late Middle Ages witnessed the "collapse" of medieval scholasticism. Explore and discuss the ways theology in the church was shifting away from medieval scholasticism. What was it shifting toward? In particular, how was the church and its traditional ways now being challenged? Use figures such as Ockham, Eckhart, Julian of Norwich, Wycliffe, Hus, and Erasmus to illustrate your answer. Be sure to include some reflection on how study of this period of church history might bear relevance to your ministry in the church.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

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The completed pre-class work for courses 211-514 must be sent to the Course of Study School office **postmarked on or before February 15, 2013** OR submitted electronically through the Locker system (see information below) **no later than February 27, 2013 at 11:59.59 p.m**. Pre-class work submitted after February 15 will have grading penalties

assessed as follows: (grades are expressed alphabetically from A to F, with F being the lowest grade)

- Submissions dated February 16 – February 20 will receive a one letter grade reduction
- Submissions dated February 21 – February 27 will receive a two letter grade reduction.
- Submissions dated February 28 or later, the student will be dropped from that course registration with no refund (of registration or fees)

A request for an extension requires the following:

- It must be submitted in writing to the director of the Course of Study School. Via e-mail, send to Jeannie Trevino-Teddlie at COSSExt@smu.edu. Via regular mail, send to COSS Extension, P.O. Box 750133, Dallas, TX 75275-0133. By fax, send to 214-768-1042). **Make sure that you notify the COSS office of any transmission.**
- It must be received by February 1
- It must state valid reason(s) for needing an extension
- It must state the course name(s) and number(s) for which the extension(s) is/are requested
- It must state the amount of time being requested (not beyond February 26)

In order for an extension request to be considered, the student must be fully registered (i.e., fees paid, signatures acquired, Release of Liability and Course Registration and Housing forms filled out and submitted). Before a decision can be made regarding an extension, the Director will consult with the student's district superintendent, local pastor registrar and instructor.

Optional Electronic Submission for Pre Class Assignments

Course of Study School Lockers

We are offering an alternate method for the submission of pre-class assignments. The Course of Study School is using a "Locker System", Locker.SMU. This system allows COSS students to submit their pre-class assignments electronically. Please remember that we will continue to accept mailed in paper pre-class assignments. Electronic submission and the use of Locker.SMU is optional.

A Locker will be assigned to each student for each class they are taking. For example, if you are taking Hebrew Bible I (211) and Formation Discipleship (213) you will be assigned two different Lockers. The instructor for each course will then be able to log in to the Locker System and retrieve your submitted assignments for each particular class.

When your registration is received, the Course of Study School staff will be creating your private Locker and informing you via e-mail when your Locker has been successfully created. In this email, you will receive specific instructions on how to access your Locker and how to upload your assignments.

If you have not registered by February 15, you will not be guaranteed a locker and you will need to submit your pre-class assignments via postal service.

The Locker System will automatically date and time stamp your submitted assignments to inform the instructor and the Course of Study School staff when the assignment was submitted.
The pre-class assignments should be submitted to the Locker System **ONLY in .doc format.**

When you are ready to submit your pre-class assignments online, but have not received an e-mail with information on how to access your private Locker, please contact the Course of Study School staff at COSS@smu.edu with the subject line: Locker Access. The Course of Study School staff will then reply with specific instructions on how to access your Locker and how to upload your assignments.

The completed pre-class work for courses 211-514 must be submitted to the Locker System **no later than February 15th at 11:59:59 p.m.** Pre-class work submitted to the Locker System after February 15th will incur grading penalties as mentioned above on the grading guidelines. The same deadline restrictions apply whether you are submitting pre-class assignments electronically or via postal service.

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Students should keep a printed copy of each assignment and bring a copy of each assignment to class regardless of how the assignment was submitted.

In addition, students should include a one-page autobiography for each instructor.

Each assignment should be typed, double-spaced, or legibly handwritten, with pagination numbers, and be accompanied by a completed cover sheet. A copy of the cover sheet can be found in the Course of Study School web site under Satellite School and can be photocopied, it will also appear as a preloaded file when you access your locker.

Guidelines for writing pre-class assignments and information on academic dishonesty are provided in the Course of Study School catalog, available on the website. Students are expected to understand what constitutes plagiarism. Students who are found to plagiarize are subject to grading penalties, which may include dismissal from the school.