



**First paper:** The theology of the Apostles Creed and the creeds produced by the four Ecumenical Councils of 325, 381, 431, and 451. Apply the theology of these ancient landmark documents to the needs, challenges, and opportunities in the United Methodist Church.

**Second paper:** Discuss the theological, spiritual, and practical developments that led to the several pre-sixteenth-century calls for Reformation (including the Conciliar Movement, John Wycliffe, John Huss, Girolamo Savonarola, and the Mystics). Consider how these factors apply to twenty-first century American Protestantism.

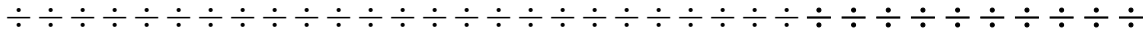
### Submitting your work

- It is essential to observe the deadlines for submitting your papers, because ALPS standards require the instructors to lower a grade by one letter for late work.
- Send all written work in one packet.
- Avoid plagiarism, as it can be detected.

### Guidelines for writing and formatting your paper

- Title each paper.
- Use the opening paragraph to state the purpose of the paper.
- Add section headings as needed.
- Type your papers and use double spacing, with twelve-point type and one-inch margins (this leaves space for the reader’s comments).
- Number all pages.
- Proof read and re-read your work—checking your punctuation, spelling, and sentence structure. Check errors of syntax (incomplete sentences, misplaced modifiers, too many or too few new paragraphs, agreement of noun and verb, unclear antecedents. If in doubt about style, consult the *Chicago Manual of Style*.
- •Use gender inclusive language.
- •Add footnotes for quoted material.

Francis Bacon (1551-1626) said,  
*“Reading makes a full man, conversation a ready man, and writing an exact man.”*



## Outline of the Class Sessions

**5/21**

### **1. The Fullness of Time**

This lecture examines the preparation of the world for the coming of the Christian faith. Attention is given to the religious and cultural milieu of the world into which Christianity came Gonzalez chapter one, (HWCM 1-46)

### **2. The First Century Church**

The class will look at the early Christian congregations with respect to their worship, ministry, organization, and status in the Roman world, within the context of the apostolic fathers.

Gonzalez, chapters one and two

Breakout to plan focal issue presentation/discussion

### **3. The Early Church and the Roman Government**

This lecture considers the role of the Christian apologists of the second century and the persecutions of the early church. Students will study the reasons for persecution, the nature of persecution, and the Christian attitude toward persecution.

Bettenson 1-15, Kerr: 1-23, Gonzalez, from chapter two through p.68

Focal issue one: Justin Martyr and the issues of his Apology

Focal issue two: The case of Perpetua and Felicitas: martyrdom and competing loyalties

### **4. Early Church Worship and Organizational Development**

The class will examine the developments in the worship life of the church, its “ordained” ministry with respect to bishops, presbyters, and deacons.

Bettenson, 66-83, Gonzalez 25-30, 105-119

**5/22**

Focal Issue: styles of early church leadership: Ignatius and the Didache

### **5. Heresy and Orthodoxy in Context of the Ecumenical Councils**

Gonzalez, 69-96, Kerr 28-51, Bettenson 25-26 (a and b),, 29-34 (III and IV), 37-41 (VIIa-c)

A consideration of the heresies of the first three centuries (AD) and the safeguards of

orthodoxy developed in the church; focus on the major theological responses to the heresies: Irenaeus, Tertullian, and Origen

## **6. Western Theologians in the Third Century: Cyprian, Hippolytus and Novatian**

Gonzalez 97-104, Bettenson, Cyprian: On the Unity of the Church 76-78  
Exploration of church life and leadership amid the pastoral issues in early Latin Christianity

## **7. Rise of the Imperial Church: and Constantine and the Response of the Church**

Assessing the ‘validity’ of Constantine’s conversion, and the effect of his policies on the Church and the Empire; a look at the diverse responses of the Church to his policies and persona: the case of Eusebius of Caesarea, of the desert fathers and of the Donatists: the rise of schism in the church

Bettenson, 16-20 (1-o), Gonzalez, (read second half of this section), Gonzalez 173-80, 157-180

