

SYLLABUS

**Requirements for the Course of Study School of Ohio
Spring Heights Extension**

Meeting at Spring Heights Educational Center, Spencer, WV

Fall 2017 (September 15-17 and November 17-19, 2017)

COS 222

Theological Heritage II: Early Church

Instructor

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Purchase two textbooks. The first book on the list is our basic text on the history of Christian theology. The second book looks at the early church's understanding of works and grace and mature Christian love.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS:

1. Gonzalez, Justo L., *The Story of Christianity Volume I: The Early Church to Reformation*, Harper Collins, New York, 2010; 9780061855887.
2. Bondi, Roberta, *To Love As God Loves: Conversations with the Early Church*, Augsburg Fortress Publishing, USA, 1987; 9780800620417.

REFERENCE BOOKS: (Optional purchases)

3. Bettenson, Henry, and Christ Maunder, *Documents of the Christian Church*, Oxford University Press, New York, 2011; 978019956898.
4. Latourette, Kenneth Scott, *A History of Christianity*, Harper & Brothers Publishers, 1953; 53-5004

Prepare for the first class on September 15th:

1. Read Gonzales, pages 1-313. This is about the first 500 years of Christian history. Prepare to discuss Chapters 1 through 14 in class.
2. Write Paper # 1 that will be due when you come to class on Sept. 15th.

Prepare for the second session on November 17th.

1. Review Chapters 15 through 261 of Gonzales's book. Be prepared to discuss the material in class. Read Bondi's book for additional help with paper # 3.
2. Write papers #2 and #3 that will both be due when you come to class on November 17th.

Suggested Subjects for Papers

Paper # 1 due on September 15th:

- The Holy Trinity in Early Christianity

Paper # 2 due on November 17th:

- Of Sin and Salvation, Sacraments, and Saints

Paper # 3 due on November 17th:

- The Councils and the Creeds (This connects to paper 1 above)
- God's Power and Human Effort (This option relates to Bondi's book.)

The titles I have suggested above are neither restrictive nor exhaustive, but intended to lead you toward the stated objectives of the course. I do not intend you should confine yourself to the suggested titles; create your own titles for your papers, **but don't avoid the subjects** (i.e. Christology, Holy Trinity, Salvation, Grace, Predistination, Power of the Councils). Your paper should demonstrate your understanding of how Christian doctrine has developed in the church. Remember that you are in dialog with other Christians of different times as you attempt to wrestle with your own faith; you need not feel that you have reached the absolute end and finalized your theological position.

WRITING YOUR PAPER

1. Length. Let the length of your paper be determined by the available information. Four to seven pages, plus a page for your bibliography, will probably do the job. Longer is also acceptable.
2. Use a typewriter or word processor.

3. Follow **MLA format** conventions of good writing and citing quotations and paraphrases. A **bibliography** at the end of your paper should include books, reviews, and articles that you consulted in your preparation for writing your paper.
4. Bring your papers to class in a **self addressed, stamped mailing envelope**. Turn these in at the first class session. I will grade your papers and return them to you in the mail.

THE CONTENT OF YOUR PAPER: (This is **not** an outline for your paper but a suggestion about what you might want to discuss.)

1. Indicate why the issue is important.
2. Name the persons involved in the debate and what they said or wrote about the issue.
3. Explain how the issues were resolved.
4. Give examples of how this particular issue, controversy, debate, may still live on in the church.
5. State your own position on the matter and defend it.
6. Does scripture support your position?
7. How might you lead a congregation in a faithful response to Christ regarding this issue?

TO CONTACT ME: (304) 375-7787 E-mail – artmaryt@suddenlink.net

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