

Chafer Theological Seminary
History of Doctrine (2 hours)
Spring 2008

HISTORY OF DOCTRINE SYLLABUS

Instructor: Dr. Robert Dean, Jr., Th.M., M.A., D.Min.
Pastor, West Houston Bible Church
www.deanbible.org www.westhoustonbiblechurch.org
drdean@deanbible.org

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

A study of the historical development of selected doctrines, with attention to the development of each theological theme from the church fathers to the present day.

II. COURSE OBJECTIVES AND RATIONALE

- A. The student will know the historical development of the major branches of systematic theology, noting the formulation and modification of each branch from the early church to the present day.
- B. That the student will gain insight into the historical course and catalytic issues in the formulation of doctrine so as to be able not only to know how theological conceptions changed, but most importantly, why they changed.
- C. That the student will gain appreciation for the major formulation of Systematic Theology, whether orthodox or heterodox, in the history of the church through an understanding of the different theologies.
- D. The student will gain insight and understanding of contemporary trends within Protestant Thought in order that he or she can more intelligently understand the issues which challenge and distract the church today.
- E. The student will synthesize the historical trends that have emerged in areas of theology.
- F. The student will develop the tools to evaluate the premises, expression, and perspectives of various aspects of historical doctrines.
- G. That the student will begin to develop a familiarity with available bibliographic and original source materials.

III. COURSE TEXTBOOKS

Required

Class notes (to be downloaded from the website).

Bingham, D. J. *Pocket History of the Church*. Downers Grove: IVP, 2002.

Hannah, John D. *Our Legacy: The History of Christian Doctrine*. Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress, 2001.

Supplementary Bibliography

Primary Sources

Anselm of Canterbury, *Proslogium, Mologium, Gaunilo's In Behalf of the Fool, Cur Deus Homo*. Open Court Publishing, 1962.

Aquinas, Thomas. *Summa Theologica*.

Creeds of the Churches. Garden City, NY: Doubleday, 1963.

Cunningham, Agnes. *The Early Church and the State*. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1982.

Hall, David D. *The Antinomian Controversy 1636–1638: A Documentary History*. Durham: Duke University Press, 1990.

Lightfoot, J. B. *The Apostolic Fathers*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1970.

Luther, Martin. *The Bondage of the Will*.

Norris, Richard A., Jr., *The Christological Controversy*. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1980.

Readings in Christian Thought. Nashville: Abingdon, 1966.

Roberts, Alexander, ed. *Ante-Nicene Fathers: The Writings of the Fathers Down to A.D. 325*. 10 vols. Peabody: Hendrickson, 1999.

Roberts, Alexander, ed. *Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers: First Series*. 14 vols.

Rusch, William G. *The Trinitarian Controversy*. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1980.

Schaff, Philip, ed. *Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers: Second Series*.

Schaff, Philip. *Creeds of Christendom*. 3 vols. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans.

Secondary Sources

Berkhof, Louis. *The History of Christian Doctrines*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1975.

Bromiley, Geoffrey W. *Historical Theology: An Introduction*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1978.

- Cunningham, William. *Historical Theology*. 2 vols. 1862. Reprint, Edinburgh: Banner of Truth Trust, 1969.
- Gonzalez, Justo L. *A History of Christian Thought*. 3 vols. Nashville: Abingdon, 1975.
- A Concise History of Christian Doctrine*. Nashville: Abingdon, 2005.
- Hagenbach, K. R. *A History of Christian Doctrine*. 7 vols. 1900. Reprint, New York: Dover, 1961.
- Heick, Otto W. *A History of Christian Thought*. 2 vols. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1976. (Heick's work is a revision of J. L. Neve's *A History of Christian Thought*.)
- Kendall, R. T. *Calvin and English Calvinism to 1649*. Oxford University Press, 1979.
- Klotsche, E. H. *The History of Christian Doctrine*. 1945. Reprint, Grand Rapids: Baker, 1979.
- Larsen, David L. *The Company of Hope: A History of Bible Prophecy in the Church*. Bloomington: AuthorHouse, 2004.
- McGiffert, Arthur Cushman. *A History of Christian Thought*. 2 vols. 1933. Reprint, New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1961.
- McGrath, Alister E. *Christian Theology: An Introduction*. Oxford: Blackwell, 1994.
- Neander, August. *History of Christian Dogmas*. 2 vols. London: Bell & Daldy, 1866.
- Neve, J. L. *A History of Christian Thought*. 2 vols. Philadelphia: United Lutheran Publication House, 1943.
- Olsen, Roger E. *The Story of Christian Theology: Twenty Centuries of Tradition and Reform*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 1999.
- Orr, James. *The Progress of Dogma*. London: Hodder and Stoughton, 1907.
- Pelikan, Jaroslav. *Development of Christian Doctrine: Some Historical Prolegomena*. New Haven: Yale, 1969.
- Seeberg, Reinhold. *Textbook of the History of Doctrines*. Reprint, Grand Rapids: Baker, 1977.
- Shedd, William G. T. Shedd. *A History of Christian Doctrine*. 2 vols. Edinburgh: T & T Clark, 1865 (Reprint, 1979).
- Sheldon, Henry C. *History of Christian Doctrine*. 2 vols. New York: Harper, 1886.
- Smalley, Beryl. *The Study of the Bible in the Middle Ages*. Notre Dame: University of Notre Dame Press, 1964.
- Wiles, Maurice. *The Making of Christian Doctrine*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1967.

