

COURSE SYLLABUS

CH505: Survey of Church History

Course Lecturer: Garth M. Rosell, PhD

Course Description

Welcome to *Survey of Church History*, an online graduate-level course designed to expand your understanding of the first 2,000 years of the history of the Christian church.

Church history is the heart of the story of God's kingdom work on earth. This course explores the development of the Christian church from Pentecost through the 21st century. It covers key people and events that God used throughout history to bolster His church, and it also explores the negative influences that infected her. The goal of the course is to use lessons from church history to advance the kingdom of God in life and ministry.

Course Objectives

Upon completion of the course, you should be able to do the following:

- Discuss the connection between the Jewish faith and the Christian faith particularly in terms of the early development of the church and its theology.
- Understand the development of leadership structures within the organized church of the Western world, beginning with New Testament teachings and leading to the present time.
- Assess the impact of persecution on the church from early days to the present day.
- Discuss the effect on the church and its relationship with government, citing specific historical examples world wide from Christ to the present day.
- Identify the major contributions made by Augustine to the church's theology of salvation, redemption, and grace.
- Develop a personal philosophy of war based on study of the Crusades and teachings of historical theologians.
- Practice a biblical theology of knowing God based upon the study of the historical approaches of both mystics and scholars.
- Understand the Reformers including their relationship to the Catholic Church, their purpose, their theology, and the results of their actions.
- Evaluate the impact of denominationalism on the unity of the church particularly in the North American church.
- Develop a personal theology of missions based in part on the positive and negative aspects of the mission movements of the past two centuries.
- Discuss aspects of church histories that are specific to areas of the world outside of North America.

- Examine and evaluate western Christian trends of the 20th century including Fundamentalism, Modernism, Evangelicalism, and Catholicism.
- Discuss the growth of the Christian church in the world today and identify challenges facing ministry in the new millennium.

Accessibility

If you have particular accessibility needs, please contact the CUGN Registrar at the beginning of the course. This will allow us to work directly with you to make efforts to accommodate your situation and ensure as full as possible accessibility to the course.

Course Lecturer



Garth M. Rosell, PhD

Education:

- Oxford and Cambridge, sabbatical studies
- Fuller Seminary and the University of Edinburgh in Scotland, graduate studies
- University of Minnesota, PhD
- Princeton Theological Seminary, MDiv and ThM
- Wheaton College, BA

Teaching Career:

- Professor of Church History and Director Emeritus, Ockenga Institute at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary
- Academic Dean, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary (9 years)—helped secure regional accreditation for the Seminary
- Three of his courses voted “Course of the Year”
- Named “Professor Who Has Had the Greatest Impact on Our Lives” multiple times
- Church History teacher, Bethel Theological Seminary (8 years)
- Lecturer and teacher at various college campuses and seminaries across the United States
- One of the most sought after evangelical scholars

Other Career Highlights:

- Widely regarded as one of the finest church historians in Christianity
- Member of numerous professional societies and a number of boards and committees
- Founding member, *In Trust* magazine Editorial Council
- Ordained in the Presbyterian Church
- Minister in local congregations and volunteer on denominational committees while pastoring various churches throughout the years
- Member of multiple community and philanthropic boards in the Boston area
- Chair of numerous accreditation teams for the Association of Theological Seminaries (ATS)
- Director of Counseling and Follow-Up, Billy Graham Pavilion at the New York World’s Fair

Publications:

- Publications include *Commending the Faith: The Preaching of D. L. Moody*, *The Evangelical Landscape*, *American Christianity*, and *The Surprising Work of God: Harold John Ockenga, Billy Graham, and the*

Rebirth of Evangelicalism

- Recipient of a *Christianity Today* book award for his *Memoirs of Charles G. Finney*

Online Professor

Within two weeks of your registration for the course, CUGN will assign one of its faculty members as the online professor. Once your online professor has been assigned, (s)he will be introduced and will guide you through the 8-week study. Your online professor will be available to you by email and can, at set times, be available by video chat or other real-time technology.

The following will be done by the online professor in order to stimulate student involvement and to facilitate effective learning:

- Evaluate and assign grades to all coursework.
- Answer questions that may arise.
- Issue your final grade.

