

## **BCM 306—CHRISTIANITY FROM THE REFORMATION TO THE PRESENT**

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### **PURPOSE**

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This course is designed to give the student insight into the nature and development of the basic beliefs of the historic Christian community. In this light, an attempt will be made to understand the central theological affirmations of the historic orthodox faith, and deviations from these affirmations. Special attention will be given to the areas of consensus and agreement among the various branches and ecclesiastical traditions within Christianity, as well as to various issues over which the Church is divided.

The course will concentrate heavily upon the vital interrelationship between history and theology, and especially the relationship between historical events both within and without the Church, and the formulation of Christian doctrine. Beginning with Matthew 16:15 in which Jesus asked the very important question of His disciples, “Who do you say that I am?” and continuing to the present day, dogma and doctrine have been central to the Christian faith. The first Christian proclamation, or confession, by Peter in response to that question, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God,” demonstrated at the outset of the Gospel the need for doctrine, and this need has continued throughout the life of the Church. The counterpart to this course, Bible 305 Development of Christian Thought, examines specifically the creeds and doctrines that arose during the first seven ecumenical councils of the Church. This course, while examining some creeds, emphasizes how doctrines have developed since the sixteenth century in a much more divergent Church tradition than existed in the early Church.

It is part of the task of this course to examine, in the context of both sacred and secular history, the nature, function and formulation of Christian theology. This will be done primarily through looking at the Protestant tradition. As the authors of our textbook have stated, “The pattern of Protestant theological development has been one of recurrent reinterpretation of Christian faith in response to new needs and situations—of reaction and revival in the midst of fundamental continuity (p. 233).” Theological developments within Roman Catholic thought will also be studied in this course, and some attention will be given to the Eastern Orthodox tradition.

Special attention will be given to the important people, the important ideas and the important events that have shaped Christian orthodoxy from the Reformation to the present. In giving attention to these areas, this course is designed to provide the student with the necessary insights and resources for pursuing the vital disciplines that shed light on the development of Christian thought.

The counterpart to this course, BCM 305 Development of Christian Thought, begins with the New Testament Church and ends with the period of the Reformation. In that course, the Reformation is studied through the life and theology of Martin Luther. This course begins with the Reformation. In this course, the Reformation is studied through the life and theology of John Calvin. Because the Reformation is so central to the development of Christian thought, it is necessary to study the Reformation in both courses, and the student who takes both courses has the opportunity to study both Martin Luther and John Calvin.

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*OUTLINE OF LECTURES*

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- I. **Lecture I: Medieval Roman Catholicism and the Nature of Justification**
  - A. The nature of sin
    - 1. Mortal sin
    - 2. Venial sin
  - B. The doctrine of purgatory
  - C. The doctrine of penance
  - D. The doctrine of indulgences
  - E. The response of the Reformation
  
- II. **Lecture II: The Theology of John Calvin**
  - A. Calvin's life
  - B. Calvin's work
  - C. Calvin's theology
    - 1. Introduction
    - 2. Doctrine of mankind
    - 3. Doctrine of God
    - 4. Doctrine of the Church
    - 5. Doctrine of predestination
    - 6. Doctrine of the two kingdoms
  
- III. **Lecture III: The Response of the Roman Catholic Church to the Reformation**
  - A. The inquisition
  - B. The Society of Jesus
  - C. The Council of Trent
    - 1. Important decisions of the council
    - 2. Outcome of the council
  
- IV. **Lecture IV: The Theology of Puritanism and the Free Churches, and the Expansion of Puritanism to the New World**
  - A. England's religious history before Puritanism
    - 1. Introduction
    - 2. King Henry VIII (ruled 1509-1547)
    - 3. King Edward VI (ruled 1547-1553)
    - 4. Queen Mary (ruled 1553-1558)
    - 5. Queen Elizabeth I (ruled 1558-1603)
  - B. The development of Congregationalism and the Baptists
    - 1. Congregationalism
      - a. The theology of the Puritans
      - b. The English Independent Movement
        - 1. Background
        - 2. Coming to America - the Pilgrims
      - c. Puritan immigration to America & the shaping of American Congregationalism.
    - 2. Baptists
      - a. Introduction
      - b. General/Arminian Baptists

- c. Calvinist Baptists
- d. Forming of associations
- e. Division in the ranks
- C. Reactions to the Puritans
  - 1. Roger Williams (1604-1683)
  - 2. The Quakers
  - 3. Anne Hutchinson (1591-1643)
- D. The decline of Puritanism

