

Syllabus for American Church History (CH 605)

Front Range Bible Institute
(Fall 2023)

Course Description

The course “American Church History” is a study of how Christ built his church in America from the time of colonization until the twenty-first century. The course will have classroom lectures that are primarily based upon the professor’s notes. Students are encouraged to participate by asking and answering questions and taking notes. Notes will be provided, but the student is encouraged to make additions based upon classroom discussions.

The course will include outside reading, quizzes and exams from the classroom lectures, and a book report on an original source. The report is an important tool for the student to gain first-hand acquaintance with and evaluation of American church history.

Course Objectives:

- To give the student a working knowledge of the major figures, events, and theologies of the various forms of Christianity in America
- To equip the student to better understand the current ecclesiastical landscape in America by understanding its roots in the colonial and founding eras, as well as its development and changes throughout the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.
- To sharpen the student’s ability to utilize Scripture accurately by observing the way Americans applied the Bible to their context and the way their context influenced American’s application of the Bible
- To inspire the student to be grateful for our Christian heritage
- To alert students to the particular strengths and weaknesses of the church in America
- To deepen the student’s appreciation for how Christ builds his church

Required Course Materials

- Reading materials
 - Professor’s notes
 - *A History of Christianity in the United States and Canada*, 2nd ed., by Mark A. Noll, Eerdmans (595 pages) – **Required reading**
 - The student will choose one original source to read from the list of primary sources below.
 - Master’s level students will also choose additional reading from the bibliography below.
- Computer
 - All work submitted electronically should be in Microsoft Word documents (.doc).

Course Requirements

- Attendance at all classes
 - Take notes and participate in class discussion.

- If you know in advance that you will miss a class, please notify the professor ahead of time to obtain an excused absence. The student should watch the video of the class period at ecampus.frbible.org.
- Reading – **Due Nov 7**
 - Certificate level – 500 pages from reading materials list
 - B.B.S. – 600 pages from reading materials list
 - M.B.S. – 900 pages from reading materials list
 - M.Div. – 900 pages from reading materials list
- Quizzes/Examinations
 - All students will take periodic quizzes over the material covered in class. These will be unannounced and at the discretion of the professor.
 - There will one mid-term exam and one final exam.
- Book Report on one original source – **Due Nov 7**
 - All students will write a book report on one original source from the list of primary sources below. In order to understand history, you must learn to read well!
 - The professor must approve the book.
 - Report length requirements
 - Certificate level – 2-5 pages (double spaced)
 - B.B.S. – 5-10 pages (double spaced)
 - M.B.S. – 10-20 pages (double spaced)
 - M.Div. – 10-20 pages (double spaced)
 - The report must follow the basic outline given by Mortimer Adler and Charles Van Doren in *How to Read a Book*:
 - What is the book about as a whole?
 - What is being said in detail, and how?
 - Is the book true, in whole or part?
 - What of it?

Course Grading Criteria

- 20% Attendance and participation
- 30% Reading
- 30% Quizzes/Examinations
- 20% Book Report

Course Schedule (The course schedule will follow the outline provided by the textbook.)

Date: Requirements and Lecture Topic:

Sept 12 Introduction to course
European Expansion and Catholic Settlement
English Reformation and the Puritans
Pilgrims and Puritans in New England

Sept 19 Other Beginnings
Renewal of Piety

- Sept 26 The Churches in the Revolution
The Revolution in the Churches
- Oct 3 Deadline for paper topic selected and approved
Evangelical Mobilization
“Outsiders”
- Oct 10 Mid-term exam
“Evangelical America,” 1800-1865
- Oct 17 The American Civil War
Protestants Carry On, 1865-circa 1900
- Oct 24 African-American, Catholic
Protestant Uncertainty, 1900-1918
- Oct 31 The World in the Churches, the Churches in the World, 1918-1960
Revolutions and Counterrevolutions, 1960-2001
- Nov 7 Book Reports and Reading Reports Due
“Church History,” 1960-2018
- Nov 14 Final Examination
The Recent Past, 2001-2018

SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY

Primary Sources [If no bibliographic information is given, this resource is available in many editions.]

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The student should also consult the bibliographic resources listed in the textbook.

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