210-01/03 Christian Tradition II

Aaron Saari
Course Description

This course is the second of two required Theology courses for majors and minors; it also can be taken as a fulfillment of the level-200 Theology elective requirement. Students need not have taken Christian Tradition I, but it is highly recommended. There is no constituent difference between the section dedicated to majors/minors and that open to general students. In this course, we trace vital developments in terms of Christian history, theology, Christology, ontology, soteriology, and sacramental theology from the period of the Reformation, through the Age of Conquest/Discovery, the Modern Age, and into the 21st century. The course attempts to give attention to as many Christian traditions as possible, but there is particular emphasis on developments within Roman Catholicism and Mainline Protestantism.

Course Objectives

1. To understand the development of the Christian tradition from the sixteenth through the twentieth centuries.
2. To understand the contributions of key theological figures and/or movements.
3. To understand how the present Christian tradition has been shaped by the past.

Course Texts


Online materials made available through assignments posted on BlackBoard.

Course Assignments

There are **no tests or exams in this course.**
**Portfolio Assignments:** Instead of exams, we will focus on intensive assignments geared toward facilitating class discussion. I cannot stress this enough: **You MUST come to class prepared each and every day.** The reading and writing in this course is intense, but it is aimed at getting you engaged with the material in a significant way. You have assignments due just about every week (although they will not be picked up until the end of each module). On BlackBoard, you will find assignments for each unit within a module. Each one is coded according to the overall theme of the module (Reformation Era=RE; Modern Period=MP; Late Modern Period=LMP) and are numbered in the order they should be completed.

*How to complete the Portfolio assignments:*

1. All homework **must be typed.** The files are on BlackBoard in Microsoft Word format. You can download the file and type your answers directly into the document.

2. Homework must be completed on the day that it is due. This class will be run like a seminar. You should prepare as though you will be called upon in class **because you will be called upon.** Students who are not prepared will slow down the progress of the course and will see a decrease in the participation grade. We will not have a class in which a select few individual carry their discussion weight for the entire group. With that said, you are encouraged to bring your computers to class and take notes as we discuss the material. This will help you produce the best documents possible.

3. At the end of the first two modules, the individual assignments are to be printed out, stapled, compiled in order, and placed within a pocket folder with the student’s name and section number clearly printed on both the folder and each assignment. Each collection of assignments is referred to as a “Portfolio.” Each assignment should be stapled separately; folders submitted in a disorganized fashion will be marked down. **Emailed assignments will NOT be accepted. Late work will not be accepted unless you secure permission from Professor Saari in advance.**

Portfolios:  
- Portfolio #1: 25%  
- Portfolio #2: 25%  
- Portfolio #3: 10%

**Final Paper**

The final paper (8-10 pages; typed; double-spaced; MLA format) will take the place of a final exam, and is due at the time of the scheduled final (Wed, May 7 12:00-1:50 for 01; Friday, May 9 12:00-1:50 for 03). The final paper should compare and contrast one figure/theological viewpoint from each period (Reformation; Modern; Late Modern OR Contemporary). Textual evidence is expected, as is a thoughtful analysis of the salient issues. More details will be provided as we get closer to the due date.

Final Paper: 33%  
Participation and attendance: 7%.
Xavier University Theology Department Grading Guidelines can be found here: http://www.xavier.edu/theology/Grading-Policy.cfm

**Course participation and attendance**

Attendance is expected, and plays a significant part in determining a student's grade. Missing more than 5 class periods (unexcused) will result in a loss of all attendance credit. Excused absences require a note from the appropriate department (if a University-related event) or a doctor. Please, do not “kill off” your grandparents to get out of class. Lying about deaths/funerals can come back on you in really embarrassing ways.

Participation entails more than just filling a chair. Students **shall not** surf the Internet. Doing so is incredibly disrespectful to your fellow students, and to the professor. Cell phones are to be silenced; in fact, there is really no reason why you should have your phone in your hand at any point during the class. Students who violate this policy will be contacted by the professor, and repeated violations can result in expulsion from the course.

