

⚔ The History of Christianity ⚔

SPRING SEMESTER 2017

Lecturer: *Janice M. Boville*

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Meet on Tuesday Evenings from 6:30 to 9:30 In the Science Bldg. Upstairs - Room 201

A COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This seminar offers a meaningfully detailed survey of the birth, spread, and institutionalization of Christianity. We explore vibrant & variegated Inter-Testamental Judaism as the backdrop for the first witness community. We will examine Primary Sources for academic study of this heritage *and* subsequent ‘ecclesiastical’ history. Remaining sessions, Era *by* Era, highlight important issues: organizational developments; theological conflicts; schisms; and many influential leaders and ‘movements’ that comprise, for the better *and* for worse, the many different visible manifestations of that World Religion called “Christianity.”

OUR COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. Learn the MAIN ERAS of Church History *and* what caused their transitions. This *Chronological View* can be put in its *Geographical* and *Political* context as background for *Theological-Ecclesiastical* development.
2. Consider the most AUTHENTIC ROOTS for Christian faith and praxis so as to critique the nature of several ‘*Extra-Biblical*’ (*UN-ROOTED*) doctrines and self-serving man-made traditions.
3. Gain an appreciation for Christian UNITY and DIVERSITY, understanding the most significant ruptures, points of divergence, and what might constitute reconciliation.
4. Use historical studies as PROPHETIC TOOLS for: analyzing trends, putting controversies in perspective, meeting new challenges, *and* for removing personal idols, parochial blinders or denominational barricades!
All that so as to: Continue Reformation and Commit to Ultimate Restoration!



“The root supports you...do not be arrogant...” Romans 11: 18, 20

TEXTBOOKS: [THERE IS, OF NECESSITY, A LOT OF REQUIRED READING IN THIS COURSE!]

1. *The Student Manual*

A **Notebook** containing: Special Chronologies, Outlines, Illustrations, Maps, even the **EXAMS!**

Find it on **profboville.com**, PRINT and keep it in a 3-ring binder. Additions will be given in class.

This Manual is essential because it organizes the vast course materials.



2. *The Story of Christianity: The Early Church to the Present Day.* By Justo Gonzalez.

1994 Prince Press **Combined Volume** preferable. At GODRULES.NET or Amazon.com **ISBN:** 978-1-565635227 -7 \$25.54

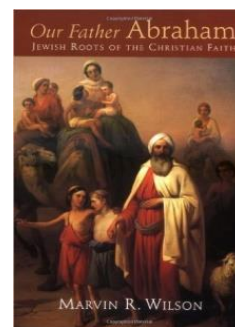
If unable to procure the convenient Combined Volume (Vol I & Vol II in one hardback), then purchase **BOTH:**

2010 HarperOne, **Vol. I**, 2nd ed. – **ISBN 10:** 0061-85588x **ISBN 13:** 978-006185588-7 About \$22.00

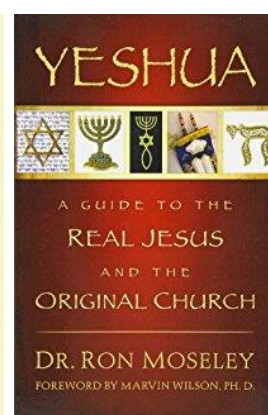
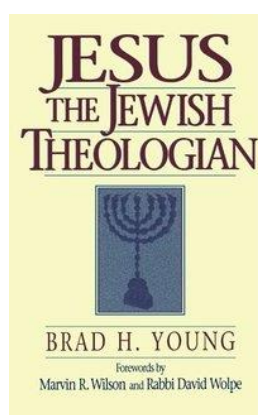
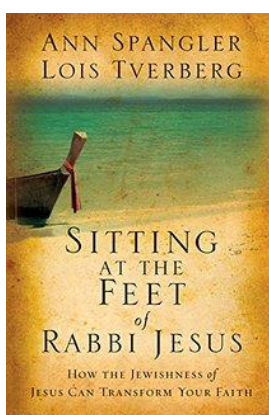
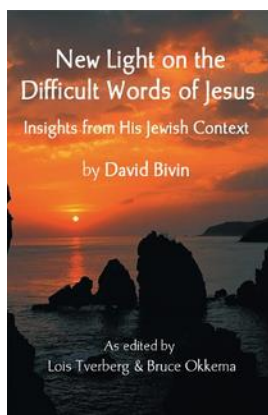
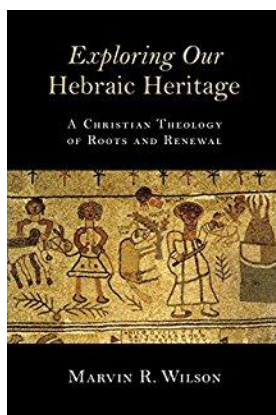
2010 HarperOne, **Vol. II**, 2nd ed. – **ISBN 10:** 0061-855898 **ISBN 13:** 978-0061-855894 About \$22.00