For additional help as you work through this course, please read *Succeeding in Your Online Course*, which is provided at the end of this syllabus.

Course Texts

Required:

Shelley, Bruce. *Church History in Plain Language*. 4th edition. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 2013.

Recommended, but not required:

Noll, Mark. *Turning Points: Decisive Moments in the History of Christianity*. 3rd edition. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2012.

Textbooks can be ordered through our online store at CUGN.org, through your local bookstore, or through your preferred eReader when available.

Academic Honesty

At CUGN, we believe all we do is “as unto the Lord” and we thus hold to a high academic standard of honesty; we do not tolerate plagiarism and cheating. Students found guilty of any form of academic dishonesty face consequences ranging from interaction with the Academic Dean to expulsion from CUGN.

Quizzes and Exams: Any student found guilty of cheating on a quiz or exam will automatically receive a score of zero for that quiz or exam. A second offense will result in automatic course failure and possible disciplinary action and/or expulsion from CUGN. Please view the [CUGN Academic Catalog](#) for a full definition and examples of cheating.

Plagiarism: If a student’s work is found to be plagiarized, consequences will vary depending on the nature of the plagiarism.

If an offense is deemed unintentional, the student will have an opportunity to resubmit the work. A second offense will result in an automatic score of zero for that assignment, which may also result in failure of that course.

More serious plagiarism offenses could result in automatic course failure, disciplinary action, or expulsion from CUGN. Please view the [CUGN Academic Catalog](#) for a full definition and examples of plagiarism. If you have questions about plagiarism, or would like to request resources for learning how to avoid plagiarism, please contact our Registrar's Office at registrar@cugn.org or toll free at (888) 487-5376 ext. 3.

Course Methods

Throughout this course, a number of methods will be used to engage you in learning and processing information, and applying the learning to your life. These methods include the following:

Media/Materials

The course will include media presentations of lectures and supplementary materials to be viewed, listened to and/or read throughout the lessons of the course.

- **Audio-based teaching**
The primary course content will be delivered via audio lectures, including the full transcript of each lecture.
- **Multisensory learning**
Because the primary teaching information is provided in audio and PDF text documents, students can choose the medium (or combination of media) that most closely aligns with their individual learning styles.
- **Readings and other media**
Reading from the required textbooks will be assigned to students each week.

Interaction

Whether sitting in a traditional classroom or studying from a distance, students benefit from interaction and collaboration with other students. In order to meet this need in distance theological education, CUGN offers structures and resources to encourage effective community interaction in this course.

Discussion Forum

Students are required to respond to questions posted in the course and are encouraged to read and respond to the posts of other students.

Reflection

Through blogging, CUGN provides many opportunities for students to reflect on what they have learned, what they believe, and where they are challenged. The goal of these reflections is personal spiritual growth and transformation.

Course Requirements

This course consists of a mentor relationship, readings, audio lectures, videos, discussion forums, a creative research project, quizzes, and blogging. The information regarding these course components and expectations is as follows:

MENTOR

This course requires that you seek out a mentor in your community with whom you can communicate by e-mail and/or telephone and with whom you can meet face-to-face at least twice during the course. The purpose of this mentoring relationship is to enable you to assimilate the teaching in this course into your life and ministry. Further definition of the mentor's role in this course can be found in the "Mentor Requirements" information available in the Week 1 Assignments section of the course.

READING

Study assignments covered in this course should be read in the context of the lesson in which they are assigned. In addition to the required textbooks, you may be asked to read supplementary materials.

AUDIO LECTURES

Each of the lessons in this course features an audio lecture of approximately 45 minutes in length delivered by Dr. Garth Rosell, one of the Christian church's leading scholars in historical theology. The only exception is Lesson 21, which contains two lectures. These instructional lectures are required and can be listened to as many times as needed. The written text of the lecture as well as a guided outline to assist in note taking are made available in PDF format. There are 25 lectures in this course; therefore, three lectures will be presented and discussed each week, with the exception of Week 7, which contains four lectures.

