2015 FALL SEMESTER — SYLLABUS AND SCHEDULE

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

So many things seem obvious to us today that took centuries for Christian to get clear (like the Trinity). We assume that what we are doing in the church today is what the church was doing in Biblical times without realizing how Christianity has shaped our culture and that culture, over the centuries, has shaped our understanding of the faith. Learn the story of the faithful witnesses who have gone before us and helped the Church to be a witness for Christ in every age and every place in the world. Church history helps us see ourselves in ways we have never seen ourselves before.

**DATES**

- Onsite portion is September 25-26, 2015 (10 hours at 12Stone)
- Online portion is September 28 - November 22, 2015 (8 weeks)

**GOALS**

- Discuss the broad sweep of Christianity from New Testament times to the present.
- Evaluate the diverse expressions of Christian faith in the world today.
- Appreciate the diverse expressions of Christian faith in the world today.
- Apply practical options from the past to the challenges and opportunities confronting the Church today.

**TEXTBOOKS**

- Video-tape Lectures by Dr. Bud Bence – provided on-line

**NOTE:** Call in book orders to Wesleyan Publishing House 800-493-7539, who mention ‘Taking this Course through 12Stone Church’ will qualify for 30% off WPH published books, 20% off other books. Not valid with on-line orders, but inventory is viewable at wphonline.com.

**REQUIREMENTS**

**PRE-ONSITE ASSIGNMENTS**

Before coming to our onsite portion of the course, there is some preparatory work for you to do. In traditional classes you often come to the event with an empty mind for the professor to fill. We want you to come with a full mind so you have something to contribute, something to discuss, and context for what we will learn. Below is a step-by-step guide for ensuring you are prepared:

1. Carefully read the course outline attached to the syllabus section of the course.
3. Complete the following work listed in your course outline.
PRE-COURSE WORK (200/1000)

1. Read the chapters from the Shelley text listed on this page. (Ideally, you should read ALL the chapters listed; it is hard to skip chapters in a history book.) However, recognizing the time constraints placed upon working adults, you are only required to read the chapters listed in black and you may read the red-lettered chapters at some later time in your life.

2. Also, as you are reading these 15 chapters listed in black, for each chapter, write a brief journal entry that contains any one of the following:
   (A) Discuss significant new information you learned about the history of Christianity from your reading.
   (B) Discuss a fresh insight about the nature of Christianity or the Church you discovered as you read.
   (C) Develop a question about the Christian faith that arose from the reading of the chapter.
   (D) Describe disagreement or challenge you have with the author of the book after reading the chapter.

   • Each of these 15 responses should be one or two sentences in length; no need to be longer than that. At least two of your responses should be from each of the categories listed above. I am generally more impressed with categories (b) and (c). Your answers should be typed (12 point font, double spaced with proper margins) and printed in hard copy. Bring them to the first on-site session.

• The following are the twenty-three chapters in Shelley covered in the pre-course reading. You are only required to read those chapters listed in black. (Red-lettered chapters are optional reading.)

READING
Church History in Plain Language, Bruce L. Shelley

Required reading: 15 Chapters listed in black.
Optional reading: 8 Chapters listed in red.

1. Away with the King
2. Wineskins: Old and New
3. Only Worthless People
4. If the Tiber Floods
5. Arguing about the Event
6. The Rule of Books
7. The School for Sinners
8. Apostles to the Intellectuals
9. Laying Her Sceptre Down
10. Splitting Important Hairs
11. Emmanuel!
12. Exiles from Life
13. The Sage of the Ages
14. Peter as “Pontifex Maximus”
15. Somewhere Between Heaven and Earth
16. Bending the Necks of the Victors
17. God’s Consul
18. The Search for Unity
19. Lifted in a Mystic Manner
20. The Nectar of Learning
21. A Song to Lady Poverty
22. Sleeping Men and the Law of Necessity
READING THE TEXTBOOK (250/1000)
Each week of the on-line course, you will submit a reading report indicating what you have read of the Shelley text. (You will get a sample copy the first day of class.) As you finish the reading for each week, you will go on-line and update your reading. You will have opportunity to catch-up on missed readings as we proceed through the course. You will have read half of the textbook before the classes begin and then proceed through the remainder of the book during the eight weeks of on-line instruction.

CLASS DISCUSSIONS (400/1000)
For the eight online weeks of the class, we will have discussions over readings and videos. Full participation consists of 1) one initial comment on one of the week’s questions and 2) at least 1 response to the comments of other students. The flow of discussion online will be: 1) an initial answer to a question by midnight, EST, on Thursday of the week and 2) continued discussion at least through Sunday night at midnight, EST. You need not read all the comments of your classmates; read sufficient posts that you can give one good responses.

FINAL ASSIGNMENT (150/1000)
SWOT ANALYSIS OF THE CHURCH
In this end-of-the-course assignment, you turn from historian to prophet. You have observed the history of Christianity for two thousand years, including its heights and depths. There have been moments when the Church was almost destroyed by persecution; other times where non-biblical, even anti-biblical teachings threatened to undermine the faith. But for two millennia the gates of hell have not prevailed against it (Matthew 16:18).

So what lies ahead? Will Christianity in the West disappear? Will Asia and Africa become the centers of Christianity in the future? Might we expect a great revival of genuine Christianity in Europe and North America? Or is God about to bring about his culminating event to human history and bring us into a new heaven and earth? Here is your opportunity to present your own perspective on history from a Christian perspective.

