

REGENT COLLEGE  
Distance Education

HIST 501: HISTORY OF CHRISTIANITY I

Dr. John B. Toews  
Grader: Dr. John B. Toews  
3 Graduate Credit Hours  
Course Tutor: Ben Amundgaard  
Email: [de-hist501@regent-college.edu](mailto:de-hist501@regent-college.edu)  
Your source for guidelines, resources and discussions;  
[www.regent-college.edu/classesonline](http://www.regent-college.edu/classesonline)

Your due date: \_\_\_\_\_

(See the last page of your Student Handbook for setting your due date)

**A course may be dropped within two weeks of the course start date for a 100% refund (less a \$25 drop fee). A course may be dropped between two and four weeks of the course start date for a 75% refund (less a \$25 drop fee). A course may be dropped between four and eight weeks of the course start date for no refund; after this time the student is committed to receiving a grade for the course. All course materials must be returned in original condition before a drop or refund will be approved.**

**Course Description**

History of Christianity I and II are an introductory survey of Christian history. These courses provide the best approach to Christian history for the student who is taking this course for the Diploma in Christian Studies, but they are normally required for students proceeding to the MCS or MDiv. These courses may be taken at any time during the student's studies. If a student is planning to take a degree and wishes to take other electives or even do a thesis in this subject area, these survey courses should be taken as soon as possible.

**Coverage**

This course is designed to be a survey of the history of Christianity from its beginnings to about 1560. It will progress thematically, stressing the highlights of a given era. Students are encouraged to think in terms of broader issues and themes rather than specific chronology and specific events.

**Course Outline and Assigned Reading**

CD 1	MP3 #A	Introduction	Bainton, Ch. 3, 4
CD 2	MP3 #B	Greco-Roman Background	Gonzalez, Ch.13-25
CD 3	MP3 #C	Roman Empire	
CD 4	MP3 #D	Post-Apostolic Period	
CD 5	MP3 #E	Post-Constantinian Church	
CD 6	MP3 #F	Desert Monasticism	
CD 7	MP3 #G	Monasticism and St. Benedict	
CD 8	MP3 #H	The Celtic Church	
CD 9	MP3 #I	Candles in the Darkness	
CD 10	MP3 #J	Carolingian Period	Hoyt, Ch. 4, 6, 7
CD 11	MP3 #K	Carolingian Period (cont.)	
CD 12	MP3 #L	Carolingian Period (cont.)	

CD 13	MP3 #M	Germanic Empire	Hoyt, Ch. 12
		<b>Mid-term exam to be taken</b>	
CD 14	MP3 #N	Varieties of Dissent in the Medieval Church	Hoyt, Ch. 15-17
CD 15	MP3 #O	Dissent in the Medieval Church (cont.)	
CD 16	MP3 #P	Dissent (cont.); Avignon Papacy	Hoyt, Ch. 25
CD 17	MP3 #Q	Avignon and Schism; Conciliarism	
CD 18	MP3 #R	Renaissance and Humanism	Gonzalez, Ch.33-34
CD 19	MP3 #T	Martin Luther	Klassen, Ch. 2, 5, 6
CD 20	MP3 #U	Martin Luther (cont.)	
CD 21	MP3 #V	Menno Simons	
CD 22	MP3 #W	Zwingli	
		<b>Final exam to be taken</b>	

\*Please note that a lecture on John Calvin, given by Professor Don Lewis of Regent College, has been included in this audio set, though you will not be required to know this lecture for the exams.

### Academic Requirements and Time Investment

Lectures	36 hours
Reading	40 hours
Essay	24 hours
Exams (including preparation)	29 hours
Discussion participation	6 hours
TOTAL	135 hours

### Assignments

**All assignments are due (submitted or postmarked) by your due date. All assignments should be handed in to your Course Tutor with the cover sheets provided in your course package.** Both exams and the Augustine paper will be returned to the student at the end of the course.

#### 1. Discussion Participation

Whether you are local or studying at a distance, please register online at [www.regent-college.edu/classesonline](http://www.regent-college.edu/classesonline) and click on Distance Education, then HIST 501. This will be your main source of information and updates. Also, it is a place for discussion. The discussions will cover the reflective questions that are listed in the Tutorial Readings and Questions section of your course package.

You are required to contribute to our online discussion forum at least **THREE** times. The goal of these discussions is that you engage the material. **While 400-500 words each is a good target for an in-depth engagement, the amount of words will not be the important factor of your discussion evaluation. Rather, your level of interaction is.** Be conversant with what is happening within the document and what the implications are for today. In other words, do not focus all your attention on what a historical figure meant in her or his time without also letting it draw out implications to your life and that of today's church (the opposite would also be a mistake although if you are to err, do so on the side of spending more time applying the issue to today). Be ready to take a stand on an issue under discussion and do not be afraid to respectfully disagree with your classmates.

##### a) Response and Questions #1:

Choose ONE source document (6 are available in the "Tutorial Readings & Questions" from your course supplementary notes) and respond to the discussion questions found at the end of each source document. At the end of your response, ask three reflective questions you have as

a result of your reading. These questions can be used for further discussion with others.

- i. Post your response and reflective questions by clicking on HIST501: History of Christianity I. Click on the source document to which you wish to respond, and then click the “Add a new discussion topic” button. Please label your topic with “RESPONSE #1, Source Document Number \_\_\_\_\_”

**b) Response and Questions #2:**

Choose another student’s RESPONSE #1 that covers a different source document and respond to it. As well, also include three of your own questions that are reflective in nature and may generate further discussion.

