

HISTORY OF CHURCH AND PENTECOSTAL THEOLOGY: FROM THE BEGINNING TO THE REFORMATION

Taught in:
Semester 1

ECTS:
6

Module:
HI 101

Module Organiser:
Brent Colby

General Description

This course explores the historical development and theology of the Christian church from its origins in Palestine to the pre-Reformation era. A Pentecostal methodology is utilized to examine the historical context and theological developments of the church.

Content

This course evaluates the significance of Christ's teachings as the foundation of the church. It also explores the cultural developments present during its inception, including the early tension between Jewish and Gentile Christians, the decisive role of the Holy Spirit in initiating and sustaining the church's growth, and the various church councils, creeds, and theological debates. The course further investigates the Western and Eastern schism in Christianity, including the key contributors to its separation. Additionally, it examines the impact of Islam, medieval Christianity, the Renaissance, and humanism in shaping the church.

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of the module, students will be able to:

1. Explain major historical developments during the time period and their relationship to the development of church theology.
2. Discuss the Church Councils of the period, their theological formulations, and the controversies they aimed to correct.
3. Articulate a Pentecostal approach to methodology concerning the historical development of major theological formulations, particularly regarding the Trinity, Christology, and Pneumatology.
4. Explain the main theological positions, theological influences, and contributions of important church fathers and theologians during the period.
5. Identify and explain the importance of major church movements and their theological significance to the ongoing work of the church.
6. Demonstrate how historical events impacted and shaped the developments of both Western and Eastern churches.
7. Describe the historical and theological factors of the Renaissance period that laid the foundation for the later Reformation in Europe.

Contact Time

36 hours over one semester

Teaching Methods

Lectures, discussion of questions, research paper, and final exam.

Assessment

- One 1500 Word Research Paper 50%
- One One-Hour Final Essay Exam 50%

Reading

Required:

Ferguson, Everett. 2013. *Church History, Volume One: From Christ to the Pre-Reformation: The Rise and Growth of the Church in Its Cultural, Intellectual, and Political Context*. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Academic.

Recommended:

Gonzalez, Justo L. 2010. *The Story of Christianity: Volume 1: The Early Church to the Dawn of the Reformation*. 2nd ed. New York, NY: HarperOne.

Eusebius. 1990. *The History of the Church: From Christ to Constantine*. Edited by Andrew Louth. Translated by G. A. Williamson. Revised ed. London, UK: Penguin Classics.

Hatch, Edwin. 2012. *The Influence of Greek Ideas and Usages Upon the Christian Church*. London, UK: Forgotten Books.

Jones, Simon M. 2018. *A Social History of the Early Church*. Oxford, EN: Lion Scholar.

Kelly, J.N.D. 1982. *Early Christian Creeds*. 1st ed. Boston, MA: Addison Wesley.

Swete, Henry B. 1997. *Holy Spirit in the Ancient Church*. Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock Publishers.

Swete, Henry B. 2020. *On The History of the Doctrine: Of the Procession of the Holy Spirit: From the Apostolic Age to the Death of Charlemagne*. English ed. Norderstedt, DE: Hanse Books.