

**STARTING:**

Tuesday, February 15, 2022  
7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

**INSTRUCTORS:** Al Friberg and Randy Reid

**LOCATION:** Lower Valley Christian Fellowship, 1915 W 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Grandview WA

**COURSE SUMMARY:**

This course is an introduction to Christian history covering the period from the birth of the church at Pentecost (Acts 2) through the end of the outbreak of the plague known as the “Black Death” in about 1350.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

- This is a classroom based course that will include presentations and discussion of significant events and people that contributed to the initial spread of Christianity and the development of Christian practices and beliefs in both the Latin and Byzantine cultures.
- The course will last 12 weeks.
- The first six of the classes will focus on the church through the fifth century and the next five classes will focus on the church in the Middle Ages.
- The final class will be for presentations of projects.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

- To instill in students an appreciation of the early centuries of Christianity during which the foundations of Christian orthodoxy were articulated and defended.
- To learn of the challenges the early church faced from persecution and heresies.
- To introduce students to influential theologians that are generally unfamiliar to Christians today.
- To expose students to the important developments in the church during the often misunderstood period of the Middle Ages including the schism between the eastern and western church.
- To generally encourage an interest in the important subject of church history.

**COURSE ASSIGNMENTS & TEXTBOOK(S):**

- Primary textbook: Tim Dowley editor, *A Short Introduction to the History of Christianity* (Fortress Press 2018) [available in Kindle edition]. Students who are especially interested in pursuing studies of church history may want to opt for the complete *Introduction to the History of Christianity* 3rd edition on which the short version is based.
- Weekly readings as both preparation and supplement to lectures and discussion.
- Major project: Each student will be encouraged to select a topic from church history for a paper and/or a presentation to the class.

**COST & SUPPLIES:**

- \$100 tuition
- Students are responsible to get their own textbook.
- Also recommended that students get a 1” three ring binder for class notes and handouts.

**COURSE SCHEDULE:**

CLASS	DATE	TOPICS
1	Feb 15	Why Church History? Early Church Growth The Apostles Issues of Ethics Theology Discipleship Church Organization
2	Feb 22	Church Growth Apologists Clement of Rome Ignatius Polycarp Blandina
3	Mar 1	Constantine Edict of Milan Church Centers (Alexandria, Antioch, Rome) Early Monasticism Church Growth
4	Mar 8	Irenaeus Tertullian Gnosticism Marcion Montanism Origen Arianism & Athanasius Conciliar Movement
5	Mar 15	Council of Nicea Cappadocian Fathers Jerome Barbarian Invasions & Sack of Rome Patrick Ambrose Theodosius
6	Mar 22	Augustine Pelagius Cyril of Alexandria Nestorius Council of Chalcedon Justinian Fall of Rome Boethius Why 1350?
7	Mar 29	The Middle Ages Monasteries & Missionaries Council of Orange Gregory the Great
8	Apr 5	Monophysite Councils Muslims Charles Martel Charlemagne Iconomachy
9	Apr 12	Vikings Cluniac Reforms Slavonic Church East-West Split
10	Apr 19	Anselm of Canterbury Pilgrimage & Crusade Cistercians Bernard of Clairvaux Heretics & Dissenters
11	Apr 26	More Crusades Mendicant Orders Scholasticism & Universities Thomas Aquinas Avignon Papacy Black Death Mysticism & Personal Faith
12	May 3	Presentation of Projects