

Church History

Academic credits

12 KP (18 ECTS)

Prerequisites

None

Approved by

Methodological Commission (August 2022)

Course author and main Lecturer

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Lecturers

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Content

As a theological discipline, the history of the Church explores the manifestations of spiritual processes as reflected in the history of Church institutions and dogma; as a historical discipline, it reveals the past reality, its experience and uniqueness.

The course begins with the history phase of the Church, which studies the development of Church Institutions and Theological Thought from its very beginnings in the 1st century to the ecumenical councils in the 4th and 5th centuries. Chrestomatic texts from the New Testament, Apostolic and Church Fathers are studied, as well as the oldest creeds of faith, starting from the Gospels and Pauline letters to the works of Ignatius, Justin, Origen, Basil, Augustine and Nicene creeds. Attention is paid to the process of forming Christian dogmatics on God and Christ, the Bible, the Church, the sacraments, sin, mercy and salvation, and questions about relations between the Church and the State.

The medieval part of the church history course covers the period from the 5th century to the Great Schism in 11th century and the Western Church to the 15th century Renaissance. Students see the changes in state and Church relations, with the development of Christian doctrine, the formation of papal power, and with the forms and movements of medieval spirituality of the West.

The period of history of the Church of the Reformation and Confessionalism covers the period from 16th century to 18th century. It offers an in-depth view of the Reformation era in Europe, with particular attention to the quest for the faith of the monk, professor and priest, Dr Luther, which resulted in the movement of the Reformation, spreading across Europe and leaving far-reaching consequences for the Church, culture and social development. The similar and differing experiences of different lands, as well as the process of establishing denominations, are being studied. Students know the events and theological discussions of the time, as well as theologians of the first and second generations of the Reformation. Attention is also focused on counter-reformation and its theological reasoning.

The modern history of the Church in the West covers the period from about the end of C18 to the present. It draws attention to theology and piety-like trends of the era: Lutheran orthodoxy, theism, pietism, rebirth movements, fundamentalism and liberalism, and draws attention to their historical background and manifestations in the Western community – Enlightenment and rationalism, Darwinism, awakening movements and ecumenical events and

major theologians who have shaped the Church's history in modern times, Catholic Reform fighters, Christian thinkers of the Enlightenment and Confessional Restoration, Prophets of the Social Truth of the Age of Industrialization, Liturgical Renewal and ecumenical movement are presented.

Aims

- Encourage critical identification of the legacy of early Church,
- to raise awareness of the factors that prepared the way for the Reformation in the Middle Ages and the Renaissance;
- provide a systematic overview of the era of Reformation in Europe through historical and theological sources;
- present the methods by which knowledge of the history of the Church and the Reformation should be applied in today's Christian thinking and practice.

Learning Outcomes

Knowledge

The students will know:

- development of the Early Church;
- the expressions and policies of religious life of the Early Medieval Society;
- The formation and development of the Churches of the Byzantine and Frankish Empire;
- Social, religious and cultural life structures of an integrated Church of State of the Age of Absolutism;
- The roots of the reform movements prior to the Reformation in a number of European countries;
- Main Lutheran and Calvinist theology trends and their distribution in Europe.

Skills

The students will be able to:

- discuss the developments of the Reformation and justify the continuing importance of the Reformation legacy;
- see the relationships that describe the separation of the Church and the State, which have been trying to ensure respect for each other's independence since the end of C18/C19.
- self-analysis, understanding and evaluation of the theological and socio-ethical frameworks of Christianity in the context of Scholastics, Humanism, Reformation, Enlightenment, Restoration and modern

Assessment

Individual papers
(1-4)
Interim test (1-4)
Final test

Interim test (1-4)
Final test

times;

- explain the developments of world history in the context of Church history.

