

CHAFFER THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO

Mission: To glorify God in partnership with local churches by training Bible teachers and equipping disciples for service in building up the body of Christ

HT 503–HISTORY OF DOCTRINE

Course Syllabus

Dr. Robert L. Dean, Jr
Adjunct Professor
Spring, 2023
Monday, 7:00–9:00 PM (CT)
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HT 503–HISTORY OF DOCTRINE

SYLLABUS

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

A study of the historical development of selected doctrines, with attention to the development of each theological theme from the church fathers to the present day. Seven areas of theology will be covered: the doctrines of the scriptures, the doctrine of God, the person of Christ, the work of Christ, the doctrines of salvation, the doctrines of the Church, the doctrine of the “last things.” Each area of theology will be traced from the ancient church through the medieval church, the reformation church, and the modern church.

II. COURSE OBJECTIVES AND RATIONALE

- A. The student will know the historical development of the major branches of systematic theology, noting the formulation and modification of each branch from the ancient church to the present day.
- B. That the student will gain insight into the historical course and catalytic issues in the formulation of doctrine so as to be able not only to know how theological conceptions changed, but most importantly, why they changed.
- C. That the student will gain appreciation for the major formulation of systematic theology, whether orthodox or heterodox, in the history of the church through an understanding of the development of different theologies.
- D. The student will gain insight and understanding of contemporary trends within Protestant thought in order that he or she may more intelligently understand the issues which challenge and distract the church today.
- E. The student will synthesize the historical trends that have emerged in areas of theology.
- F. The student will develop the tools to evaluate the premises, expression, and perspectives of various aspects of historical doctrines.
- G. That the student will begin to develop a familiarity with available bibliographic and original source materials.

III. COURSE TEXTBOOKS

Required

Class notes (to be downloaded from EdBrite).

Bingham, D. J. *Pocket History of the Church*. Downers Grove: IVP, 2002.

Hannah, John D. *Our Legacy: The History of Christian Doctrine*. Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress, 2001.

Supplementary Bibliography

Dictionaries of Church History

Cross, F. L., and Elizabeth A. Livingstone, eds. 2005. *The Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church*. Oxford; New York: Oxford University Press. Logos Bible Software.

Douglas, J. D., Earle E. Cairns, and James E. Ruark. 1978. *The New International Dictionary of the Christian Church*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House. Logos Bible Software.

Elwell, Walter A. 2001. In *Evangelical Dictionary of Theology: Second Edition*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic. Logos Bible Software.

Feldmeth, Nathan P. 2008. *Pocket Dictionary of Church History: Over 300 Terms Clearly and Concisely Defined*. The IVP Pocket Reference Series. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic. Logos Bible Software.

Reid, Daniel G., Robert Dean Linder, Bruce L. Shelley, and Harry S. Stout. 1990. *Dictionary of Christianity in America*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press. Logos Bible Software.

Primary Sources

Anselm of Canterbury, *Proslogium, Mologium, Gaunilo's In Behalf of the Fool, Cur Deus Homo*. Open Court Publishing, 1962.

Aquinas, Thomas. *Summa Theologica*.

Creeds of the Churches. Garden City, NY: Doubleday, 1963.

Cunningham, Agnes. *The Early Church and the State*. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1982.

Hall, David D. *The Antinomian Controversy 1636–1638: A Documentary History*. Durham: Duke University Press, 1990.

Lightfoot, J. B. *The Apostolic Fathers*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1970.

Luther, Martin. *The Bondage of the Will*.

Norris, Richard A., Jr., *The Christological Controversy*. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1980.

Readings in Christian Thought. Nashville: Abingdon, 1966.

Roberts, Alexander, ed. *Ante-Nicene Fathers: The Writings of the Fathers Down to A.D. 325*. 10 vols. Peabody: Hendrickson, 1999.

Roberts, Alexander, ed. *Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers: First Series*. 14 vols.

Rusch, William G. *The Trinitarian Controversy*. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1980.