3. *Our Father Abraham: Jewish Roots of the Christian Faith.*

By Marvin R. Wilson. Eerdmans, 1989. ISBN: 978-0-8028-0423-5



HIGHLY RECOMMENDED FOR FURTHER EXPLORATION:



ASSIGNMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

1. **READ** ALL COURSE MATERIALS ACCORDING TO THE SCHEDULE. Complete all Study Guides in the Manual. Be fully prepared for quizzing in class on any readings. BRING the scheduled Manual Portion to class.
2. **ATTEND religiously.** All absences will result in point deductions from your final grade.
3. Complete Three Extensive **EXAMS** (which will include **ESSAYS**). DUE-DATES ARE ON THE SCHEDULE.
4. Participate in two Individual *or* Group **PROJECTS**. *To make history “come to life ”! See next page.*
Examples: Field Trip Reports. Dramatic Readings. A Study of Christian Art, Architecture, Music, or Liturgy.
Review a Church History film. Critique a Sermon or some dubious but popular ‘Christian’ fad!
Your *choice* of project must be *approved* by the Instructor, but great freedom is given!
These activities should be edifying, meaningful, and enjoyable too!

ASSESSMENT AND GRADING

A straightforward point system will be used:

ATTEND = 000 points Attend well-prepared, alert and having ALREADY eaten! (**NO FOOD** in classroom please!)
[Each Absence will steal a % of points *from* your possible 1000 point total!]

NOTE: IF *Athletic Priorities* will cause you to miss several classes, do NOT take this course!

EXAMS = 600 points [3 Exams worth: I = 300 points; II = 200 points.; III = 100 points.]

PROJECTS = 400 points [2 projects x 200 pts. each]

TOTAL = 1000 (1000 – 900 = A. 899 – 800 = B. 799 – 700 = C, *etc.*)

EXPECTATIONS FOR STUDENTS (MY OWN STRICT POLICY ON CLASSROOM CONDUCT!)

Students should be disciplined enough to attend class *alert* and *ready* to be challenged! This *is* a three hour night class, *ergo*, extra planning is necessary to maintain attentiveness! Classes always go much better when you are consistent in attendance and keep up with the reading. In class, show courtesy to the instructor, *and to each other by*: NOT bringing food, NOT talking out of turn, and NOT playing with *any* communication devices. We’re here to commune with *EACH OTHER!* Do ‘social networking’ elsewhere. You take a Boville Class to learn! So, always enter the room *ready* to THINK deeply, to discuss and share. Do NOT enter the classroom, then sit and use your phone, or be chatting about sports, or *ANYTHING* else! The *minute* you pass the threshold... you are to be thinking & talking **ONLY** about CHRISTIANITY. Anyone NOT obeying these expectations will be marked absent and penalized!

In this course, we will seriously contemplate what it means to call ourselves “Christians”!

WELCOME TO HISTORY OF CHRISTIANITY. YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES ARE:

ATTEND class faithfully! Arrive Alert! Be mature enough to be truly challenged! Read carefully and take 3 EXAMS!
Come prepared to receive **NEW** information to add to - or even question - what you've read. **IF** you show up *without* having read the assigned Textbook chapters *and* the accompanying Manual Units, **you will be lost... and it will cost!**

The main textbook is *The Story of Christianity* by Justo Gonzalez, which is not difficult to read. And, at least the author is one scholar who *seems* to understand that Christianity began its history in a vibrant Jewish context. **But then, unfortunately, he ignores** the deep implications of that connection! He **neglects** the history of Christianity's *deliberate dissociation* from that heritage and the wretched **ANTISEMITISM** that soon developed... And, has persisted, tragically!
Therefore, we must read my friend Marvin Wilson's 'primer' on Christianity's **TRUE ROOTS: Our Father Abraham**.

Your only other responsibility is to participate in an activity, project, or field report. These can be done in partnerships or small groups. If you would rather do a more 'scholarly' independent project, resources are plentiful. The real goal of these activities is to dig into some intriguing aspect of this variegated story of Christianity. (Both wheat *and* tares!)