Competencies

The students will be able to:

- assess the relationships between the world and the history of the Church; Individual papers (1-4)
- assess the impact of the Christian heritage on the religious and cultural subculture of modern society Interim test (1-4)
- teach the history of the Church and especially the Reformation in a popular way. Final test

FULL-TIME STUDIES

Lesson Plan

<i>Subject</i>	<i>Academic hours (45 min)</i>
1. Subject matter of church history studies and study methodology. Main periods of church history. An overview of the history of the Early Church.	2
2. Apostles' era and theology (proto-Christianity and its background).	2
3. The spread of the church. Didache and its meaning.	2
4. The era and theology of apostolic fathers. The Shepherd of Hermas. 1 Letter of Clement of Rome	4
5. Christian persecution. Martyr texts — Descriptions of martyring of Polycarp and Perpetua	2
6. Antiochian Ignatius, his writings and their meaning.	2
7. Apologists and their theology. Justin Martyr, his writings and their meaning.	2
8. Early heresies and Gnosticism. The fight against Gnosticism in the theology of early church-fathers. Early agnosticism: Gospels of Judah and Mary Magdalene.	2
9. Irenaeus of Lyons, his writings and their meaning.	2
10. Church development: canon, credo, office of bishop.	2
11. Early Eastern church-fathers and their theology: Clement of Alexandria and the Catechetical School. Tertullian's writings and their meaning. Origen. Cyprian.	8
12. The changes created by Constantine and the formation of a state church.	2
13. The beginnings of the monks' movement: St. Anthony. Saint Pahomie and St. Benedict, and their monastic rules.	4
14. Saint Athanasius, his life and theology. Problem of Trinity. Nicaea and Arian controversy	4
15. Three Cappadocians and Christology development.	2
16. Two Natures of Christ Problem and Nestorian Controversy. An overview of the 7 ecumenical councils.	2
17. Jerome and Augustine: life, theology, works.	4
18. The Monarchic Episcopate formation in Rome from Leo I to Gregor the Great.	8
19. Christianizing Germany and Germanizing Christianity (Christianization of Ulfilas the Goth; formation of the Frankish Church, mission to the Anglo Saxons; changes in piety). Cathars in Western Europe. Peter Waldo and Waldensians Movement. Elements of the Catholic and Waldensian religious practice in the pastoral and regulation of the mendicant brothers (Dominicans, Franciscans, Carmelites).	2
20. Carolingian Renaissance (Charlemagne 768-814; Otto 936-972). The increase of papal power in the 11th century and the Investiture Controversy. The fall of Roman authority. The consequences of the conflict of Bonifatius VIII and King Philip II. Avignon exile.	8
21. Great schism (1378-1414). The causes and consequences of the divisions between the eastern and western churches. The Fourth Crusade and the fall of Constantinople. The fall of the Byzantine Empire in the fragmentation of the Eastern Churches. Byzantine Legacy in Moscow State Religious Policy	2

22. The papal power in the late medieval times and the council movement. Dominance of conciliarists in Constance and Basel Reform Councils. Lyons II Council and Florence Union.	4
23. The Theology of the late Middle Ages. Renaissance humanist ideals. Renaissance Christianity as the beginning of the secularization of society. Pre-reformers: Huss and Wicliffe.	4
24. Luther: Origin, monk's path and Theological Education	6
25. Luther's theological growth: the events till Worms	4
26. Conservative nature of Luther's reforms	4
27. Reformation debates till Augsburg Confession of Faith	6
28. Impression and conclusions of the Lutheran Reformation	4
29. Scandinavia: Reformation in Denmark, Sweden, Finland	2
30. Zurich and Ulrich Zwingli—the first wave of the Swiss Reformation	4
31. Geneva and Jean Calvin—The second wave of the Swiss Reformation	4
32. Reformation in France and Holland	2
33. Reformation in England and Scotland	4
34. Counter-reformation, Trident Council and Jesuits	4
35. Confessions of Lutheranism	4
36. The thought of the State Church in the 17th and 18th centuries (Gallicanism, Jansenism, Febronianism, Jozefinism). The impact of the Enlightenment era on the attitudes of society towards religion.	4
37. Lutheran orthodoxy, pietism and rationalism. The effects of rationalism on church theology and pastoral practices. Opportunities for religious tolerance in Europe's absolute monarchies.	4
38. State interference in Eastern Christianity: liturgical disciplinary reforms in Moscow's Patriarchate and persecution and re-integration of the Old Believers (monarchists), Eastern Christians in the <i>mileta</i> system of the Ottoman Empire. Religious politics of the Russian Empire.	6
39. The great French Revolution. Discussion of persecution of Christians in the hostile version of church and state separation. Napoleon's concordat. 19 th century paradigm - a response to the restoration of revolutions, the movement of ultra-montanism, confessionalism.	6
40. Neutral Church and State Divorce and a model of the aconfesional State (United States). Emancipation of religious minorities in Britain and Ireland. The Oxford movement.	4
41. Confessional consequences of the Italian-German merger. The opposition to the Vatican Council I and the protestations of Büsmark. <i>Culturkampf</i> , a trend in Germany, Switzerland, Austria. Colonial system and missionary work.	4
42. Christian social doctrine and encyclical <i>Rerum Novarum</i> (1891). Ecumenical movement without State Protective (Malina Talks). Liturgical movement. Lay apostolate. Discussion on the First World War and Christian Peace Initiatives.	4
43. Armenian Christian tragedy in the Ottoman Empire (1915). Religious politics of authoritarian regimes. Religious confessional positions in the civil war in Spain. Attitudes of totalitarian regimes towards the Church: from concentration camps to protest actions	4

