

**WILLIAMSON BIBLE INSTITUTE
MID-ATLANTIC DISTRICT CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE**

SYLLABUS

HIS—2013 – Church History 1
Spring Term 2025

Professor: Dr. Floyd T. Cunningham
E-mail: fcunningham@apnts.edu.ph
Class Dates: April 7, 14, 21, 28, May 5, 26, June 18, 25, 2025
Class Times: 8:00-10:00 p.m.
Classroom Link:

COURSE DESCRIPTION

A survey course that outlines the development of doctrine and belief from the earliest disciples to the eve of the Reformation. The class will focus on the development of Christian thought, focusing only on related social forces as they pertain to the development of Christian doctrine. We will look at particular historical figures that contribute significantly to the development of doctrine, as well as some key events, ideas, and movements that Christian beliefs were watered and nourished by. The course will be reflective and devotional in nature. The student will not be asked to do critical, historical science, but rather to listen to the story and seek to understand how that story ministers to us currently, and build bridges from historical understanding to personal spiritual formation, the role of the church in society, and contemporary ministry.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The following are competencies for Ordination Course of Study which are achieved by this course:

1. Ability to describe the general story line of Church History and the development of the major doctrines and creeds through the early Middle Ages.
2. Ability to identify and describe the significance of the major figures, themes, and events of the Apostolic, Patristic and Medieval periods of Church History.
3. Ability to describe how the church implemented its mission in the various periods of Church History.

COURSE INSTRUCTOR

Dr. Floyd T. Cunningham, BA, Eastern Nazarene College; MDiv, Nazarene Theological Seminary;
MA, PhD (History), Johns Hopkins University
Professor Emeritus, History of Christianity, Asia-Pacific Nazarene Theological Seminary

COURSE TEXTBOOK

Cunningham, Floyd T. *Examining Our Christian Heritage I*. Kansas City: Clergy Services, 2003.
Faculty Guide:
<https://nubo.nazarene.org/index.php/s/tBQLRCsHGfaYADo?dir=undefined&openfile=382366>

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Read assigned portions of text each week: evident in class discussions
2. Regular attendance
3. Weekly reflection papers
4. Journal

GRADING

Attendance/Participation	10%	Paper 5	10%
Paper 1	10%	Paper 6	10%
Paper 2	10%	Paper 7	10%
Paper 3	10%	Journal	<u>20%</u>
Paper 4	10%		100%

RESEARCH / REFLECTION PAPERS

Each week students will bring answers to discussion questions as outlined below. The answers will reflect reading from the text, and insight gained from at least one video-tube that relates to the lesson. The class will be oriented around the questions, but will assume that the student has read the lessons in their entirety. The answers each week should be about 500 words.

JOURNAL

Students will note that in the textbook reading, each of the 12 lessons contains selections from Augustine, *The Confessions*. Keep the journal on a regular basis. The Journal entries should reflect on how the text speaks to the student's heart. Date your entries. Submit on July 1. Probably 900 words in all.

COURSE READING, SCHEDULE, ASSIGNMENTS, AND DUE DATES

DATE	READING (from "Faculty Guide")	ASSIGNMENT: for each day, write about 500 words.
April 7	Lesson 1	Due April 9: What are three ways in which church history is relevant to your ministry?
April 14	Lesson 2	Due April 15 at class time: 1. Looking at the early spread of Christianity westward and eastward, are similar reasons today? 2. What points from three of the "apostolic fathers" can you glean that might be used in a sermon? 3. Watch one you-tube video that deals with some aspect of this lesson, record the URL, and be prepared to share in class.
April 21	Lesson 3	Due April 22 at class time: 1. Do you find Irenaeus or Tertullian more helpful to your ways of thought? 2. As you look at the heresies of the early church, do you find similarities today? Explain. 3. Watch one you-tube video that deals with some aspect of this lesson, record the URL, and be prepared to share in class.

April 28	Lesson 4	<p>Due April 29 at class time:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Does the canon create the church or the church the canon? Or, . . . 2. What essential elements of the early councils' creeds do you need to communicate to those to whom you minister? 3. Watch one you-tube video that deals with some aspect of this lesson, record the URL, and be prepared to share in class.
May 5	Lesson 5	<p>Due May 6 at class time:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Compare the early organization of the church and today's. Are there important elements in the early church worth recovering? 2. What is the ideal of holiness expressed in monasticism? Is there anything we can learn from the early monks? 3. How do you assess the early accounts that attribute the church's growth in Europe to signs and wonders? 4. Watch one you-tube video that deals with some aspect of this lesson, record the URL, and be prepared to share in class.
May 26	Lesson 6-7-8	<p>Due May 27 at class time:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. You read about the strength of the papacy in these chapters. What are the advantages, and what are the dangers of a strong, centralized church? 2. You read about the involvement of the church in society and politics, and even in launching crusades. Are there advantages as well as dangers in this? 3. As you look at the lives and thought of theologians such as Anselm and Abelard, what do you need to communicate to those to whom you minister? 4. Watch one you-tube video that deals with some aspect of these lessons, record the URL, and be prepared to share in class.
June 18	Lesson 9-10-11	<p>Due June 19 at class time:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What do you suppose is there in Eastern Orthodoxy that is appealing to some Wesleyan scholars? 2. What elements of the monastic movements, and the rise of the Dominicans and Franciscans can we admire? 3. Missed opportunities: the lessons we learn from China. How might you incorporate this story in a sermon? 4. Watch one you-tube video that deals with some aspect of these lessons, record the URL, and be prepared to share in class.
June 25	Lesson 12	<p>Due June 26 at class time:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Looking at this period of time, how was pastoral care different from and the same as pastoral care today? 2. Would there be any elements of medieval worship to recover? 3. What were ways in which the inherent yearning for the reform of the church were manifest during fourteenth and fifteenth centuries? 4. Watch one you-tube video that deals with some aspect of this lesson, record the URL, and be prepared to share in class.
July 1	Due date	Journal: selections from <i>The Confessions</i> by Augustine, about 900 words