The real purpose is to make our history "come alive!"

Submit a 2 page write-up about your activity citing the sources, describing the gist of what you learned and explaining how it 'connects to something' in our vast survey.

I encourage you to Be Creative!!



You might be interested in things **other than** our Institutional & Theological History!

[Traditional Church Music, Art, Iconography, Mysticism, Portraits of Christ, etc.]

You may give a Presentation on Church Architecture, Ritual, or Liturgy, *for example*.

Dramatic Readings of items such as martyrologies, devotions, or letters may be performed.

If you share lessons from this course with a Church Group, you can receive credit for it.

Example: Showing a film or hosting a discussion (with study questions printed ahead of time.)

More SUGGESTIONS for FIELD REPORTS:

Visit *The Sisterhood of Mary* ~ interview one of the dear Sisters.

Examine rare manuscripts at the *Bible Museum* in Goodyear.

Visit a Synagogue, or the *Judaica Museum* at Temple Beth Israel.

Attend a Greek Orthodox or Roman Catholic Church service.



CHURCH HISTORY CHRONOLOGY – MEMORIZE THESE ERAS!

The ERA and Important Issues To Discuss:

The Timeframe:

- “Second Temple Period Judaism”**6th c. B.C.E. up to the year 70 C.E.
Not Silent Inter-Testamental Period
Jewish Sectarians under Extreme Pressure of Hellenism
Messianic Expectations Heightened
- “The Nascent Witness Community”**1st c.
Yeshua, His Jewish Disciples & Apostles, *Shavuot*, Gracious Mission to Gentiles
‘Parting of the Ways’ - **Loss** of Our Roots [The Forgotten Schism!] (Lecture covers from 30 to about 135 CE)
- “Early Christianity”**2nd, 3rd c. (100s & 200s)
Ante-Nicene Patristics, Martyrs, Apologia
Arrogance against the Root: ‘**Adversus Judaeos**’
- “The Imperial Church”**4th c. (Focus on 312 to 388)
Constantine’s ‘Conversion’, Varied Reactions to ‘Wealth & Power’ Christianity
Arius’ Heresy, Council of Nicea, Post-Nicene Patristics
- “The Medieval Church & Dark Ages”**5th to 10th c. (400s through 900s)
Fall of Western Roman Empire, Barbarian Kingdoms Convert
Primacy of Rome’s Bishops (Papacy), Eastern (Byzantine) Christianity – “Greek Orthodox”
- “Late Medieval Church”**11th– 13th c. (1000 to 1200s, especially 1215)
East–West Schism, ‘Holy’ Crusades & ‘Holy’ Inquisition
Scholasticism, New Monastic Orders
Apex of Papal Power, *Innocent III*

End of Unit I...Begin Unit II

- “The Pre-Reformation”**14th, 15th c. (1300s & 1400s)
Major Problems with the Papacy, Conciliar Movement
Renaissance Humanism; Pre-Reformers - **SCRIPTURE UNLEASHED!**
Dissolution of the Medieval Christian Synthesis
- “Protestant Reformation”**16th c. (1500s, especially 1517!)
Erasmus, Luther, Zwingli, Protestant Scholasticism, Anabaptist Radicals!
- “Reformation: The Next Generation”**16th, 17th c. (1500s and 1600s)
Calvinist Hardening of the Categories!, Anglicans, Puritans, RCC ‘Counters’ at Trent, WARS!

End of Unit II...Begin Unit III

- “The Enlightenment”**17th, 18th c. (1600s and 1700s)
‘Age of Reason’ and Science, Religious Rationalism, Revolutions
Deists and Pietists ‘reform the reformation’!
- “The Nineteenth Century”**1800s to WWI (1914–1918)
Global Missions, Darwinism, Liberalism, Many New Religions and Sects
Pagan and Christian Revivals, Religious Syncretism, Vatican I - Reactionary
- “The Twentieth Century”**WWI to ‘Y2K’
Liberals vs. Fundamentalists, Neo-Orthodoxy, Evangelicals, *Charismatics*, Vatican II
Holocaust and the Rebirth of Israel, Jewish-Christian Relations and Reconciliation
Our Hebraic Heritage, Messianic Judaism, ‘The Jewish Roots Movement’
- “A New Millennium”**21st c. to “The End of the Age”
Extreme Challenges Today...We Desperately Need to be Restored to Our True Roots!