Schaff, Philip, ed. *Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers: Second Series*.

Schaff, Philip. *Creeeds of Christendom*. 3 vols. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans.

Secondary Sources

Berkhof, Louis. *The History of Christian Doctrines*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1975.

Bromiley, Geoffrey W. *Historical Theology: An Introduction*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1978.

Cunningham, William. *Historical Theology*. 2 vols. 1862. Reprint, Edinburgh: Banner of Truth Trust, 1969.

Gonzalez, Justo L. *A History of Christian Thought*. 3 vols. Nashville: Abingdon, 1975.

A Concise History of Christian Doctrine. Nashville: Abingdon, 2005.

Hagenbach, K. R. *A History of Christian Doctrine*. 7 vols. 1900. Reprint, New York: Dover, 1961.

Heick, Otto W. *A History of Christian Thought*. 2 vols. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1976. (Heick's work is a revision of J. L. Neve's *A History of Christian Thought*.)

Kelly, J. N. D. *Early Christian Doctrines*. New York: Harper and Row, 1960.

*Kendall, R. T. *Calvin and English Calvinism to 1649*. Oxford University Press, 1979.

Klotsche, E. H. *The History of Christian Doctrine*. 1945. Reprint, Grand Rapids: Baker, 1979.

*Larsen, David L. *The Company of Hope: A History of Bible Prophecy in the Church*. Bloomington: AuthorHouse, 2004.

McGiffert, Arthur Cushman. *A History of Christian Thought*. 2 vols. 1933. Reprint, New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1961.

McGrath, Alister E. *Christian Theology: An Introduction*. Oxford: Blackwell, 1994.

Neander, August. *History of Christian Dogmas*. 2 vols. London: Bell & Daldy, 1866.

Neve, J. L. *A History of Christian Thought*. 2 vols. Philadelphia: United Lutheran Publication House, 1943.

Olsen, Roger E. *The Story of Christian Theology: Twenty Centuries of Tradition and Reform*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 1999.

Orr, James. *The Progress of Dogma*. London: Hodder and Stoughton, 1907.

Pelikan, Jaroslav. *Development of Christian Doctrine: Some Historical Prolegomena*. New Haven: Yale, 1969.

Prestige, *God in Patristic Thought*, London: SPCK, 1985.

Seeberg, Reinhold. *Textbook of the History of Doctrines*. Reprint, Grand Rapids: Baker, 1977.

Shedd, William G. T. Shedd. *A History of Christian Doctrine*. 2 vols. Edinburgh: T & T Clark, 1865 (Reprint, 1979).

Sheldon, Henry C. *History of Christian Doctrine*. 2 vols. New York: Harper, 1886.

Smalley, Beryl. *The Study of the Bible in the Middle Ages*. Notre Dame: University of Notre Dame Press, 1964.

Toon, Peter. *The Development of Doctrine in the Church*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1979. Reprint: Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock, 2017.

Wiles, Maurice. *The Making of Christian Doctrine*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1967.

*Watson, William, *Dispensationalism Before Darby*. Silverton, OR: Lampion Press, 2015.

*Wilkinson, Paul Richard. *For Zion's Sake: Christian Zionism and the Role of John Nelson Darby*. Colorado Springs: Paternoster, 2007.

*Indicates some recommended for the reading assignment because they focus on some of the distinctives of Chafer Theological Seminary.

IV. ONLINE RECORDINGS & LECTURES

Course lectures will be delivered live as outlined in the Course Schedule section below. Each session will be video recorded and available on the EdBrite course page within 24 hours of the completion of the lecture. Supplemental materials such as MP3 recordings and class notes may also be provided throughout the progress of the course.

You will access this course live at the scheduled time using the live stream option on the Dean Bible Ministries website at:

www.deanbibleministries.org/live

V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Reading Assignments

Required Reading:

The student should thoughtfully and carefully read the class notes prior to each session in addition to the sections required in the textbook in order to understand the historical development of the doctrine.