Church History

to peace conferences.	
44. Confessing Church in Germany during World War II. The impact of the Holocaust on the dialogue between Jews and Christians.	4
45. The consequences of reforms of the Vatican II Council in Catholicism. Trends in fundamentalism. Liberation theology in Latin America	4
46. The challenges of Christianity in the 21st century. Discussion on the characteristics of syncretism in the national Christian communities in Africa and among the Afro-Americans.	4
<i>TOTAL</i>	<i>192</i>

Individual studies

Individual studies	Number of hours
1. An essay on the first phase of Church History	36
2. An essay on the second phase of Church History	36
3. An essay on the Reformation Stage of Church History	36
4. An essay on the fourth stage of Church History	36
5. Study the literature sources identified by the teacher.	144
	<i>288</i>

Assessment

	Learning Outcomes			% of the final score
	Knowledge	Skills	Competencies	
1. Essay	+		+	10
1. Interim test	+	+	+	10
2. Essay	+		+	10
2. Interim test	+	+	+	10
3. Essay	+		+	10
3. Interim test	+	+	+	10
4. Essay	+		+	10
4. Interim test	+	+	+	10
Final test	+	+	+	20
				<i>100</i>

Readings

Mandatory Readings

1. Aland, K. *A History of Christianity*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1985.
2. Bonhēfers, Dītrihs. *Sekošana Kristum*. Rīga: LMF, 2008.

3. Bonhēfers, Dītrihs. *Dzīve Kopībā*. Rīga: LMF, 2006.
4. Gīrcs, Bo. *Kristus Baznīca*. Rīga: LMF, 2006.
5. Grenz, Stanley J., and Roger E. Olson. *20th Century Theology: God & the World in a Transitional Age*. Ill: InterVarsity Press, 1992.
6. Grīslis, E. *Mārtiņš Luters – reformātors*. Minneapolis: LELDAA, 1975.
7. Heglunds, B. *Teoloģijas vēsture*. Rīga: Augsburgas Apliecības Institūts, 1997.
8. Jedin, H., ed. *Atlas zur Kirchengeschichte*. Freiburg: Herder, 1987.
9. Kings, H. “24 tēzes par Dievu”. *Ceļš*, 1990.
10. Kottje, R. und Moeller, B. *Ökumenische Kirchengeschichte*. Mainz: Matthias-Grünwald-Verlag, 1983.
11. *Kristietības vēsture*. Rīga: Zinātne ABC, 2006
12. McGrath, Alister E. *The Future of Christianity*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2002.
13. Miller, Ed. L. and Stanley J. Grenz. *Fortress Introduction to Contemporary Theologies*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1998.
14. Moltmanis, Jirgens. “Teoloģija šodien”. *Ceļš*, 1990.
15. Oto, Rūdolfs. *Svētais*. *Ceļš* 47, 1995, 46-73.
16. Sommer, Wolfgang und Klahr, Detlef. *Kirchengeschichtliches Repetitorium*. Göttingen: Vandenhoeck und Ruprecht, 1994
17. Šleijermahers F.D.E. “Par Reliģiju. Pirmā un Otrā Runa”. Tulk. L.Ieslaniece, A. Hansons, L. Oliņa. *Ceļš* 49, 1997, 61-131.
18. Taivans, L. G. *Teoloģijas vēsture*. Rīga: Ceļš, 1995.
19. Zilsons, E. *Kristīgas filozofijas vēsture Viduslaikos*. Rīga: Filozofijas un Socioloģijas Institūts, 1997.
20. Vīts, Edvards Dž. *Postmodernie Laiki*. Rīga: LMF, 1999.
21. Vīts, Dž. E. *Vieta, kur stāvēt*. Rīga: Luterisma mantojuma fonds, 2007.
22. Luters, Mārtiņš. *Dr. Mārtiņa Lutera darbu izlase*. 1.sēj. Rīga: Luterisma mantojuma fonds, 2019. (selektīvi pēc paša izvēles 50 lpp.)

