I. Course Description.
   — For learning about wisdom and instruction, for understanding words of insight, for gaining
   instruction in wise dealing, righteousness, justice, and equity (Prov. 1:2).

   In this class, the history of Christianity will be surveyed from the first century to the
   Reformation. Consideration will be given to major theologians and their original writings and
   significant developments in the history of the Church, especially focusing on Christian spirituality in
   this semester.

II. Course Objectives.
   — ...declaring to you the whole purpose of God (Acts 20:27).

   1. To bring students to clear understanding of the relevance of the history of the church and
   its doctrine to the life of the church in the present day.
   2. To provide students with an overview of the development of Christian doctrine together
   with an appreciation of the reasons for and meaning of that development.
   3. To provide students with a context of churchly beliefs within which their own beliefs can
   be tested, challenged, and nourished and within which the theological concerns of Christian ministry
   can be interpreted and supported.
   4. To enable students to understand more fully their own identity as Christians and as
   members of the church in and through the study of historical and doctrinal issues that have
   contributed to that Christian identity.
   5. To enable students to move toward a biblically sound, theologically and spiritually
   responsible and intellectually articulate ministry by building upon the example of the theology and
   spirituality of past ages.

III. Texts.
   — Of making many books, there is no end (Eccl. 12:12).

A. Required:
   On line resources from http://www.ccel.org/fathers2/, http://www.ccel.org/, or

B. Recommended:
   Abingdon, 1987)
Any theological dictionary, for example: *Evangelical Dictionary of Theology* (Baker); *Westminster Dictionary of Christian Theology* (Westminster).

IV. Course Requirements.
— Do two walk together unless they have made an appointment? (Amos 3:3)

Students are required to:

1) complete all reading assignments *The Story of Christianity* prior to each class and actively participate in class discussion. (10%)

2) present one carefully summarized and critically evaluated theological essay of 5-6 pages (typed and doubled spaced) from any selected class topic on Christian spirituality. The topic should be approved by the instructor. In the essay, dealing with the assigned original source of each author, you need to find the author’s key word(s) or idea(s), define your interesting subject(s) and its theological importance. This essay will initiate the second half of the class. Make an appropriate number of copies and distribute them one week before the presentation day, so that class will read ahead. On the discussion day class will read the essay with the proposed questions and discuss the subject matters responded. Although grades are given primary for content, for ability to define and analyze a theme, stylistic considerations will always influence a grade. Attention should be given to grammar, to sentence structure, and to paragraphing. (20%)

3) take two exams. Exam questions will be given ahead. (2 X 20 = 40%)

4) write a semester thesis paper of 10-12 pages (typed and double-spaced) long. A one-page statement containing the topic, issues, problems of the paper should be submitted no later than April 6 and approved by the instructor. Topics should be sufficiently focused so as to permit helpful analysis and a clearly developed argument. Papers should define an important issue in the Christian understanding of God in early or medieval church history, show careful reading of relevant sources, state and give reasons for your own present position on the issue in light of your study, and indicate the wide significance of the discussion for church and ministry today or historical relevance of the subject(s) with its time and present age. You can expand your theological essay that you present in the class for your final paper. The paper is due by the last day of class of the semester. (30%)

The instructor, as a pastor and teacher, is required to pray for each student everyday and to utilize teaching context for academic mutual learning and helping. (The instructor is here to help you. Use him. He is good!)

V. Course Schedule.
— Listen and be attentive, for I give you good precepts (Prov. 4:1-2).
Jan. 9: Introduction. Cradle of Christianity (pp.1-38)

Jan.16: Apostolic Fathers, Greek Apologists (39-66)

Jan. 23: Marcion, Cannon and the Rule of Faith
    - Valentinians’ Gnosticism: www.cyberus.ca/~brons/valentin.htm

Jan. 30: Teachers of the Church: Irenaeus, Tertullian, Clement, Origen (67-108)
    - Origen, *On First Principles*, Preface, Book VI/
    - Tertullian, *On Patience*

Feb. 6: Persecution and Martyrdom: Ministry and Sacraments
    - Perpetua: www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/perpetua.html
    - Tertullian, *Of Prayer*

Feb. 13: Arius, Athanasius, Asceticism and Monasticism: Cappadocian Fathers (112-188)
    - Cyprian, *On the Unity of the Church*
    - Cyprian, *On Patience*

Feb. 20: Penitential System. Augustine (189-219)
    - Augustine, *The Trinity*, Book, Ch. 1, Book XI-XIII
    - Cyprian, *On Jealousy and Envy*

Feb. 27: Trinitarian and Christological Controversies (222-265)
    - Psedo-Dionysius, *Mystical Theology*
    - MID-TERM EXAM

Mar. 6: Middle Ages (266-291)
    - Augustine, *Patience*

Mar.13: Papacy, Crusades, Theology in Thirteen Century (292-300)
    - Bernard of Clairvaux, *Song of Songs*
    - Augustine, *On Continence*

Mar.20: Scholasticism: Anselm, Abelard, Lombard (301-323)
    - Anselm, *Cur Deus Homo*, Book II
    - Augustine, *Works of Monks*

Mar. 27: Monasticism: Class at St. Andrew Abbey or ABMC (March 30)
    - St. Benedict, *Rule*
Apr. 3: Medieval Church Authority: The Priest and the Sacrament
  - Thomas A Kempis, *Imitation of Christ*, Book One, Two, Three
  - Augustine, *On Lying*

Apr. 10: **Easter Break**

Apr. 17: Aquinas (301-323)
  - Aquinas, *Summa Theologica*, First Part, Question 1, 2

Apr. 24: Mysticism, Humanism, The Quest for the Reformation (324-374)
  - Meister Eckhart, *Sermon on the Eternal Birth*
  - John Hus, *Simony*

May 1: **FINAL EXAM: FINAL PAPER DUE**

* Plagiarism
Anyone who plagiarizes (i.e., presents as one’s own work something which has been taken from someone else) will receive an automatic zero on that piece of work and a warning. A second like offence will result in an “F” for the final course grade.

* Students With Disabilities:
Any student in this course who has a disability that might prevent him/her from fully demonstrating his/her abilities should meet with an advisor in the Learning Enrichment Center (LEC) as soon as possible to initiate disability verification and discuss accommodations that may be necessary to ensure your full participation in the successful completion of course requirements. (The LEC does not provide assessment for students who have a suspected learning disability. Students are required to obtain this information from an outside source such as a license psychologist or qualified educational therapist.)