The assignment readings are listed in the course schedule below. The reading report on the supplemental reading is due at the final class.

Supplemental Reading:

600–800 pages	C
800–1000 pages	B
1000–1200 pages	A

Two grades will be assigned on this project. One grade will be based on the number of pages read; the other grade based on the paper written. Together these comprise 66.6% of the grade.

Writing Assignments:

Each student is to write a 12–15-page double-spaced paper reflecting upon what he has read from the supplemental reading. This paper will begin with a statement on the total number of supplemental reading pages, followed by a list of material read with corresponding pages. Then the student will write a paper reflecting upon what he has learned. This is not a research paper; it is a thought paper where the student interacts with the material he has read. The paper must be turned in no later than May 8, 2023. Later papers lose one letter grade.

The student should demonstrate his understanding of the theological issues involved and the different viewpoints expressed historically, in such a way as to reveal what he has learned during the semester.

All students should ensure that the paper format conforms to the standards outlined in the Chafer Theological Seminary Paper Format and Style Guide, available at <https://www.chafer.edu/styleguides>. Failure to follow these standards will result in grade reduction.

“Reading makes a full man; conference a ready man; and writing an exact man.” —Francis Bacon

“Reading makes a full man, meditation a profound man, discourse a clear man.”

—Benjamin Franklin, American writer and statesman, *Poor Richard’s Almanck*, 1757

VI. COURSE POLICIES

Weight given to course requirements for grading

Reading of course texts and notes: 33.3%

Project reading: 33.3%

Paper: 33.3%

Class notes should be obtained before the first day of class and it would be wise for the student to put them in a loose-leaf binder. In class, the professor will take most of the class time to survey, visualize, and contextualize the subject of the day.

Late Assignments: No late assignments are accepted except under extraordinary circumstances.

Absences: Attendance of class sessions is required in accordance with the standards outlined in the CTS Catalog. Each unexcused absence will result in a reduction of 5 points from the final grade (a 95 average would become a 90 average)

VII. COURSE SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

This course seeks to define the origins and development of the theology of the church. It will trace the historical development of the major branches of systematic theology, noting specifically the formulation and modification of each branch from the early church to the present day. In addition, an attempt will be made to define the major formulation of doctrine, whether orthodox or heterodox. Finally, an investigation of the contemporary trends in Protestant thought will enable the student to gain perspective on the issues with which the church is grappling.

VIII. COURSE LECTURES AND ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE

Monday, Jan 23: Class One

Part One:

Syllabus: Introduction to the Course
The Matter of Definition

Part Two:

The Doctrine of the Scriptures: The Ancient Church, part 1

Required:

Hannah, Preface, 9–48

Monday, Jan 30: Class Two

Part One:

The Doctrine of the Scriptures: The Ancient Church, part 2

Part Two:

The Doctrine of the Scriptures: The Medieval Church and Reformation Church

Required:

Hannah, 49–70

Monday, Feb 6: Class Three

Part One:

The Doctrine of the Scriptures: The Modern Church

Part Two:

The Doctrine of God: The Fathers and Apologists

Required:

Hannah, 71–89

Monday, Feb 13: Class Four

Part One:

The Doctrine of God: The Theologians

Part Two:

The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit: The Ancient Church

Required:

Hannah, 89–108

Monday, Feb 20: Class Five

Part One:

The Doctrine of God: The Medieval and Reformation Church

Part Two:

The Doctrine of God: The German and American Rationalists

Required:

Hannah, 109–120

Monday, Feb 27: Class Six

Part One:

The Person of Christ: The Ancient Church

Part Two:

The Person of Christ: The Ancient Church (cont'd)

Required:

Hannah, 120–128

Monday, March 6: NO CLASS, CTS Pastors' Conference

Monday, March 13: Class Seven

Part One:

The Person of Christ: The Medieval and Reformation Church

Part Two:

The Person of Christ: The Modern Church

Required:

Hannah, 128–160

Monday, March 20: Class Eight

Part One:

