

**Note:**

**Course content may be changed, term to term, without notice. The information below is provided as a guide for course selection and is not binding in any form, and should not be used to purchase course materials.**

## ***COURSE SYLLABUS***

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### **CHHI 520**

#### **HISTORY OF CHRISTIANITY I**

#### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

A study of the first fifteen centuries of historical Christianity. Includes the rise of the church under persecution, orthodoxy vs. heresy, doctrinal developments, the rise of the Roman Papacy and opposition to it during the Middle Ages, and the events leading up to the Protestant Reformation.

#### **RATIONALE**

This course is aimed at helping modern Christians and those in ministry appreciate the story of Christianity from the first century to the eve of the Protestant Reformation. Students are invited to identify with and learn from those who were persecuted for their faith, those who helped articulate Christian theology in the face of heretical threats, and those who sought to live out the faith and lead the church during uncertain times.

#### **I. PREREQUISITE**

For information regarding prerequisites for this course, please refer to the [Academic Course Catalog](#).

#### **II. REQUIRED RESOURCE PURCHASE**

Click on the following link to view the required resource(s) for the term in which you are registered: <http://bookstore.mbsdirect.net/liberty.htm>

#### **III. ADDITIONAL MATERIALS FOR LEARNING**

- A. Computer with basic audio/video output equipment
- B. Internet access (broadband recommended)
- C. Blackboard [recommended browsers](#)
- D. Microsoft Word
- E. School of Divinity Writing Guide:  
<https://www.liberty.edu/divinity/index.cfm?PID=28160>

#### **IV. MEASURABLE LEARNING OUTCOMES**

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- A. Explain key issues in light of the social, historical, and political contexts in which the church grew and expanded in the first fifteen centuries.

- B. Identify the key theological developments (both orthodox and heretical) and movements within the church in the first fifteen centuries.
- C. Identify the key personalities who led the church and contributed to its theological development in the first fifteen centuries.
- D. Relate the key elements of Christian orthodoxy and practice developed in history to contemporary challenges within the church.

**V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS**

- A. Textbook readings, online readings, lecture presentations, online articles, and websites
- B. Course Requirements Checklist  
After reading the Course Syllabus and [Student Expectations](#), the student will complete the related checklist found in Module/Week 1.
- C. Discussion Board Forums (4)  
Discussion boards are collaborative learning experiences. Therefore, the student must first read assigned portions of the Ferguson book and other online sources for each forum. Then, he/she must thoroughly answer questions on these sources in a thread of 400–500 words that demonstrates a grasp of the content and stands up to scrutiny from others. Also, the student must reply to at least 2 classmates’ threads in 100–200 words each.
- D. Research Paper  
The student will write a 3,000–3,500-word (about 12–14 pages) research paper on an approved topic specified in Blackboard. (MLO: A, B, C, D)
  - 1. Topic and Research  
The student will submit his/her topic, a thesis statement, an initial bibliography of at least 6 scholarly sources in current Turabian format to be used in his/her paper, and an answer to a question relating to research.
  - 2. Submission  
The student will submit his/her completed research paper in current Turabian format.
- E. Discipleship Reflection Paper  
After reading Smither, *Augustine as Mentor*, the student will write a reflection paper of at least 1,000 words (about 4 pages) on lessons in discipleship and spiritual formation from the early church. The first half of the paper will summarize key aspects of early Christian discipleship, while the second half will reflect on relevant principles for discipleship and spiritual formation today. The reflection paper must adhere to current Turabian format. (MLO: A, B, C, D)

- F. Reading Quizzes (4)  
 The student will take quizzes covering the Ferguson chapters assigned in the 2 most recent modules/weeks. The purpose of these quizzes is twofold: (1) to test the student on precise recall of basic facts from the chapters, and (2) to serve as a means of keeping the student accountable for reading the chapters. Each quiz has 25 multiple-choice and true/false questions, is open-book/open-notes, and must be completed in 1 hour. (MLO: B, C)

