

COURSE SYLLABUS

Church History Since the Reformation

Course Lecturer: Garth M. Rosell, PhD

Professor of Church History at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary

Course Description

Since the Reformation, the church has experienced countless changes and advancements. In this course, learners survey the development of the Christian church's doctrine, faith, and practice from the Protestant Reformation to the present. The lectures focus on the cultural, political, and economic backgrounds of the Reformation, Enlightenment, and Great Awakenings, and emphasize the contributions of key figures of these eras. The course highlights the rise and spread of various traditions, including Lutheranism, Calvinism, Anglicanism, Puritanism, Evangelicalism, and Fundamentalism. Students will also study the nature and trends of modern and postmodern Christianity, with the goal of applying insights to contemporary life.

Course Objectives

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

- Articulate the development of Christian doctrine, faith, and practice from the Protestant Reformation to the present.
- Describe the theological tenets established by Luther as key to the Reformation.
- Distinguish between the fundamental characteristics of Lutheranism, Calvinism, Anglicanism, and Anabaptism.
- Understand the impact of the Council of Trent on church doctrine and reform.
- Recognize the significance of the events studied in this course on today's church.
- Discuss the growth of the Christian church in the world today and identify challenges facing ministry in the new millennium.

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*

Recommended Reading

Though not required, you may choose to read the textbook shown below to supplement your learning.

Latourette, Kenneth Scott. *A History of Christianity, Volume II: Reformation to the Present*. Revised edition with a new format and supplemental bibliographies by Ralph D. Winter. New York: HarperSanFrancisco, 1975.

Textbooks can be ordered through your local bookstore, various online bookstores, or through your preferred eReader when available.

Course Methods

The lecture content for each lesson is provided in two easy-to-use formats: audio and PDF text (if available). Students can choose the medium (or combination of media) that most closely aligns with their individual learning styles.

Course Assessment and Requirements

To earn a Certificate of Completion, you must complete the course requirements. Course requirements include:

1. Listening to all 24 audio lectures.
2. Completing a final self-assessment form in which you will reflect on the content in the course and evaluate your life in light of what you have learned. The specifics of this assessment are provided in the course materials.

Course requirements noted in this syllabus will be validated before a Certificate of Completion is awarded to any student.