The Work of Christ: The Ancient Church

Part Two:

The Work of Christ: The Medieval and Reformation Church

Required:

Hannah, 160–180

Monday, March 27: Class Nine

Part One:

The Work of Christ: The Reformation Church (cont'd)

Part Two:

The Work of Christ: The Modern Church

Required:

Hannah, 180–209

Monday, April 3: Class Ten

Part One:

The Doctrines of Salvation: The Church Fathers and Apologists

Part Two:

The Doctrine of Salvation: The Theologians

Required:

Hannah, 209–21

Monday, April 10: Class Eleven

Part One:

The Doctrine of Salvation: The Medieval Church

Part Two:

The Doctrines of Salvation: The Reformation Church

Required:

Hannah, 221–55

Monday, April 17: Class Twelve

Part One:

The Doctrines of Salvation: The Modern Church

Part Two:

The Doctrines of the Church: The Ancient Church

Required:

Hannah, 257–285

Monday, April 24: Class Thirteen

Part One:

The Doctrines of the Church: The Ancient and Medieval Church

Part Two:

The Doctrines of the Church: The Reformation and Modern Church.

Required:

Hannah, 285–315

Monday, May 1: Class Fourteen

Part One:

The Doctrine of “Last Things”: The Ancient Church

Part Two:

The Doctrine of “Last Things”: The Reformation and Post-Reformation Church

Required:

Hannah, 303–44

Bingham, ALL

Monday, May 8: Class Fifteen

The Doctrine of “Last Things”: The Modern Church

IX. COURSE SEQUENCE OF ELEMENTS

A. The Training Relationship of Professor to Student Through the Student’s Local Church Leadership. The Chafer Seminary model of training uniquely respects the New Testament authority of the local church by placing the local church’s leadership in between the seminary and the student. There should be only rare instances where this relationship cannot be established. Prior to beginning the course, the instructor will provide each student a short memorandum of agreement given below for submission to the student’s local church leadership. The memo is to be filled out by the leadership and returned to the professor to help establish an explicit biblical relationship between the local church and the training of its participant by the instructor. Dialogue between the seminary professor and the local church leadership is encouraged throughout the course including sharing the course syllabus, encouraging the student, final grade and comments, and ministry opportunities for the student to utilize what he or she has learned.

Model Memo

Dear Pastor _____

As the instructor of (*student name*) for the seminary course History of Doctrine (HT 503), I want to assure you that Chafer Theological Seminary is unique in that it seeks to conduct all its training under the authority of local church leadership. It is a true “local church seminary.” This protocol ensures that you will have access to the training your student will receive so that you can exercise oversight and guide him or her in opportunities to utilize their training in your church’s ministries.

To establish a proper relationship with your church, therefore, I ask if you would fill out the following survey and email it to me at rldeanjr@chafer.edu. I encourage you to contact me with any questions or comments you might have throughout this course.

1. The best leadership person in my church to monitor this student's training with encouragement, prayer, and suggestions for possible ministry opportunities is [name] _____; [telephone] _____; [email] _____.
2. Would you like a copy of the course syllabus so you can view the topics, references, and schedule? _____
3. Is there anyone in your congregation with graduate degrees in theology who might be interested in becoming adjunct faculty for the seminary to teach courses in your church? _____
4. Are there other participants in your church whom you think would benefit from the training that Chafer Seminary offers? _____

Dr. Robert Dean, Jr
713 723-4828
Email (rldeanjr@chafer.edu)

- B. Course Evaluation.** Students are requested to complete a course evaluation and submit it electronically to the Seminary office. These evaluations can be found on the Course Information page of each course in EdBrite.
- C. Final Grades.** Professors will send final course grades to all for-credit students without compromising student confidentiality. Professors will also submit final grades via email to the Seminary office for record. Students can obtain an official transcript at any time by submitting an online request accompanied by the fee.
- D. Course Supplemental Information:**
Dean Bible Ministries: www.deanbibleministries.org.