

THE CONTENT OF THIS DESCRIPTION IS NOT A LEARNING CONTRACT AND THE INSTRUCTOR IS NOT BOUND TO IT. IT IS OFFERED IN GOOD FAITH AND INTENDED AS A HELPFUL GUIDE TO THE STUDENT.

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TITLE: Directions in the Christian Story

TERM: Spring 2023-2024

PROFESSOR: John Burgess

CREDIT HOURS: 3

REGISTRATION: LIMITED TO: _____
AUDITORS: _____

UNLIMITED X
NO AUDITORS X

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course surveys the history of Christianity from the Reformation to the present. We will consider ecclesial and doctrinal developments with special attention to different forms Christian life and thought have taken as the church has entered new cultural contexts and discerned faithfulness to God's mission.

CLASS OBJECTIVES:

1. To examine key individuals, events, and theological developments from the Reformation to the late twentieth century, attending to how the church both reflected and acted on its surroundings.
2. To trace global developments that help us understand the church in our own context.
3. To gain a deeper appreciation for the Christian tradition's diverse voices.
4. To grasp something of the relationship between ideas and the contexts out of which they emerge.
5. To grow more responsible and confident in our use of historical sources in theology and ministry, learning to apply our knowledge of how God's people strove to be faithful to God in the past to the church's efforts to do so today.
6. To develop a greater love for Christ and the church, as fellow members of God's beloved communion of saints gathered from every tribe and tongue, across the expanse of time.

PREREQUISITES: CH110

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS/READING:

Required:

- James Cone, *Black Theology and Black Power*, Orbis, 2019, ISBN: 978-1626983083; \$19.69.
- Wallter Rauschenbusch *A Theology for the Social Gospel*, Martino Fine Books, 2010; ISBN: 978-1891396526, \$29.95.
- Philip Jacob Spener, *Pia Desideria*, Fortress Press, 1964, ISBN: 978-0800619534, \$17.59.
- Gerrard Winstanley, *The Law of Freedom in a Platform or True Magistracy Restored*, Benediction Books, 2010, ISBN: 978-1849028592, \$11.78.

Additional readings will be posted on the class portal

Recommended:

- John Dillenberger, *Martin Luther: Selections from His Writings*, Anchor, 1958, ISBN: 978-0385098762, \$9.19.
- Justo L. González, *The Story of Christianity, Volume II, The Reformation to the Present Day*, Second Edition (HarperOne, 2010), ISBN: 978-0061855894, \$ 27.29.

ASSIGNMENTS & GRADING:

Reading summary papers; class participation - 33%
Book Review - 33%
Final Essay Exam - 33%

ATTENDANCE: Required.