DISCUSSION FORUMS

Discussion questions related to each week's lectures are integrated into the weekly course requirements. You are required to post your own original response to each question in the Discussion Forum. Each response should consist of two to three well-developed paragraphs. In addition, your online professor may comment on your posts, and you should be prepared to respond to those comments.

VIDEO PRESENTATIONS

There are two video presentations related to this course that are required viewing. You will note them in the assignment section in the weeks where they are relevant.

CREATIVE RESEARCH PROJECT

You will develop a creative research project on a topic of interest related to the subject matter of this course. Upon completion of the project, you will submit a paper describing the project along with any related documentation. More guidance concerning the project will be provided by your online professor during the first week of the course, and you may also find topic ideas and further instructions in

the Creative Research Project Instructions document available in the Before You Begin section of the course. The topic for your research project must be submitted to your professor for preapproval prior to beginning your research. Projects may be posted online to be read and commented on by other students. Your Creative Research Project and related writing are due at the end of Week 5. Remember, each week begins on a Monday and ends the following Sunday; therefore, the Creative Research Project is due on the Sunday of Week 5 at 11:59 p.m. EST.

QUIZZES

You will take a 10-question, multiple choice and/or true/false quiz at the end of each lecture. There is a “remediation” feature built into all quiz questions that allows you to review questions you missed. Once you have reviewed the question again, you can attempt to answer a second time. If you are correct, you will receive half of the normal credit for that question. If you do not attempt to answer the second time, you will not receive credit for that question. You will be given only one attempt to take each quiz. All quizzes are timed (20 minutes) and will be graded automatically.

REFLECTION

You will be required to keep a blog during the 8 weeks of this course, posting *at least once per lesson*. Your blog entries will consist of your response to the Personal Reflection Question found in each lesson’s Class Time. Blog entries can be viewed only by you and CUGN faculty, unless you wish to make them available to anyone else taking the class. The purpose of the blog is to help you reflect on what you are learning, what you believe, and where you may be challenged in your thinking and your life by what is studied in this course. The goal of these reflections is personal spiritual growth.

DUE DATES

Each week of the course begins on Monday at 12:01 a.m. EST and ends on Sunday at 11:59 p.m. EST. Unless noted otherwise, all assignments are due at 11:59 p.m. EST on the Sunday of the week in which the assignment is due. For example, if an assignment is due during Week 2, you must complete and submit it by 11:59 p.m. EST on Sunday, the last day of Week 2. It is at your online professor’s discretion to penalize late work.

Course Grading

All coursework must be completed and turned in to your online professor within five days of the end of Week 8. Please note that it is at your online professor’s discretion to penalize late work.

Your grade for the course will be determined as follows:

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|---------------------------|---------------------|
| Online Participation | 30% of Course Grade |
| Creative Research Project | 30% of Course Grade |
| Lesson Quizzes | 25% of Course Grade |
| Reading | 10% of Course Grade |
| Mentor Meetings | 5% of Course Grade |

Grades will be issued within two weeks of the end of the course.

Weekly Topics and Assignments

Week 1:

- Take the Moodle tutorial for online instruction.
- Listen to the following lectures:
 - #1: *The Birth of the Christian Church*
 - #2: *Growth of the Christian Church*
 - #3: *The Spreading Flame*
- Read the following:
Shelley: “The Age of Jesus and the Apostles”
- Participate in the Discussion Forum.
- Complete your blog entries.
- Complete quizzes 1, 2, and 3.
- Identify and contact your mentor.
- Submit topic for Creative Research Project.

Week 2:

- Listen to the following lectures:
 - #4: *Early Christian Life and Faith*
 - #5: *The Young Church in Action*
 - #6: *The Martyr Faith*
- Read the following:
Shelley: “The Age of Catholic Christianity”
- Participate in the Discussion Forum.
- Complete your blog entries.
- Complete quizzes 4, 5, and 6.
- Have first meeting with your mentor.

Week 3:

- Listen to the following lectures:
 - #7: *The Age of Constantine*
 - #8: *St. Augustine of Hippo*
 - #9: *The Iconoclastic Controversy*
- Read the following:
Shelley: “The Age of the Christian Roman Empire”
- Participate in the Discussion Forum.
- Complete your blog entries.
- View the video *Holy War and the Bible*.