**VI. COURSE GRADING AND POLICIES**

A. Points

|  |             |
|--|-------------|
| Course Requirements Checklist            | 10          |
| Discussion Board Forums (4 at 50 pts ea) | 200         |
| Research Paper                           |             |
| Topic and Research                       | 50          |
| Submission                               | 350         |
| Discipleship Reflection Paper            | 200         |
| Reading Quizzes (4 at 50 pts ea)         | 200         |
| <b>Total</b>                             | <b>1010</b> |

B. Scale

A = 940–1010    A- = 920–939    B+ = 900–919    B = 860–899    B- = 840–859  
 C+ = 820–839    C = 780–819    C- = 760–779    D+ = 740–759    D = 700–739  
 D- = 680–699    F = 0–679

E. Style Guidelines

All assignments for this course are to be formatted in accordance with the [LUSD Writing Guide](#) and the latest edition of the Turabian style manual (*A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*). Discussion assignments and essay examinations may use the parenthetical citation style. All other written assignments should use the footnote citation style. Supplemental writing aids are available via the [Online Writing Center](#).

F. Extra Credit

No additional “for credit” assignments will be permitted beyond those given in the course requirements stated above.

G. Course Changes

Course requirements are subject to change by the administration of the University at any time with appropriate notice.

H. Disability Assistance

Students with a documented disability may contact Liberty University Online’s Office of Disability Accommodation Support (ODAS) at [LUOODAS@liberty.edu](mailto:LUOODAS@liberty.edu) to make arrangements for academic accommodations. Further information can be found at [www.liberty.edu/disabilitysupport](http://www.liberty.edu/disabilitysupport).

If you have a complaint related to disability discrimination or an accommodation that was not provided, you may contact ODAS or the Office of Equity and Compliance by phone at (434) 592-4999 or by email at [equityandcompliance@liberty.edu](mailto:equityandcompliance@liberty.edu). Click to see a full copy of Liberty's [Discrimination, Harassment, and Sexual Misconduct Policy](#) or the [Student Disability Grievance Policy and Procedures](#).

## ***COURSE SCHEDULE***

### **CHHI 520**

Textbooks: Ferguson, *Church History Volume 1: From Christ to the Pre-Reformation* (2013).  
Smither, *Augustine as Mentor: A Model for Preparing Spiritual Leaders* (2009).

| <b>MODULE/<br/>WEEK</b> | <b>READING &amp; STUDY</b>  | <b>ASSIGNMENTS</b>  | <b>POINTS</b> |
|-------------------------|---|---|---------------|
| <b>1</b>                | Ferguson: chs. 1–3<br>Begin reading Smither text<br>1 presentation<br>1 website                   | Course Requirements Checklist<br>Class Introductions                | 10<br>0       |
| <b>2</b>                | Ferguson: chs. 4–6<br>Continue reading Smither text<br>1 presentation                             | DB Forum 1: Early Christian Apologetics<br>Reading Quiz 1           | 50<br>50      |
| <b>3</b>                | Ferguson: chs. 7–9<br>Continue reading Smither text<br>1 presentation                             | DB Forum 2: Persecution and Theology                                | 50            |
| <b>4</b>                | Ferguson: chs. 10–12<br>Continue reading Smither text<br>1 presentation<br>1 article<br>1 website | Research Paper: Topic and Research<br>Reading Quiz 2                | 50<br>50      |
| <b>5</b>                | Ferguson: chs. 13–15<br>Finish reading Smither text<br>1 presentation<br>1 website                | DB Forum 3: Augustine’s Conversion<br>Discipleship Reflection Paper | 50<br>200     |
| <b>6</b>                | Ferguson: chs. 16–18<br>1 presentation<br>1 website   | DB Forum 4: Missionary Monks<br>Reading Quiz 3                      | 50<br>50      |
| <b>7</b>                | Ferguson: chs. 19–21<br>1 presentation<br>2 websites  | Research Paper: Submission  | 350           |
| <b>8</b>                | Ferguson: chs. 22–24<br>1 presentation<br>1 website   | Reading Quiz 4  | 50            |
| <b>TOTAL</b>            |   |   | <b>1010</b>   |

DB = Discussion Board

**NOTE:** Each course module/week begins on Monday morning at 12:00 a.m. (ET) and ends on Sunday night at 11:59 p.m. (ET). The final module/week ends at 11:59 p.m. (ET) on **Friday**.