

Heritage of the Christian Church
Instructor: J.W. Sprunger
Spring Semester 2006-2007

Objectives for the Christian Heritage component of the course: (.5 credits)

- A. To gain an understanding of the history of the Church from the early Church to the Reformation
- B. To grasp the great issues of the Protestant Reformation
- C. To understand the unique emphases of the 16th century Anabaptists.
- D. To discover the tension and interaction between the diverse factions of the Anabaptist family.
- E. To review the modern mission movement throughout the world.
- F. To understand the role of religion in America.
- G. To gain perspective on the Anabaptist Church at work today.

Texts:

The Church in History, B.K. Kuiper
Introduction to Mennonite History, Dyck
The New International Version of the Bible
Through Fire and Water, Loewen and Nolt

Topics:

- A. New Testament Church
- B. Early Church to Constantine
- C. Church in the Middle Ages
- D. Reformation
- E. Development of the Anabaptist movement
- F. The Enlightenment
- G. Mennonites in North America
- H. Religion in America
- I. Rise of Christian Missions
- J. Third World Church
- K. Contemporary Church Issues

General Requirements:

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|------------------------------------|----------------|
| A. Daily Bible Reading | (5 % of grade) |
| B. Daily Homework | (5 % of grade) |
| C. Participate in Class Discussion | (20% of grade) |
| D. Take Quizzes and Tests | (10% of grade) |
| E. Complete Four Projects | (40% of grade) |
| F. Complete Two Timelines | (20% of grade) |

Projects:

There are four projects assigned for this course. The four projects described on the next page do not individually have assigned due dates and you have the option when you would prefer to complete the assignment, however I will be collection four projects on the following dates on which one of the assignments of your choice will be due: **February 20, March 20, April 24, and May 15.**

Timelines:

Two timelines are required for this course. Due dates for theses timelines are as follows: Ancient Period- **April 3**;
Medieval Period-**May 8.**

Only four projects are required, you may complete them in any order

- A. 30 minutes of Reading from the Martyrs Mirror www.homecomers.org/mirror or the reference section of the Media Center.
1. On the form provided or template from Lancaster Mennonite School web site, keep a list that indicates the title and pages read as well as total reading time.
 2. Write an essay in which you reflect on your reading. Briefly describe the content but also include the type of faith these martyrs held as well as expressing what impressions you have about dying for your faith.
- B. 150 pages of reading from a biography, novel, or other approved books related to Church History, including current Church issues.
1. On the form provided or template from Lancaster Mennonite School web site, write a 2 page summary and reaction to the book.
 2. Include the title, author, copyright date, publisher, total pages in book, total pages you read.
 3. Check the Media Center for this course reading list.
- C. Four magazine articles summaries from Christian magazines. All articles read must be current and published no earlier than January 1, 2005. Avoid summarizing news articles. Try to find an article or editorial (1-2 pages in length) that responds to an issue or topic. Article summaries should come from the following magazines: 1. The Mennonite, 2. Christianity Today, 3. Christian Century, 4. Christian magazine of your choice.
- D. You local church history.
Type a three page paper on the spiritual history of your church by interviewing 2 older people (one may be a parent) of your congregation. The following questions should serve as a guide when interviewing
1. When did the church seem most alive? Why?
 2. When did the church experience a real movement of the Holy Spirit in the life of the congregation?
 3. What doctrines and traditions have changed within the church?
 4. Have you seen a change in worship, music, attitudes, lifestyles, dress, practices, relationships, and pastoring expectations? Have these changes affected you?
 5. What conflicts has the church dealt with?
 6. What has been the churches reaction to the war?
 7. What kinds of splits have happened?
 8. How and under what circumstances did the church begin?
 9. What are the current goals of your church?
 10. In conclusion, describe your personal impression and understanding of the role of the church today in your life. As you prepare for the future (especially the next 10 years) how do you see the role of the church affecting your life and /or fitting into your life? (**Note:** this is your response, not the person you are interviewing.)
- E. Create your own project:
There are a variety of types of projects that a student can do to meet the course requirement.
1. Creative writing poetry, journaling, limericks, research paper, book report.
 2. Word puzzles, outlining, deciphering codes, create an exam, and create a game.
 3. Painting, costumes, sculpture, designing, posters, video.
 4. Drama, pottery, role playing, charades, wood project, food project.
 5. Create a song, new words to a song, rap, musical composition, a tape of music
 6. Cooperative learning project, collaborating project, and teach part of a lesson.
 7. Identify the emotions of a Biblical character, silent reflection report, memorizing.

All create your own projects need to be typed and follow Lancaster Mennonite School writing guide lines. Writing projects need to be two pages in length. You need to have approval if you are going to do "a create your own project.

Guidelines for all projects
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1. The preferred method to receive all work is type written hard copy.
2. Work should be sent as an attachment in Microsoft Word format or RTF (rich text format) to sprungerjw@lancastermennonite.org
3. Subject line should begin with Class in an abbreviated format. Examples: Heritage of the Christian Church (HOTCC).
4. Following the Class should be the Period.
5. Following the Period should be your name.
6. Following your name should be the topic and project number.
7. The following are examples of how the subject line should read. HOTCC, Period 5, Jane Doe, Project 3 Local Church History.
8. All work is due on Tuesdays at midnight.
9. I expect that all work will be completed. That means work can be late. I take off for late work via your class participation grade. The guidance office has informed me that you must pass this class in order to graduate. If you receive a grade of F you will need to take the course again. What this means is you will have no missing assignments.
10. The last day to hand in work is **May 22, 2007**. No work will be accepted after May 22nd that meanings if you have a missing assignment after May 22nd you will receive a grade of "F" and will need to take the course again.