Wilkinson, Paul Richard. *For Zion's Sake: Christian Zionism and the Role of John Nelson Darby*. Colorado Springs: Paternoster, 2007.

IV. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Reading Assignments

The student should thoughtfully and carefully read the class notes prior to each session in addition to the sections required in the textbook in order to understand the historical development of the doctrine.

The assignment readings are listed in the course schedule below. The reading report is due at the final class.

Supplemental Reading:

600–800 pages C

800–1000 pages B

1000–1200 pages A

Two grades will be assigned on this project. One grade will be based on the number of pages read, the other grade based on the paper written. Together these comprise 66.6% of the grade.

Writing Assignments:

Each student is to write a 12–15 page paper reflecting upon what he has read. The student should demonstrate his understanding of the theological issues involved and the different viewpoints expressed historically, in such a way as to reveal what he has learned during the semester.

The paper must be written according to the standards of Turabian and should be properly footnoted with bibliography. Failure to follow these standards will result in grade reduction.

"Reading makes a full man; conference a ready man; and writing an exact man." - -- Francis Bacon

Reading makes a full man, meditation a profound man, discourse a clear man.

—Benjamin Franklin, American writer and statesman, Poor Richard's Almanck, 1757

V. COURSE POLICIES

Weight Given to Course Requirements for Grading

Reading of course texts and notes: 33.3%

Project reading: 33.3%

Paper: 33.3%

Class notes should be obtained before the first day of class and it would be wise for the student to put them in a loose-leaf binder. In class, the professor will take most of the class time to survey, visualize, and contextualize the subject of the day.

Late Assignments: No late assignments are accepted except under extraordinary circumstances.

Absences: Attendance of class sessions is required in accordance with the standards outlined in the CTS Catalog. Each unexcused absence will result in a reduction of 5 points from the final grade (a 95 average would become a 90 average)

VI. COURSE SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

This course seeks to define the origins and development of the theology of the church. It will trace the historical development of the major branches of systematic theology, noting specifically the formulation and modification of each branch from the early church to the present day. In addition, an attempt will be made to define the major formulation of doctrine, whether orthodox or heterodox. Finally, an investigation of the contemporary trends in Protestant thought will enable the student to gain perspective on the issues with which the church is grappling.

VII. COURSE LECTURES AND ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE

Monday, Feb, 4,

Part One

Introduction to the Course
The Matter of Definition

Part Two

The Doctrine of the Scriptures: The Ancient Church

Required:

Hannah, Preface–48

Monday, Feb 11, Class Two

Part One

The Doctrine of the Scriptures: The Medieval Church and Reformation Church

Part Two

The Doctrine of the Scriptures: The Modern Church

Required:

Hannah, 49–70

Monday, Feb 18, Class Three

Part One

The Doctrine of God: The Fathers and Apologists

Part Two

The Doctrine of God: The Theologians

Required:

Hannah, 71–89

Monday, Feb 25, Class Four

Part One

The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit: The Ancient Church

Part Two

The Doctrine of God: The Medieval and Reformation Church

Required:

Hannah, 89–108

Monday, March 3, Class Five

Part One

The Doctrine of God: The German and American Rationalists

Part Two

The Person of Christ: The Ancient Church

Required:

Hannah, 109–120

Monday, March 10: NO CLASS, CTS Pastors' Conference

Monday, March 17: NO CLASS, Spring Break

Monday, March 24: Class Six

Part One

The Person of Christ: The Ancient Church (Cont.)

Part Two

The Person of Christ: The Medieval and Reformation Church

Required:

Hannah, 120–128

Monday, March 31: Class Seven

Part One

The Person of Christ: The Modern Church

Part Two

The Work of Christ: The Ancient Church

Required:

Hannah, 128–160

Monday, April 7, Class Eight

Part One:

The Work of Christ: The Medieval and Reformation Church

Part Two:

The Work of Christ: the Reformation Church (con't)

Required:

Hannah, 160–180

Monday, April 14 Class Nine

Part One:

The Work of Christ: The Modern Church

Part Two:

The Doctrines of Salvation: The Church Fathers and Apologists

Required:

Hannah, 180–209

Monday, April 21 Class Ten

Part One:

The Doctrine of Salvation: The Theologians

Part Two:

The Doctrine of Salvation: The Medieval Church

Required:

Hannah, 209–21

Monday, April 28, Class Eleven

Part One:

The Doctrines of Salvation: The Reformation Church

Part Two:

The Doctrines of Salvation: The Modern Church

Required:

Hannah, 221–55

Monday, May 5, Class Twelve

Part One:

The Doctrines of the Church: The Ancient Church

Part Two:

The Doctrines of the Church: The Ancient and Medieval Church

Required:

Hannah, 257–285

Monday, May 12, Class Thirteen

Part One:

The Doctrines of the Church: The Reformation and Modern Church.

Part Two:

The Doctrine of “Last Things”: The Ancient Church

Required:

Hannah, 285–315

Monday, May 19, Class Fourteen

Part One:

The Doctrine of “Last Things”: The Reformation and Post-Reformation Church

Part Two:

The Doctrine of “Last Things”: The Modern Church

Required:

Hannah, 303–44

Bingham, ALL