Additional Readings

1. Anderson, Leith. *A Church for the 21st Century*. Minneapolis, Minn: Bethany House Publishers, 1992.
2. Brehts, M. *Mārtiņš Luters: viņa ceļš uz reformāciju*. 1. sēj. Rīga: Luterisma mantojuma fonds, 2018.
3. Brehts, M. *Mārtiņš Luters: reformācijas kārtība un robežu noteikšana*. 2. sēj. Rīga: Luterisma mantojuma fonds, 2020.
4. Brehts, M. *Mārtiņš Luters: Baznīca un uzturēšana*. 3. sēj. Rīga: Luterisma mantojuma fonds, 2020.
5. Chestertone, Gilbert K. *Orthodoxy*. Grand Rapids: Christian Classics Ethereal Library, 1970.
6. Gabriel, I., Papaderos, A.K., Kortner, U. *Perspektiven ökumenischer Sozialethik*. Mainz: Matthias-Grünwald-Verlag, 2006.

7. Graebner, Theodore, and John Graebner. *The Light from Wittenberg: Ten Chapters from the First Century After the Beginning of the Lutheran Reformation*. St. Louis: Concordia Pub. House, 1900.
8. Grenz, Stanley J. *Renewing the Center: Evangelical Theology in a Post-Theological Era*. Grand Rapids, Mich: Baker Books, 2000.
9. Grenz, Stanley J., and William C. Placher. *Essentials of Christian Theology*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2003.
10. Henry, Carl F. H. *Toward a Recovery of Christian Belief: The Rutherford Lectures*. Wheaton, Ill: Crossway Books, 1990.
11. Kļaviņš, Pauls. “Ētiskie principi Rānera Teoloģijā”. *Ceļš* 56. 2005, 108.-118
12. Lindberg, C. *The European Reformations*. Cambridge: Blackwell Publishing, 1996.
13. Loze, B. *Mārtiņš Luters: Ievads Lutera dzīvē un darbos*. Rīga: Luterisma mantojuma fonds, 2008.
14. Martini, Giacomo, *La Chiesa nell'età dell'assolutismo, del liberalismo, del totalitarismo*. Brescia: Morcelliana, 1978.
15. McGinn, Bernard. *Storia della mistica cristiana in Occidente*. Milano: Marietti, 2003.
16. McGrath Alister E. *The Blackwell Companion to Protestantism*. Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell, 2006.
17. McGrath, Alister E. *Spirituality in an Age of Change: Rediscovering the Spirit of the Reformers*. Grand Rapids, Mich: Zondervan, 1994.
18. McGrath, Alister E. *Spirituality in an Age of Change: Rediscovering the Spirit of the Reformers*. Grand Rapids, Mich: Zondervan, 1994.
19. Moltmann, Jürgen. *Theology of Hope*. London: SCM Press LTD, 1967.
20. Niče, Frīdrihs. *Ecce Homo. Kā cilvēks top tas, kas viņš ir*. Rīga: Zvaigzne ABC, 1997.
21. Oberman, H. *Luther: Man Between God and the Devil*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1990.
22. Po-chia, Hsia R. *A Companion to the Reformation World*. Oxford: Blackwell Publishing 2004.
23. Skibbe, Eugene M. *A Quiet Reformer: An Introduction to Edmund Schlink's Life and Ecumenical Theology: from a Gospel Voice in Nazi Germany to a New Vision of Christian Unity*. Minneapolis, Minn: Kirk House, 1999.
24. Spener, Philipp Jakob. *Pia Desideria*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1964.
25. *Vienprātības grāmata. Liber Concordiae. Luterāņu ticības apliecības*. Rīga: Augsburgas institūts, 2001.