Focal Issue on Constantine: his conversion, his reception by the church

## **8. Great Theologians: Nicea and its Theologians**

Factors leading to the convening of the First Ecumenical Council: Arius and his allies and opponents: Alexander, Eusebius of Nicomedia, Athanasius: “On the Incarnation”;

The Making of the creed of Nicea and its Aftermath

Gonzalez, 181-217, Kerr 74-77 (note creed 3), Bettenson 41-47, Vincentian canon 88-90 (IX)

**5/23**

Focal Issue Five: explore the difference the Nicene Creed makes for pastoral ministry today?

## **8.1 Ambrose, Augustine, and Gregory I: Theology in the West at the End of the Roman Era**

An examination of the theology of leading Western bishops and theologians, with emphasis upon Augustine

Kerr 51-68, Bettenson 55-66, Gonzalez 241-261

Focal Issue Six: What difference could Augustine's view of the church make for United Methodists today?

## **8.2 Chrysostom and the shape of the Eastern (Greek) Church**

Contrasts between the church and cultures of East and West

Gonzalez 225-233, 253-258

## **8.3 Developing Christology: Chalcedon and its Theologians**

The dispute between Alexandria and Antioch and the formation of the Creed of Chalcedon

Gonzalez 295-318, Bettenson 47-55, Kerr 76 (third creed), continue with Gonzalez from 8.2),

Focal Issue Eight: Why does the belief in the full divinity and humanity of Jesus Christ make a difference to the church today? Explain with reference to the Chalcedon Creed

## **8.4 The Later Ecumenical Councils**

A review of major doctrinal and liturgical issues up to the time of church division (1054); see relevant sections in Bettenson 93-100 and Gonzalez 302-314

## **9. The Development of the Roman Catholic Church in the West**

The era of Gregory the Great to the Formation of the Second Roman Empire; public worship and the fine arts in the West

Bettenson 93-102 (sections 1 & 2) and 102-118 (Empire and Papacy), 295-314

**5/24**

## **10. Eastern Christianity and the Division of Christianity**

Theology and politics in the East and exploration of the issues in the division of

East and West in 1054 AD Gonzalez 345-356 and relevant sections on Eastern Christianity

Gonzalez 309-315, Bettenson 93-101

## **11. Early and Later Monasticism**

Developments in Western Monasticism from the early Rule of St Benedict to the great cenobite orders and their impact on church and state in the West in the high middle ages (11-13<sup>th</sup> centuries)

Gonzalez 157-172, Bettenson 135-142 (St Francis)

## **12. The Rise of Islam and the Crusades**

The religious, cultural and political factors in the rise of Islam and its impact on Christendom.

Gonzalez 345-356, supplemental trading: HWCM 294-304, 360-422

Focal Issue Nine: what different methods and goals were available to Muslims and to Christians to advance their respective missional goals, and where was there room for dialogue?

## **13. Scholasticism and its Aftermath**

An examination of the reasons for the rise of Catholic scholastic theology and the issues it addressed: focus on Anselm, Abelard, Ockham, and Aquinas

Gonzalez, 369-385, 407-436, Kerr 82-95, 98-100, 102-119, 122-124; Bettenson 143-144 (v), 144-159 (vi), 184-193 (x1) (HWCM 423-449, 476-504)

**5/25**

## **14. The Decline of Medieval Christendom and New Beginnings**

Religious and socio-political factors in the decline of the Catholic Church and Movements of renewal in the late Middle Ages

Class discussion: What is the message for you in the Imitation of Christ by

Thomas a Kempis: *Discussion of Imitation of Christ* (note a specific issue addressed and its implications for today in the free online text: source, chs 1-20. )

Bettenson 194-228, 237-243 (d) , Gonzalez 387-422

### **13 .Christianity in the non-Western world**

An introduction to early Christian missions to East Asia and the sub Saharan Africa

### **14. Recap and Reflection on the issues of the course**

How does examining issues and questions that have confront Christian leaders through this era of our history help you to preach, teach, lead, and live more effectively in the United Methodist Church today?