

## ***Reformation & Modern Church History***

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Covenant Theological Seminary

### **Course Information**

#### **I. Course Description**

A study of Christianity from the Reformation to the present day. The lectures are designed to analyze and integrate course readings (in narrative history and source materials) and to present a sympathetic but critical and Reformed perspective on the historical development of the church. Emphasis on the uses and applications of church history in life and ministry. These lectures were recorded in 1998.

#### **II. Objectives**

- \*Knowledge of the main events and persons in the course of church history from the Reformation to the present day.
- \*Understanding of the development of Christian thought and the formulation of doctrine.
- \*Appreciation of God's providence in the overall pattern of history.
- \*Development of the skill of applying church history to contemporary ideas and issues.

#### **III. Themes & Keywords**

Movements and people—leaders and followers—men and women; Bible and theology—with special attention to the doctrine of grace; spirituality and ministry—“walking with God and leading God's people”; evangelism and missions—“the Great Commission”; ecumenical and reform

#### **IV. Texts**

This book can be purchased from most Christian booksellers, or you can order it online from the Covenant Seminary bookstore by visiting [www.covenantseminary.edu](http://www.covenantseminary.edu) or by calling the bookstore at 314-434-0110 (toll-free 877-213-3353). Many of the readings referenced in the syllabus can be found in *History* magazine.

\*Gonzalez, Justo L. *The Story of Christianity, Volume 2: The Reformation to the Present Day*. San Francisco: Harper & Row, 1984.

#### **V. Helpful Sources**

- \**The New International Dictionary of the Christian Church*  
Perhaps the best one-volume comprehensive dictionary for general use.
- \**Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church*  
Useful especially for patristic, medieval, English, and Anglican topics.
- \**New Dictionary of Theology*  
Consult this one for theology and theologians.
- \**Encyclopedia of the Reformed Faith*  
Some defects and omissions, but valuable and usually accurate.
- \**Dictionary of Scottish Church History & Theology*  
The ultimate source for things Scottish from the Celtic to the modern period.
- \**Dictionary of Christianity in America*  
Almost anything about the history of Christianity in the United States and some entries on Canada. Non-Americans who have influenced American Christianity (such as Karl Barth) are regularly included.
- \**The Encyclopedia of American Religious Knowledge*  
For information on such topics as Scottish Common Sense Realism.

\**Blackwell Dictionary of Evangelical Biography 1730-1860*

Information about 3,500 figures of historical, literary, and religious significance who flourished between 1730 and 1860 and were associated with the evangelical movement in the English-speaking world.

\**Twentieth-Century Dictionary of Christian Biography*

Some 800 brief articles on a cross-section of Christians who lived during, or whose lives extended into, the present century. Although many potential candidates do not appear, you will find entries on Francis Schaeffer and his Dutch associate Hans Rookmaaker and missionary-statesman Bong-Rin Ro (my Columbia Bible College roommate and Covenant Seminary graduate).

\**New Schaff-Herzog Encyclopedia of Religious Knowledge*

A place to look when all else fails.

\**New 20th-Century Encyclopedia of Religious Knowledge*

Over 2000 articles which supplement Schaff-Herzog and provide a useful reference work on twentieth-century religion.

\**Biographical Dictionary of Christian Missions*

2400 biographies compiled by 350 authors from 45 countries.

## VI. Class Calendar

### Part I: The Reformation

Lecture 1—"A Long Preface": Introduction to Reformation & Modern Church History

Lecture 2—"The Mouse that Roared": The Context of the Reformation (*Reading: Gonzalez, ch. 1, pp. 6-10*)

Lecture 3—"The Philosophy of Christ": Erasmus & the Humanists (*ch. 1, pp. 10-13*)

Lecture 4—"A Mighty Fortress is Our God": The Life of Martin Luther (*chs. 2, 4*)

Lecture 5—Luther's "Theology of the Cross" (*chs. 3 and 19, pp. 172-75*)

Lecture 6—"The Clarity & Certainty of the Word of God": The Life & Theology of Ulrich Zwingli (*ch. 5*)

Lecture 7—"Children of Light...Scattered Everywhere": The Radicals of the Reformation (*ch. 6*)

Lecture 8—"Business with God": The Life of John Calvin (*ch. 7*)

Lecture 9—"Knowledge of God & Ourselves": The Theology of Calvin

Lecture 10—"Lighting a Candle": The English Reformation (*ch. 8, pp. 70-80*)