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY - RECOMMENDED

THE JEWISH ROOTS OF CHRISTIANITY: LOSS AND RESTORATION

- Callan, Terrance. *Forgetting the Root: Emergence of Christianity from Judaism*. Paulist Press, 1986.
- Doran, Robert. *Birth of a Worldview: Early Christianity in its Jewish and Pagan Context*. Westview, 1995.
- Dunn, James A., ed., *The Parting of the Ways: Christianity and Judaism*. Trinity Press International, 1991.
- Flusser, David. *Judaism and the Origins of Christianity*. Magnus Press, 1988.
- Garr, John D., *Restoring Our Lost Legacy: Christianity's Hebraic Heritage*. Golden Key, 1989.
- Moseley, Ron. *Yeshua: A Guide to the Real Jesus and the Original Church*. Lederer, 1996.
- Shanks, Hershel, ed., *Christianity and Rabbinic Judaism: A Parallel History of Origins*. B.A.S., 1992.
- Surburg, Raymond F., *Introduction to the Intertestamental Period*. Concordia, 1975.

CHRISTIAN ANTI-JUDAISM AND ANTISEMITISM

- Brown, Michael L., *Our Hands Are Stained With Blood*. Destiny Image, 1992.
- Cohn-Sherbok, Dan. *The Crucified Jew: Twenty Centuries of Christian Antisemitism*. Eerdmans, 1997.
- Cunningham, Philip, ed., *Pondering the Passion*. Rowman & Littlefield, 2004.
- Evans, Craig and Donald A. Hagner, eds., *Antisemitism and Early Christianity*. Fortress, 1993.
- Gager, John G., *The Origins of Anti-Semitism*. Oxford University Press, 1983.
- Rausch, David A., *Fundamentalist Evangelicals and Anti-Semitism*. Trinity Press International, 1993.
- Williamson, Clark M., *Has God Rejected His People? Anti-Judaism in the Church*. Abingdon, 1982.

CHURCH HISTORY TEXTBOOKS and SPECIALTY BOOKS

- Bokenkotter, Thomas. *A Concise History of the Catholic Church*. Doubleday: Image Books, 1990.
- Bruce, F. F., *The Spreading Flame*. (Reprinted from 1958) Wipf & Stock, 2004.
- Coleman, Simon and John Elsner. *Pilgrimage*. Harvard University Press, 1995.
- Kung, Hans. *The Catholic Church: A Short History*. Modern Library Chronicles, 2003.
- Lindberg, Carter. *A Brief History of Christianity*. Blackwell, 2006.
- Marsden, George. *Fundamentalism and American Culture*. Oxford University Press, 1980.
- McGrath, Alister. *The Future of Christianity*. Blackwell, 2002.
- Moynahan, Brian. *The Faith: A History of Christianity*. Doubleday, 2002.
- Peterson, R. Dean. *A Concise History of Christianity*. Wadsworth, 1999.
- Taylor, Richard. *How to Read a Church: An Illustrated Guide to Images & Symbols*. Rider, 2003.
- Weaver, Mary Jo. *Introduction to Christianity*, 3rd edn. Wadsworth, 1998.

HISTORY OF THEOLOGY, LITURGY AND DOCTRINE





- Evans, G. R., ed., *The First Christian Theologians*. Blackwell, 2004.
- Gonzalez, Justo. *A Concise History of Christian Doctrine*. Abingdon, 1990.
- Gonzalez, Justo. *A History of Christian Thought*. [3 Vols] Abingdon, 1987.
- McGrath, Alister. *Historical Theology: Introduction to the History of Christian Thought*. Blackwell, 1998.
- Olson, Roger. *The Story of Christian Theology: Twenty Centuries of Tradition and Reform*. IVP, 1999.
- Shanks, Robert. *Elect in the Son: A Study of the Doctrine of Election*. Westcott, 1970.
- _____. *Life in the Son: A Study in the Doctrine of Perseverance*. Westcott, 1961.
- ** Soulen, R. Kendall. *The God of Israel and Christian Theology*. Augsburg Fortress, 1996. **

** MUST READ!!

- Williamson, Clark M., *A Guest in the House of Israel*. Westminster-John Knox Press, 1993.
- Wynkoop, Mildred Bangs. *Foundations of Wesleyan – Arminian Theology*. Beacon Hill, 1967.

