

# CH601 Anabaptist History

## Course Syllabus

Professor Brian Shepherd

“We were listeners to Zwingli’s sermons and readers of his writings, but one day we took the Bible itself in hand and were taught better.” – Conrad Grebel

“There is that in the Christian Gospel which stirs the consciences of men to be ill content with anything short of full conformity with the ethical standards set forth in the teachings of Jesus and which awakens the hope and the faith that, seemingly impossible of attainment though they are, progress towards them can be made and that they must be sought in communities of those who have committed themselves fully to the Christian ideal.” – Kenneth Scott Latourette

“(Jesus) did not arrange for an organization, but He taught the principles upon which it should be built. He did not tell His disciples what the mechanical structure of what the church was to be; He sent them out to preach a salvation by faith in His name.” – B. K. Kuiper

“Whenever politics and religion ride in the same cart, the whirlwind follows.” – *Dune* proverb

### **Course Objectives:**

To view the events of Anabaptist church history thru the lens of Scripture in order to better understand how our faith is to shape our lives and community and how we are to interact with government, other religions, and world views.

### **Required Texts:**

Bible

Bender, Harold S. *The Anabaptist Vision*. Scottdale: Herald Press, 1944

Estep, William R. *The Anabaptist Story*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1996

(Masters) Murray, Stuart. *The Naked Anabaptist*. Scottdale: Herald Press, 2010

### **Recommended:**

Kuiper, B. K. *The Church in History*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans

Olson, Roger E. *The Story of Christian Theology*. Downers Grove: IVP Academic, 1999

*Martyrs Mirror*

### **Grading:**

Attendance/Participation: 50%

Weekly Reading: 25%

Course Project: 25%

### **Course Project:**

Due last day of class, students are to write a critique of the Anabaptist movement. Compare the theology and application of the Anabaptists with Scripture. How do they line up? What can we learn and apply to our churches today? Students are also encouraged to use other sources, such as histories, theologies, and commentaries. Masters are to briefly complete *Study Guide* in Murray.

## Bibliography

- Bender, Harold S. *The Anabaptist Vision*. Scottdale: Herald Press, 1944
- Berkhof, Louis. *The History of Christian Doctrines*. Carlisle: Banner of Truth, 2002
- Catholic Encyclopedia*. 1917
- Cross, F.L. & Livingstone, E.A. eds. *Dictionary of the Christian Church*. Peabody: Hendrickson, 2007. Rpt. of *The Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church*, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed 1997
- Estep, William R. *The Anabaptist Story*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1996
- Finger, Thomas N. *A Contemporary Anabaptist Theology*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2004
- González, Justo L. *The Story of Christianity*. Peabody: Prince Press, 2010
- Good, Merle and Phyllis. *20 Most Asked Questions about the Amish and Mennonites*. Intercourse: Good Books, 1995
- Hillerbrand, Hans J. *The Division of Christendom: Christianity in the Sixteenth Century*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2007
- Holder, R. Ward, ed. *The Westminster Handbook to Theologies of the Reformation*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2010
- Kraybill, Donald B. *Who Are the Anabaptists?* Scottdale: Herald Press, 2003
- Kuiper, B. K. *The Church in History*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans
- Lane, Tony. *A Concise History of Christian Thought, rev.* Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2006
- Latourett, Kenneth Scott. *A History of Christianity*. 2 Vol. Peabody: Prince Press, 2005
- Murray, Stuart. *The Naked Anabaptist*. Scottdale: Herald Press, 2010
- Noll, Mark A. *A History of Christianity in the United States and Canada*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1992
- Olson, Roger E. *The Story of Christian Theology*. Downers Grove: IVP Academic, 1999
- Turretin, Francis. *Institutes of Elenctic Theology*. 3 Vol. Phillipsburg: P&R Publishing, 1997
- Weaver, J. Denny. *Becoming Anabaptist*. Scottdale: Herald Press, 2005