

INTRODUCTION TO CHURCH HISTORY

THE MOODY BIBLE INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO

I. CLASS INFORMATION:

Class Periods (Online): Thursdays, January 2 – February 20, 2020

5:00–6:30pm (Pacific Standard Time)

Direct Link to Zoom Conference Call: <https://zoom.us/j/622776909>

Alternatively, you may call in at (646) 558-8656; ID 622 776 909

Class Landing Page: <https://portal.moody.edu/cgte/his-place-church>

Class Instructor from Moody Bible Institute:

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Facilitator from His Place Church:

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II. COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The church has experienced many waves of progress—and perhaps a few waves of regress—in its journey over the past two thousand years. This course gives students an overview of the history of the various expressions of the Christian faith and orients students to the differences in the Roman Catholic, Eastern Orthodox, Protestant, and Pentecostal forms of Christianity.

III. OBJECTIVES:

- ❖ We will acquire a framework of church history into which other courses in this certificate program at Moody Bible Institute can be integrated.
- ❖ We will analyze the events of church history as models for understanding the interplay between Christianity and the cultures in which it exists.
- ❖ We will gain a sense of our heritage as Christians that will motivate ministry.
- ❖ We will come to value the breadth of Christianity as seen throughout church history.

IV. PROCEDURES:

Online Class Periods: Class periods will be conducted as online conference calls, each of which will be 90 minutes in length total, including a 10-minute break.

Video Recordings: Class periods will be video recorded, and these video recordings will be distributed to the students via the cohort landing page. The video recordings are not intended to serve as independent educational resources; rather, the video recordings are created so that students may review any class periods from which they are absent and may thereby remain fully integrated in online class periods.

V. TEXTBOOK (FOR PURCHASE):

Noll, Mark. *Turning Points: Decisive Moments in the History of Christianity*. Third edition. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2012.

VI. CLASS SCHEDULE:

Date:	Place and Time:	Subject:	Readings:	Assignments:
Thursday, January 2, 2020	Online, 5:00– 6:30pm (PST)	Finding God’s Story in Church History		
Thursday, January 9, 2020	Online, 5:00– 6:30pm (PST)	The Fall of Jerusalem	Noll, Chapter 1	“Who am I?” Exercise
Thursday, January 16, 2020	Online, 5:00– 6:30pm (PST)	The Council of Nicaea	Noll, Chapter 2	

Thursday, January 23, 2020	Online, 5:00– 6:30pm (PST)	The Rise of Monasticism	Noll, Chapter 4	
Thursday, January 30, 2020	Online, 5:00– 6:30pm (PST)	The Great Schism	Noll, Chapter 6	“Who am I?” Exercise
Thursday, February 6, 2020	Online, 5:00– 6:30pm (PST)	The Reformation	Noll, Chapter 7	
Thursday, February 13, 2020	Online, 5:00– 6:30pm (PST)	The Protestant Missions Movement	Noll, Chapter 12	
Thursday, February 20, 2020	Online, 5:00– 6:30pm (PST)	Global Christianity	Noll, Chapter 13	“Who am I?” Exercise Project Due

VII. ASSIGNMENTS:

- A. *Attendance:* In the case that a student is not able to be present for a class period, we recommend that (1) the student notify the class facilitator by email concerning the absence and (2) the student review the video recording of the class period before the next class period.
- B. *Reading:* There are reading assignments for each of the seven class periods following the initial class period. Students are expected to read the assigned sections of the textbook prior to the start of the class for which they are assigned.
- C. *Quizzes:* We will complete 7 quizzes during the course, and each quiz will consist of about 10 questions. The quizzes are designed to ensure class participants are reading the textbook with comprehension.
- D. *Project:* Please choose 3 or 4 of the 7 eras of church history covered in the course and write a 1500–2000 word essays with the following components:
 - i. Title of one of the 3 or 4 eras of church history that appear in the “Subject” area of the syllabus under “VI. CLASS SCHEDULE”.
 - ii. A summary of some aspect of that era of church history.
 - iii. A description of why that particular era of church history is noteworthy to you personally.
 - iv. A key Bible verse that you are beginning to put to memory as a spiritual marker of this course, and this specific part of church history.

- v. A prayer of response to this era of church history applied to your life and ministry in these days.

VIII. FURTHER READING:

Augustine. *On Christian Teaching*. Trans. R. P. H. Green. Oxford: University Press, 1999.

_____. *Confessions*. Trans. Henry Chadwick. Oxford: University Press, 1998.

Anselm of Canterbury. *The Major Works*. Ed. Brian Davies and G. R. Evans. *Oxford World's Classics*. Oxford: University Press, 2008.

The Apostolic Fathers in English. Third edition. Ed. Michael W. Holmes. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2006.

Athanasius. *On the Incarnation*. Intro. C. S. Lewis. Crestwood, N.Y.: Saint Vladimir's Seminary Press, 1996.

Aquinas, Thomas. *A Shorter Summa: The Most Essential Philosophical Passages of St. Thomas Aquinas' Summa Theologica Edited and Explained for Beginners*. Ed. Peter J. Kreeft. San Francisco: Ignatius 1993.

Belmonte, Kevin. *D. L. Moody: A Life. Innovator, Evangelist, World Changer*. Chicago: Moody Press, 2014.

Eusebius. *The History of the Church from Christ to Constantine*. Trans. G. A. Williamson. London: Penguin, 1989.

Geoffrey of Villehardouin and John of Joinville. *Chronicles of the Crusades*. Trans. Caroline Smith. London: Penguin, 2008.

Graham, Billy. *Just As I Am*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1997.

_____. *Peace with God: The Secret of Happiness*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2017.

Gregory of Tours. *The History of the Franks*. Trans. Lewis Thorpe. London: Penguin, 1974.

- Jerome. *On Illustrious Men*. Trans. Thomas P. Halton. *Fathers of the Church*. Vol. 100. Washington, D.C.: The Catholic University of America Press, 1999.
- Julian of Norwich. *Revelations of Divine Love*. London: Penguin, 1998.
- À Kempis, Thomas. *The Imitation of Christ*. Trans. Leo Sherley-Price. London: Penguin, 1952.
- Marsden, George M. *Jonathan Edwards: A Life*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2003.
- Metaxas, Eric. *Bonhoeffer: Pastor, Martyr, Prophet, Spy*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2010.
- Oberman, Heiko A. *Luther: Man between God and the Devil*. Trans. Eileen Walliser-Schwarzbart. New York: Doubleday, 1992.
- Parker, T. H. L. *John Calvin: A Biography*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2007.
- Wacker, Grant. *America's Pastor: Billy Graham and the Shaping of a Nation*. Cambridge: Belknap, 2014.