BACKGROUND STUDIES, READERS, REFERENCE BOOKS and CLASSIC SETS

- Barrett, David, ed., *World Christian Encyclopedia*. Oxford University Press, 2000.
- Ben-Sasson, H. H., ed., *A History of the Jewish People*. Harvard University Press, 1976
- Bettenson, Henry and Chris Maunder, eds., *Documents of the Christian Church*. Oxford U. Press, 1999.
- Chadwick, Henry and G. R. Evans, eds., *Atlas of the Christian Church*. Oxford: Equinox Ltd., 1989.
- Charlesworth, James H., ed., *Jesus and the Dead Sea Scrolls: The Controversy Resolved*. Doubleday, 1992.
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- Evans, Craig and Peter Flint, eds., *Eschatology, Messianism, and the Dead Sea Scrolls*. Eerdmans, 1997.
- Ferguson, Everett. *Backgrounds of Early Christianity*. Eerdmans, 1987.
- _____, ed., *The Encyclopedia of Early Christianity, 2nd ed.* Garland, 1997.
- Latourette, Kenneth S., *Christianity in a Revolutionary Age, (19th & 20th c.)* [5 Vols] Zondervan, 1969.
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- Schurer, Emil. *The History of the Jewish People in the Age of Jesus Christ. Revised ed.*, Clark, 1973.
- Van Vorst, Robert E., *Readings in Christianity. 2nd ed.* Wadsworth, 2001.
- Wise, Michael, et. al., Translators. *The Dead Sea Scrolls: A New Translation*. Harper Collins, 1996.

Tuesday Nights 6:30 to 9:30	SESSION TOPICS	TEXTBOOK READINGS	Manual Units to Print, Study & Bring to Class!
Jan 10, & 17	✂ Primary Sources for Study <i>Christianity's Hebraic Heritage</i>	Gonzalez – (Part I) Chs. 1 thru 6 Wilson – Preface, Chs. 1 thru 4, & 8	UNIT I ①
Jan 24	<i>The Nascent Witness Community</i> 'A Gradual Parting of Ways' <i>Adversus Judaeos</i>	Gonzalez – Chs. 7 thru 12 Wilson – Chs. 6 & 7	Unit I ②
Jan 31	<i>Ante-Nicene Patristics</i> <i>Constantine's "Conversion"</i> Imperial Favor and its Impact	Gonzalez – Chs. 13 thru 16 <i>Catch Up</i> on Wilson Readings!	Unit I ③
Feb 7	Nicea, Post-Nicene Patristics Creed, Canon and Clergy	Gonzalez – Chs. 17 thru 25 No More Wilson until Unit III	Unit I ④
Feb 14	Fall of Western Roman Empire The Rise of the PAPACY	Gonzalez – Chs. 26 thru 29	Unit I ⑤
Feb 21 1 st Project DUE!	Matthew 16:18  "Upon What Rock?" 	Are You ALL Caught Up with ALL the Reading????!!	Unit I ⑤ <i>continued!</i>
Feb 28 EXAM I DUE!	✂ Crusades, Inquisition and Anti-Jewish Libels Aquinas & Scholasticism	Gonzalez – Chs. 30 thru 32	Unit I ⑥
Mar 7	TRANSITION - Unit I ⇌ Unit II The Dissolution of the <i>"Medieval Christian Synthesis"</i>	Gonzalez – Chs. 33 and 34	End Unit I Begin UNIT II
Mar 14 No Class Mar 21	Renaissance / Christian Humanism <i>Proto-Protestants</i> – Wyclif, Hus Unleashing God's Word! <i>Tyndale</i>	(Gonzalez – Part II) Chapters 1 thru 4	Unit II - A
Mar 28 EXAM II DUE!	REFORMATION Dr. Martin Luther	Chapters 5 thru 8, and 12 & 13	Unit II - B
Apr 4	Protestantism Historical Perspective: Overview and 'Appraisal'	Chapters 14 thru 20	Unit II - C
Apr 11 2 nd Project DUE!	<i>Reforming the Reformation!</i> Enlightenment - Deism	Gonzalez – Chs. 21 thru 24 Wilson – Chs. 9 & 10	UNIT III - A
Apr 18 EXAM III DUE	The 19th Century  Church in an <i>Evolving</i> World	Gonzalez – Chs. 25, 26, 28, 30	Unit III - B
Apr 25 & May 2	The 20th Century and Beyond! We Need Our True Roots! 	Gonzalez – Chs. 31 through 36 Wilson – Chs. 11, 12, 14 & 15	Unit III - C