- i. Post your response by clicking on the “Reply” button. Write as your first line, “RESPONSE #2”
- ii. Begin your response by stating to whom you are responding, e.g. “A response to Dudley Doright.”

**c) Response and Questions #3**

You can choose to respond and ask three questions to EITHER 1) another source document to which you have not responded OR 2) another student’s response to a source document to which you have not responded.

- i. Post your response in the same manner as above but, obviously, using the heading, “RESPONSE #3”

You do not need to print your responses, as your Course Tutor will be assessing them online.

**d) Notes**

- i. These responses will **not** be graded other than for participation. Up to 15% or proportion thereof will be deducted from the final course grade for incomplete participation.
- ii. Any additional interaction among audio students is encouraged. They will not be counted towards your final course grade but they will not hurt it.

**2. Essay on Augustine’s *Confessions*.**

- a) No longer than 2,500-3,000 words in length
- b) The essay should be typed and double-spaced if at all possible.
- c) A good guide to essay form and style is Kate L. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1996).
- d) The essay is due any time up to the six-month course deadline and is to be mailed to the Distance Education office.

One of two approaches may be used in your essay:

**1) A Personal Approach**

After acquainting yourself with the setting and purpose of Augustine’s *Confessions*, write a personal commentary on one or two themes of the *Confessions* that you found meaningful and intriguing. Work only from the text and make sure it’s your dialogue with Augustine, not that of some professional commentator. When making reference to an argument or disclosure of Augustine that turns you on or off, cite book and paragraph. Provide ample evidence that you have really been into the text.

**2) An Academic Approach**

If you are not the self-disclosing or sharing type, select one or two themes in the *Confessions* (i.e., memory, time, freedom of the will, sin, Providence, etc.) and trace Augustine’s treatment of that theme. Utilize the text as fully as possible and be sure to cite book and paragraph in your footnotes.

### 3. Exams

- a) Based on the lectures, course text and Bainton, Hoyt and Klassen readings.  
*Note:* you will not be tested on the contents Chapters 1-12 of the Gonzalez text, although they are useful background material for the lectures.
- b) The exams will be 90 minutes long and will consist of two parts, each worth 50%: five short answer and identification questions and one essay. Both exams are closed book/notes.
- c) The mid-term exam should be taken after CD 13, track 5/MP3 M05. The final exam should be taken when the CDs/MP3s have been completed.
- d) There are no specific dates set for the midterm and final exam. It is highly recommended that you take the midterm halfway through your course, and the final exam must be taken on or before your due date. Please see your student handbook for more details on taking exams.
- f) The mid-term exam and final exam must be handwritten, unless permission has been granted.

*Please refer to your student handbook for specific information on ordering your exam.*

<http://www.regent-college.edu/academics/cstudies/documents/StudentHandbook.pdf>

#### Evaluation

Essay	30%
Mid-term Exam	30%
Final Exam	40%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

Discussion: up to 15% or proportion thereof will be deducted for incomplete participation.

***NB: The Course Evaluation Form is to be returned by your due date***

#### **Late Policy and Extensions (please read carefully!)**

For every week that your course requirements are submitted late, there will be a deduction of a third of a letter grade per assignment accordingly. Only under circumstances that are both *unavoidable and unforeseeable* are extensions considered (please refer to your student handbook for specific details <http://www.regent-college.edu/academics/cstudies/documents/StudentHandbook.pdf> ). Weddings and births do not count as *unavoidable and unforeseeable*. If you need to go beyond the six-month time limit, you must contact the Coordinator *first* for an extension. Contact information is provided in your **Student Handbook**. Please note that extensions are not automatically granted, and must be applied for before your original due date.

ACADEMIC HONOUR Regent College upholds the highest standards of academic responsibility as part of our commitment to Christ in all of life. Students are required to familiarize themselves especially with the discussion of "Academic Integrity" in the College Catalogue.

#### **Bibliography**

##### ***Required Reading***

##### **1. Course Texts**

Gonzalez, Justo L. *The Story of Christianity: The Early Church to the Reformation*, vol. 1 New York: HarperSanFrancisco, 1984.

Augustine's *Confessions*

**2. Readings – Bainton, Hoyt and Klassen (provided in course package)**

Bainton, Roland H. *Christendom: A Short History of Christianity*. New York: Harper & Row, 1964.

Hoyt, Robert S. and Chodorow, Stanley. *Europe in the Middle Ages*. New York: Harcourt, Brace, Jovanovich, Inc., 1976.

Klassen, Peter J. *Europe in the Reformation*. Englewood Cliffs, N.J.: Prentice-Hall, 1979.

**3. Tutorial Readings & Questions**

The tutorial readings and questions package found on the Course Moodle site is meant to augment the lectures and textbook material. You will not be tested over the contents specifically, however you are expected to read the packet in its entirety, and you may use the information to flavour your exam responses. You will also choose three specific Source Documents to use for your required online responses. These Source Documents can also be found on the Moodle site.

***Recommended Reading***

The following books are recommended for those students who may wish to expand their knowledge beyond the material provided in the lectures. Needless to say, there are many others.

Hughes, Philip Edgcumbe. *A History of the Church*. Vols. 1-3. New York: Sheed & Ward, 1947.

Jedin, Hubert (ed.). *History of the Church*. Vols. 1-4. New York: Crossroad, 1980-82.

Latourette, Kenneth Scott. *A History of the Expansion of Christianity*. Vol. 2, *The Thousand Years of Uncertainty*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan Publishing House, 1970.

Schaff, Philip. *History of the Christian Church*. Vols. 1-6. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Eerdmans, 1949-1966.