Students are to place a “nameplate” (a folded piece of paper with their name on it) in front of them before each class. We will address one another by name, and produce an atmosphere of intellectual rigor and camaraderie.

It is unacceptable for a few students to carry the weight of discussion in a class; sadly, this happens much too often. By design, this course requires each and every student to be prepared to speak and share insights. Students who consistently fail to meet these requirements (especially by being unprepared) may be expelled from the course.

If discussion is lacking, the professor reserves the right to add quizzes to the course. This may or may not add points to the overall grade, but could be used to detract points from the overall score. **Please, do not contribute to an atmosphere in which this draconian measure is necessary. Come to class prepared.**

**Plagiarism**

Xavier University has a stringent plagiarism policy, which is strictly enforced in this course. Students are advised to consult the following link to familiarize themselves with what constitutes plagiarism: http://www.xavier.edu/library/xututor/plagiarism/

There are some specific violations that will be caught with little to no effort by the professor:

1. Sharing of work. Each student is responsible for his or her own work. It is unacceptable for students to “divvy up” assignments, giving specific questions or projects to specific people in exchange for shared work. Violations will result in an automatic 0 for the assignment, and may result in disciplinary actions that can culminate in expulsion from the University.
2. Acquiring materials from Internet sources and submitting them as one's own work. Look, if you can Google it, so can I. If you think you’ve found some obscure corner of the Internet concerning religion and theology about which I am unaware, you are wrong. If you pass off work that is not your own, may God have mercy on your soul.

3. Purchasing essays or assignments from an online provider. Most of these essays are written badly, and are easily detectable by someone with my training. I’m like a ninja when it comes to sussing out purchased work. Don't do it.

   **It is pretty simple: Do your own work.**

**Readings and Assignment Due Dates** (Subject to Change)

**Module One: The Reformation Era** (1/13-2/26)

1/13  Course Introduction/Syllabus Review  
      Begin viewing *Christianity: The Second Thousand Years* (chapters 8-14)

1/15-17 View *Christianity: The Second Thousand Years* (8-14)

1/20  No class

1/22-27 Martin Luther  
      **Assignment RE1 should be prepared for 1/22 class meeting**

1/29-31 Zwingli, Bucer, and Melanchton (Oh, my!)  
      **Assignment RE2 should be prepared for 1/29 class meeting**

2/3-5 Jean Calvin  
      **Assignment RE3 should be prepared for 2/3 class meeting**

2/7 Flex Day

2/10-12 The Radical Reformers and The Council of Trent  
      **Assignment RE4 should be prepared for 2/10 class meeting**

2/14-21 Bartolome de las Casas  
      View *The Mission* (2/14-17)  
      **Assignment RE5 should be prepared for 2/21 class meeting**

2/24-26 Teresa of Avila and St. John of the Cross*  

*If we fall behind, this material (very unfortunately) will not be discussed in class.  
**Portfolio #1 Due 2/26**
Module 2: The Modern Period (2/28-3/26)

2/28  Introduction to The Modern Period/Watch *Christianity: The Second Thousand Years* (chapters 15-20)

3/3-7  Spring Break

3/10-12  Preachers in the New World: Edwards and Wesley  
**MP1 should be prepared for 3/10 class meeting**

3/14-17  Immanuel Kant and Friedrich Schleiermacher  
**MP2 should be prepared for 3/14 class meeting**

3/19-21  G.W.F. Hegel and Soren Kierkegaard  
**MP3 should be prepared for 3/19 class meeting**

3/24 Frederick Douglas  
**MP 4 should be prepared for 3/24 class meeting**

*Portfolio #2 Due 3/28*

Module Three: The Late Modern Period (3/26-4/4)

3/26  Flex Day/Watch *Christianity: The Second Thousand Years*

3/28-31 Rudolph Bultmann, Karl Barth, and Paul Tillich  
**LMP1 should be prepared for 3/28 class meeting**

4/2-4  Reinhold Niebuhr and Karl Rahner  
**LMP2 should be prepared for 4/2 class meeting**

*Portfolio #3 due 4/16*

Module Four: The Contemporary Period (4/7-5/2)

Schedule TBD