In a 3-4 page paper, you will do a SWOT (strengths-weaknesses –opportunities –threats) analysis of the Church at the beginning of the twenty-first century. You will draw upon what we have learned from the church in the past to give our concerns and hopes for the church in the coming years.

ONSITE SCHEDULE

1. Friday, September 25
   - 6:30 - 7:00pm Check-In & Hospitality
   - 7:00 - 7:30 Welcome and Privileged History
   - 7:30 - 9:00 Jesus, Peter and Paul - Breaking out of Judaism

2. Saturday, September 26
   - 7:30 - 8:00am Check-In & Hospitality
   - 8:00 - 9:45 “Threats to Christianity”
   - 9:45 - 10:00 Break
   - 10:00-11:45 Missionary Monks – Presence or Power?
   - 11:45 - 1:15 Lunch
   - 1:15 - 3:00 The Middle Ages – Christianity and Philosophy
   - 3:00 - 3:15 Break
   - 3:15 - 4:30 Martin Luther’s Reformation
   - 4:30 - 5:00 What have we Learned?
ONLINE SCHEDULE

1. **Week 1** (September 28 - October 4)
   - Watch video - “Welcome to Part II”
   - Read Shelley, Chapters 24-26
   - Complete the reading report for Week 1
   - Watch the video – “The Swiss Reformers”
   - Answer one of the questions and respond to at least 1 other student.

2. **Week 2** (October 5 - October 11)
   - Read Shelley, Chapters 27-28
   - Complete the reading report for Week 2
   - Watch the video – “Lifestyles of the True and Faithful”
   - Answer one of the questions and respond to at least 1 other student.

3. **Week 3** (October 12 - October 18)
   - Read Shelley, Chapters 30-31
   - Complete the reading report for Week 3
   - Watch the video - “Religious Controversy”
   - Answer one of the questions and respond to at least 1 other student.

4. **Week 4** (October 19 - October 25)
   - Read Shelley, Chapters 32-33
   - Complete the reading report for Week 4
   - Watch the video – “Pietism and the Wesley’s”
   - Answer one of the questions and respond to at least 1 other student.

5. **Week 5** (October 26 - November 1)
   - Read Shelley – Chapters 34-35
   - Complete the reading report for Week 5
   - Watch the video – “Puritanism in America”
   - Watch the video – “Revivalism”
   - Answer one of the questions and respond to at least 1 other student.

6. **Week 6** (November 2 - November 8)
   - Read Shelley – Chapters 39-41
   - Complete the reading report for Week 6
   - Watch the video – “Liberalism, Fundamentalism and Evangelical Christianity”
   - Answer one of the questions and respond to at least 1 other student.

7. **Week 7** (November 9 - November 15)
   - Read Shelley – Chapters 43, 45, 46
   - Complete the reading report for Week 7
   - Watch the video – “Pentecostalism and the Charismatic Movement”
   - Answer one of the questions. Then respond to at least 1 other student.

8. **Week 8** (November 16 - November 22)
   - Read Shelley - Chapters 47-49
   - Complete the reading report for Week 8
   - Watch the video – “Neo-Orthodoxy and Post-modern Christianity”
   - Submit your SWOT analysis of the Church
   - Complete the final course evaluation.
COURSE GRADE

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<tr>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Component</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>200</td>
<td>Pre-Course Work</td>
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<tr>
<td>250</td>
<td>Textbook Reading</td>
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<tr>
<td>400</td>
<td>Class Discussion</td>
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<tr>
<td>150</td>
<td>Final Paper - SWOT Analysis</td>
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SCALE

- A: 730-769
- A-: 700-729
- B+: 670-699
- B: 600-669
- B-: 599 or below
- C: 770-799
- C-: 700-729
- D+: 670-699
- D: 600-669
- F: 599 or below

CLASS ATTENDANCE

On-Site: Because the onsite time is a compressed experience, it is important to be there for the entire 10 hours at 12Stone. A person loses 50 points from the final grade for any hour absent from the onsite time.

On-Line: For the online portion, a person loses 100 points from the final grade for any online week absence (meaning no participation in discussion during the week).

- 12Stone Church and other lay leader enrollees who are absent from online participation 4 weeks or more will be automatically withdrawn from the course.
- District Extension Course enrollees who are absent from online participation 2 weeks or more will be automatically withdrawn.

WITHDRAWAL FROM COURSE

Automatic Withdrawal:
- 12Stone Church or other lay leader enrollees who are absent from online participation 4 total weeks or more will be automatically withdrawn from the course.
- District Extension Course enrollees who are absent from online participation 2 weeks or more will be automatically withdrawn.

Voluntary Withdrawal: Students may also voluntarily ask to be withdrawn from the class at any time, as long as they do so before the final online week.

Late Policy

For pre-course work, the student will lose 50 points if the assignment is not done by the beginning of class. Answers to the initial questions each online week are due on Thursday nights at midnight EST (10 points off if late) and then the minimum 4 additional comments should be done by Sunday night at midnight EST (10 points off for each late comment).
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASSIGNMENT SUMMARY</th>
<th>TOTAL POINTS POSSIBLE</th>
<th>POINTS EARNED</th>
<th>PERCENT EARNED</th>
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