

Church History

Instructor info:

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B.A. Christian Ministry - Spurgeon College
(MBTS)

M.A. Historical Theology - Union Theological
College (Belfast) - Spring '26

Class info:

- October 6 - November 24, 2025qa
- 6:00-7:30 PM
- FBC Barnesville - 200 Zebulon St. Barnesville, GA 30204

Course Material:

- The Story of Christianity (vol. 1 & 2) by Justo Gonzalez
 - <https://a.co/d/7HTlYeG>
 - <https://a.co/d/2M4vASe>
- History: A Student's Guide by Nathan Finn
 - <https://a.co/d/gYE1pXr>
- Bible - Recommended translations are, but not limited to, ESV, NASB, NIV, or CSB.

Class Procedures:

1. **Weekly engagement** - each class will consist of assignments completed before class (reading), during class, and in reflection of the class time. A course schedule will be provided for weekly readings and assignment expectations.
 - a. **Textbook reading** - You will be expected to read the assigned textbook material before class to engage in class discussions and activities. The reading schedule will be provided to you.
 - i. Only the assigned readings will be required. **The entirety of the two volumes by Justo Gonzalez will not be required reading.**
 - ii. You may do more than the required readings to be further prepared for class discussion or as a resource for your history paper.
 - b. **Primary source reading** - You may be asked to engage with a primary source **during** class time. You will not be required to read this ahead of class. These will be provided during class.

- c. **Reading guides** - Along with your weekly reading in preparation for class, you will complete a weekly reading guide for the assigned pages. These are reflective guides for the primary content we will discuss in class. Consider this more like guided note-taking in preparation for the class lecture.
 - d. **Journal summaries** - Each week after class, you will be given a prompt for your journal entry that will be a reflection of the reading and lecture. These will aim at bridging historical events to the life, doctrine, and practice of the church today. Entries will show comprehensive knowledge of the historical context while making appropriate connections to the contemporary church.
 - e. **Class participation** - Attentiveness to the lectures, participation in class discussion/group work, and note-taking will be essential for success in this class.
- 2. **Historical Biography Project** - Students will complete the Historical Biography project through research, application of good historical research techniques, historically accurate recounting of people/events, and appropriate connections to the contemporary church.
 - 3. **Attendance** - In-person attendance is required. If you are absent, please inform the instructor in advance or communicate as soon as possible for alternative arrangements.
 - 4. **Class resources** - The instructor will provide all necessary materials in class. Copies of resources, extra resources, and further studies can be found by joining the Google Classroom (this is not required). Join by following this link: <https://classroom.google.com/c/Nzk5NzI1OTE1NjU5?cjc=mhpantdo>.
 - 5. **This class is pass/fail.**

Week	Class Date	Topic	Reading
1	Oct. 6	Intro to Church History	History (Finn): Intro - Ch. 2 The Story vol. 1 (Gonzalez): Intro Christian History (Poythress): Link
2	Oct. 13	The Early Church	The Story vol. 1 (Gonzalez): Ch. 8-9, 17, 24
3	Oct. 20	The Medieval Church	The Story vol. 1 (Gonzalez): Ch. 31-32, 34
4	Oct. 27	The Reformations	The Story vol. 2 (Gonzalez): Ch. 1, 3, 6-8, 12
5	Nov. 3	Post-Reformation	The Story vol. 2 (Gonzalez): Ch. 18, 21-22
6	Nov. 10	American Church History	History (Finn): Ch. 3 The Story vol. 2 (Gonzalez): Ch. 25, 27
7	Nov. 17	Baptist History	History (Finn): Ch. 4 Baptist Confessions: <i>Provided in class</i>
8	Nov. 24	American Baptist History	American Baptist Confessions: <i>Provided in class</i>

Historical Biography Project

- Write a **historical biography** on a significant person, event, or movement in church history.
- Apply the principles from *History: A Student's Guide* (Nathan Finn)—this will be discussed in class.
- The paper will be a minimum of 500 words and a maximum of 1,000 words.
- You are free to choose from any of the time periods covered in class, as well as anything not covered in class.
- The topic should be chosen narrowly enough to be achieved in the limited space of the word count (*Example: You could not cover the whole Reformation in this space, but you could write about John Wycliffe's understanding of the Bible and the impact it made in sparking the Reformation.*)
- There should be a minimum of 3 sources used.
 - The textbook can count as one.
 - Sites like Wikipedia should be avoided.
 - A primary source would be very helpful.
 - The instructor can help you find reliable sources.
- All sources **MUST** be cited. Failure to cite will be counted as plagiarism.
 - **For books or journals:** Author, Book Title and subtitle, page number(s) (Ex. John Owen, *The Glory of Christ: His office and grace*, 34-39.)
 - **For websites:** Author, Title of article, and link (Ex. Gerald Bray, 8 Things We Can Learn from Augustine, <https://www.crossway.org/articles/8-things-we-can-learn-from-st-augustine/>)
- Students should submit their topic to the instructor by the 4th week, Oct. 27th.
- The project should be typed in Times New Roman, 12-point font, double-spaced.
- **The project will be due on November 17th.**

Historical Biography Project Rubric

Criteria	Excellent	Proficient	Developing	Needs Improvement	Points
Historical Accuracy & Context (30 pts)	Accurate and detailed account with strong contextual awareness (27–30)	Mostly accurate; some minor contextual gaps (23–26)	Some inaccuracies or shallow context (19–22)	Major inaccuracies; little/no context (0–18)	/30
Research & Sources (20 pts)	At least 3 solid sources (incl. primary if possible); well-integrated and cited correctly (18–20)	3 sources used, mostly reliable, citations generally correct (15–17)	Limited sources; weak integration or citation issues (12–14)	Fewer than 3 sources; unreliable; little/no citation (0–11)	/20
Organization & Clarity (20 pts)	Clear intro, body, conclusion; smooth flow; strong style and grammar (18–20)	Good structure; mostly clear writing with minor errors (15–17)	Organization uneven; clarity issues or frequent errors (12–14)	Disorganized; unclear writing; many errors (0–11)	/20
Reflection for Today's Church (20 pts)	Insightful, theological, and practical reflection for today (18–20)	Relevant reflection with some depth; somewhat applied (15–17)	Surface-level or unclear reflection (12–14)	No meaningful reflection or connection (0–11)	/20
Length & Presentation (10 pts)	500–1000 words; formatted correctly; proofread well (9–10)	Meets word count; few formatting/proofing errors (7–8)	Word count off or some formatting/proofing issues (5–6)	Does not meet length; poorly formatted; many errors (0–4)	/10

Total: /100