- Complete quizzes 7, 8, and 9.

Week 4:

- Listen to the following lectures:
 #10: *The Crusades*
 #11: *Mystics and Scholastics*
 #12: *Heretics and Inquisitors*
- Read the following:
 Shelley: “The Christian Middle Ages”
- Participate in the Discussion Forum.
- Complete your blog entries.
- View the video *The Crusades: War in the Name of God*.
- Complete quizzes 10, 11, and 12.

Week 5:

- Listen to the following lectures:
 #13: *Reformation Patterns*
 #14: *The Lutheran Tradition*
 #15: *The Reformed Tradition*
- Read the following:
 Shelley: “The Age of the Reformation”
- Participate in the Discussion Forum.
- Complete your blog entries.
- Complete quizzes 13, 14, and 15.
- Submit Creative Research Project.

Week 6:

- Listen to the following lectures:
 #16: *The Anglican Tradition*
 #17: *18th Century Renewal Movements*
 #18: *The Missionary Explosion of the 19th Century*
- Read the following:
 Shelley: “The Age of Reason and Revival”
- Participate in the Discussion Forum.
- Complete your blog entries.
- Complete quizzes 16, 17, and 18.

Week 7:

- Listen to the following lectures:
 #19: *The Rise of Modern Pentecostalism*
 #20: *The Rise of Fundamentalism*
 #21a: *Fundamentalism and Modernism in Transition*
 #21b: *Fundamentalist/Modernist Controversies*
- Read the following:
 Shelley: “The Age of Progress”
- Participate in the Discussion Forum.
- Complete your blog entries.
- Complete quizzes 19, 20, and 21.

Week 8:

- Listen to the following lectures:
 #22: *Modern Catholicism*
 #23: *The Future of Evangelicalism*
 #24: *The Challenge of Ministry in a New Millennium*
- Read the following:
 Shelley: “The Age of Ideologies”
- Participate in the Discussion Forum.
- Complete your blog entries.
- Complete quizzes 22, 23, and 24.
- Have final meeting with your mentor.

Week 8 Follow-Up:

- Complete and post all reflective blog entries.
- Complete Discussion Participation, Reading Completion, and Mentor Meetings Validations.
- Complete and submit course evaluation form.

Course Contributors

CUGN utilizes the radio and television teams of Our Daily Bread Ministries to enhance the students’ educational experience. This course uses two videos from the *Day of Discovery* television program. The expert contributors to these programs are listed as follows:

- Mart DeHaan, Litt.D. (Cornerstone University), Senior Advisor of Ministry Content at Our Daily Bread Ministries
- Jimmy DeYoung, Ph.D. (Louisiana Baptist University), Journalist and Conference Speaker

- Ergun Mehmet Caner, Th.D. (University of South Africa), former President of Liberty Theological Seminary
- Jonathan Riley-Smith, Ph.D., Litt.D. (Cambridge University), Professor Emeritus of Ecclesiastical History at the University of Cambridge

Notes Regarding This Syllabus

This syllabus is designed to provide learners with an overview of the course. CUGN will provide specific instructions related to assignments for each lesson, specific discussion question postings, and interactive involvement with all students.

Succeeding in Your Online Course

1. Remember that this is a full semester's study completed in eight weeks. Therefore, expect that there will be a significant time commitment needed in order to complete all the requirements.
2. If you have any questions about the Moodle learning environment, the course requirements, schedule, or assignments, please contact the online professor who is ready and willing to help you have a successful online learning experience.
3. Technological problems may occur. Be sure to have a back-up plan in case of computer failure or late arrival of textbooks.
4. Before you post a comment or a response to another student's comment, be sure you have read the material and listened to the lectures related to the topic under discussion.
5. Think about how you can promote additional discussion by the comments you post.
6. When you post, respond directly to the question under consideration and express your points clearly and concisely, making only one main point per post.
7. If you find sources related to the topic being discussed, please share them with the class.
8. Practice good "netiquette": Disagree respectfully, stay on point, and don't post anything that is derogatory or inflammatory.
9. Enjoy, learn, challenge, and be challenged!