

SYLLABUS

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

Meeting at Spring Heights Educational Center, Spencer, WV

Fall 2018 (September 21-23 and November 16-18, 2018)

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 early Christianity and its developing 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 21st:

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. 21st.

Prepare for the second session on November 16th.

1. Review Chapters 15 through 28 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 16th.

Suggested Subjects for Papers

Paper # 1 due on September 21st.

- The Holy Trinity in Early Christianity

Paper # 2 due on November 16th:

- Of Sin and Salvation, Sacraments, and Saints

Paper # 3 due on November 16th:

- 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 suggested titles above are merely that -- suggestive, but intended to lead you toward the stated objectives of the course. So choose your own subjects and create your own titles, **but don't avoid the doctrinal issues** (i.e. How Trinitarian doctrine originated and why, how the early church's changing status impacted the doctrine of Salvation, How the historic councils exercised power in formulating doctrine, etc. etc.) Your paper should show how you understand the early theological struggles of the Christian community. This means that you are in dialog with Christians of an earlier time 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. 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 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.

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

1. What importance does this issue hold for Christians; is it a critical matter, an indifferent one, of little consequence?
2. Be familiar with persons involved in the debate and what they said or wrote about the issue.
3. Explain how the issues, controversies, were resolved.
4. Give examples of how this particular issue, heresy, controversy, debate, may still need attention by 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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