V. **Lecture V: The Theology of the Age of the Enlightenment**

- A. Introduction
- B. England
- C. France
- D. Germany
- E. America

VI. **Lecture VI: Evangelical Resurgence in the Church**

- A. Introduction
- B. Germany - Pietism
  - 1. Philip Spener (1635-1705)
  - 2. August Francke (1663-1727)
  - 3. Count Nikolaus Ludwig von Zinzendorf (1700-1760)
- C. America - The Great Awakenings
  - 1. Introduction
  - 2. Important Leaders of the First Great Awakening
    - a. Theodore J. Frelinghuysen (1691-1748)
    - b. Gilbert Tennent (1703-1764)
    - c. George Whitefield (1714-1770)
    - d. Jonathan Edwards (1703-1758)
  - 3. Reaction to the First Great Awakening
  - 4. Results of the First Great Awakening
    - a. Theological
    - b. Social
- D. England - The Wesleyan Revival
  - 1. Introduction
  - 2. Biographical sketch of John Wesley (1703-1791)
  - 3. The theology of John Wesley
    - a. The Wesleyan Quadrilateral
    - b. The continuum of grace:
      - Prevenient grace
      - Saving grace
      - Sanctifying grace
      - Accompanying grace
      - Glorifying grace
    - c. Free salvation for all people
    - d. Full salvation from all sin
    - e. Concluding remarks

**VII. Lecture VII: The Emergence and Development of Liberal Theology**

- A. Background
- B. Basic theological conclusions of liberalism
- C. Evaluation of liberalism—strengths
- D. Evaluation of liberalism—weaknesses

**VIII. Lecture VIII: The Theology of Evangelicalism in the Nineteenth Century**

- A. The Oxford movement
  - 1. Introduction
  - 2. The beginning of the Oxford movement
  - 3. The move to the Roman Catholic Church
  - 4. The reaction of the Anglican Church
- B. The Salvation Army
  - 1. Introduction
  - 2. Leaders in the movement
  - 3. Theology of The Salvation Army
    - a. The doctrine of holiness in the Wesleyan tradition
    - b. The doctrine of women in ministry
    - c. The doctrine of the sacramental life
    - d. Service to the poor

**IX. Lecture IX: The Theology of Roman Catholicism in the Nineteenth Century**

- A. Introduction
- B. The papacy in the nineteenth century
  - 1. Pope Pius IX (pope from 1846-1878)
  - 2. Pope Leo XIII (pope from 1878-1903)
- C. Three major Roman Catholic doctrines
  - 1. Doctrine of the immaculate conception of Mary (1854)
  - 2. Doctrine of the assumption of Mary (1950)
  - 3. Doctrine of the infallibility of the pope (1870)

**X. Lecture X: The Theology of Karl Barth**

- A. Biographical sketch of Karl Barth (1886-1968)
- B. Theology
  - 1. Background
  - 2. Transcendence of God
  - 3. Sin
  - 4. Jesus Christ
  - 5. Scripture
  - 6. Government

**XI. Lecture XI: The Emergence of Fundamentalism**

- A. Background
- B. Three Broad Movements
  - 1. Dispensational premillennialism
  - 2. The holiness movement
  - 3. Pentecostalism
- C. Other groups
- D. Results

**XII. Lecture XII: The Emergence of Evangelicalism in the Twentieth Century**

- A. Background
- B. Twentieth century forces shaping the Church
- C. Forces shaping twentieth and twenty-first century Evangelicalism
- D. Tenets of Evangelicalism
- E. Weaknesses of Evangelicalism

**XIII. Lecture XIII: Theological Developments from Dietrich Bonhoeffer to the Present**

- A. Existentialism
  - 1. Representatives and Presuppositions
  - 2. Basic Features
  - 3. Strengths
  - 4. Criticisms
- B. Ecumenism
- C. Dietrich Bonhoeffer (1906-1945)
  - 1. Background
  - 2. Theology
- D. The Second Vatican Council
  - 1. Pope John XXIII (1881-1963)
  - 2. Accomplishments of Vatican II
- E. Theological movements confronting modernism and the postmodern world
  - 1. Definitions: modernity; Enlightenment; modernism; postmodernism
  - 2. Enlightenment's critique of Christian theology
  - 3. The nature of Christian theology today
- F. Christianity looks at itself and other religions
  - 1. The dialogue of Protestantism and Roman Catholicism
    - a. Historic attitudes
    - b. Historic changes
    - c. The nature of the dialogues
    - d. Continued agreements and disagreements
  - 2. Three approaches to other world religions

**XIV. Lecture XIV: Conclusion to the Course**