Lecture 11—"Blowing the Trumpet": John Knox & The Scottish Reformation (*ch. 8, pp. 80-85*)

Lecture 12—"Upon This Rock": The Catholic Reformation (*chs. 12, 13*)

Lecture 13—Reformation & Revival: The Results of the Protestant Reformation (*chs. 9-11, 13-16*)

### Part II: Orthodoxy, Rationalism & Pietism

Lecture 14—"The British Church": The Anglicans (*ch. 17, pp. 149-56*)

Lecture 15—"Grace Abounding": The Puritans (*ch. 17*)

Lecture 16—"For Christ's Crown and Covenant": The Scottish Presbyterians

Lecture 17—"God's Free Mercy": The Church in the Netherlands (*ch. 20, pp. 179-83*)

Lecture 18—"The Foundation for Many Generations": The Westminster Assembly (*ch. 20, pp. 183-84*)

Lecture 19—"A City Upon a Hill": Calvinism in the New World (*ch. 24, pp. 217-28*)

Lecture 20—"May Orthodoxy Prevail, May Piety Flourish": Protestant Orthodoxy (*ch. 19, pp. 175-78*)

Lecture 21—"The Path of Life": Brother Lawrence & Blaise Pascal (*ch. 18*)

Lecture 22—"The Great Divide": The Enlightenment & Romanticism (*chs. 21, 22*)

Lecture 23—"A Warmth from the Fire of God in the Heart of Germany": Pietism & Bach (*ch. 23, pp. 205-209*)

Lecture 24—"The Inextinguishable Blaze": The Evangelical Revival in Great Britain (*ch. 23, pp. 209-*

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Lecture 25—"Let the Winds Blow & Thunders Roar": The Great Awakening in America (*ch. 24, pp. 228-31*)

Lecture 26—"A Divine & Supernatural Light": The Life & Theology of Jonathan Edwards

Part III: The Nineteenth Century & Part IV: The Twentieth Century

Lecture 27—"Revivals & Revivalism": The Second Great Awakening in America (*ch. 25, pp. 238-50*)

Lecture 28—"The Last Command": Missions in "the Great Century" (*ch. 30*)

Lecture 29—"He That Overcometh": The Black Church in America (*ch. 25, pp. 250-53*)

Lecture 30—"Faith & Learning": Calvinism in Nineteenth-Century America

Lecture 31—The Search for "Real Christianity": Nineteenth-Century England (*ch. 26, pp. 271-73*)

Lecture 32—"Beside the Bonnie Brier Bush": Nineteenth-Century Scotland

Lecture 33—"Floods Upon the Dry Ground": Nineteenth-Century Europe (*ch. 26, pp. 262-71*)

Lecture 34—"The Bush Still Burns": The Expansion of Calvinism

Lecture 35—"Christianity & Liberalism" (*ch. 25, pp. 253-61; ch. 28, 282-89 & 291-93, chs. 31, 34 & 35*)

Lecture 36—Reaction & Renewal: The Roman Catholic Church in the Modern World (*chs. 27, 29, 33*)

Lecture 37—"Heaven & Earth are Filled with Thy Glory": Eastern Orthodoxy (*ch. 32*)

Lecture 38—"The Centre Cannot Be Touched": The Future of Christianity (*ch. 36*)

Appendix A—Geographical & Chronological Table of Paul's Life, Journeys & Letters

**VII. About the Professor**

David B. Calhoun, Professor of Church History. B.A., Columbia Bible College; B.D. and Th.M., Covenant Theological Seminary; Th.M. and Ph.D., Princeton Theological Seminary. Professor Calhoun joined the seminary faculty in 1978, after teaching at Covenant College, Columbia Bible College, and Jamaica Bible College, where he was also the principal. He studied with Francis Schaeffer at L'Abri in Switzerland. In addition to pastoral ministries in the United States and in the West Indies, Dr. Calhoun was overseas coordinator of Ministries in Action (MIA), living for a time in Italy, and has served as president of Presbyterian Mission International. He co-authored MIA's plan for church growth and helped develop the materials first used by the PCA's Mission to the World. He is the author of *The Glory of the Lord Risen Upon It: First Presbyterian Church, Columbia, South Carolina 1795-1995; A Place for Truth: The Bicentennial James Henley Thornwell Lectures*; and a highly respected two-volume history of *Princeton Seminary*.