

HTS 501 History of Christianity
3 cr hr or 4 ceu
Tu-Th 8:00 - 10:00 am Fall 2008

Instructor Name	Thomas W. Shepherd, M.Div.
Office Hours	Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10:30 - 11:30 am, 3:30-4:30 pm; Wednesdays, 09::00 to 11:30 pm; other times by appointment; Room 224.
Telephone	(816) 347-5529 / Cell phone: (816) 695-0857
E-Mail	shepherdtw@unityonline.org
Required Texts	Braden, Charles S. (1984). <i>Spirits in Rebellion: The Rise and Development of New Thought</i> . Dallas, TX: SMU Press. Chidester, David. (2000). <i>Christianity: A Global History</i> . NY: HarperSanFrancisco.. Shepherd, Thomas W. (2006). <i>Friends in High Places</i> , 3rd Ed. Lincoln, NE: iUniverse Books.
Other Required Reading	Handouts and website references as provided in class..
Recommended Reading	Johnson, Paul A. (1995.) <i>A History of Christianity</i> . NY: Touchstone.

Course Description

Tracing the family tree of New Thought Christianity, this course approaches Church history through mini-biographies of selected mystics and metaphysical thinkers. Studies will enrich and deepen the student's spiritual lives and provide ample resources for preaching and teaching in the ministry. The course provides an in-depth look at the emergence of modern New Thought Christianity with special attention to the origins of Unity. Students will be required to do research in original source materials available at the Unity archives and present their finding to the class.

Learning Objectives

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Describe the main points of the metaphysical thinkers studied in this course.
2. Explain the progression of thought from ancient precursors to modern metaphysical Christianity.
3. Explain the historical process, which led to Unity's emergence and growth as a movement in the 19th and 20th centuries.

The above objectives partially fulfill the following outcomes for the Master of Divinity and Certificate programs:

MD-4 & C-4 Demonstrate appropriate knowledge needed for ministry.

The above objectives partially fulfill the following outcomes for the Master of Arts in Religious Studies program:

MA-1 Demonstrate mastery in the study of religion.

Class Schedule

Week	Date	Topic	Reading Assignment	Paper/Exam/Activity
Session 1	Tu. 09-30	Part I – From Jesus to Constantine Session 1 - Jewish & Hellenistic Backgrounds	Chidester, pp. 3-42	Begin Selecting Topic for Term Paper
Session 2	Th. 10-2	Jesus & Paul	FIHP, Ch 1-2	
Session 3	Tu. 10-7	Philo, Origen, & Christian Apologists	Chidester, 43-74	
Session 4	Th. 10-09	Growth & Opposition, I	Chidester, 75-90	
Session 5	Tu. 10-14	Growth & Opposition, II Christian Empire	Chidester, 91-124	
Session 6	Th. 10-16	Exam #1: Jesus to Constantine	Review as Needed	First Exam
Session 7	Tu. 10-21	Part II –Medieval Christianity Holiness and Desert Spirituality	Chidester, 125-140 FIHP, Ch 3	
Session 8	Th. 10-23	Pelagian Controversy, Augustine & Hypatia	Chidester, 141-177	
Session 9	Tu. 10-28	Power & Christendom: In-fighting and Heresies	FIHP, Ch 4-5	
Session 10	Th. 10-30	The Dark Ages	Chidester, 178-215	Term Paper Topics Proposal Form due
N/A	11-03 thru 11-06	Lyceum Week - No Class	Attend Lyceum 2008 (Evening Sessions are	Daytime Sessions optional.)
Session 11	Tu. 11-11	Medieval Christianity, I Relics, Icons & Crusaders	Chidester, 216-254 FIHP, Ch 6	Video /Discussion “Christianity: The First 2,000 Years” (Segments TBA)
Session 12	Th. 11-13	Medieval Xny, II Scholars and Mystics: Middle Ages Yields to Renaissance	Chidester, 255-293; 312-331 FIHP, Ch 7	Video /Discussion Continues
Session 13	Tu. 11-18	Exam #2 Medieval Xny	Review as Needed	Mid-Term Exam

Session 14	Th. 11-20	Part III –New Thoughts Emerge The Reformation , Part 1	Chidester, 389-411 Handout: Civil Religion	
Session 15	Tu. 11-25	Reformation, Part 2 - American Zion: New Promised Land?	FIHP, Ch 8 Braden, 1-46	
Session 16	Thurs. 11-27	THANKSGIVING	HOLIDAY	NO CLASSES
Session 17	Tu. 12-02	Setting the Stage: Hegel & Assorted Healers	FIHP, Ch 9 Braden, 47-88	
Session 18	Th. 12-04	The Founder: Emerson or Quimby?	Braden, 89-128	
Session 19	Tu. 12-09	Developing New Thought Movement: Warren Felt Evans & Others	Braden, 129-169 FHIP, Ch 10	Term Papers Due
Session 20	Th. 12-11	Exam # 3 New Thoughts Emerge (Reformation to end of 19th Century)	Review as Needed	Final Exam

Assignments for the Master of Divinity program:

Grading

Assignment	Possible Points	Meets Learning Objective
First Exam	20%	MD-4
Mid-Term Exam	20%	MD-4
Final Exam	20%	MD-4
Term Paper (20+ pp.)	40%	MD-4

Final Grade Determination:

Percentage	Points	Grade
90% - 100%	4.0	A
80 - 89%	3.0	B
70 - 79%	2.0	C
Below 70 %	0.0	F

Assignments for the Certificate program:

Grading

Assignment	Possible Points	Meets Learning Objective
First Exam	20%	C-4
Mid-Term Exam	20%	C-4
Final Exam	20%	C-4
Term Paper (15-20 pp.)	40%	C-4

Final Grade Determination

Percentage	Points	Grade
90% - 100%	4.0	A
80 - 89%	3.0	B
70 - 79%	2.0	C
Below 70 %	0.0	F

Assignments for the Master of Arts in Religious Studies program:

Grading

Assignment	Possible Points	Meets Learning Objective
First Exam	20%	MA-1
Mid-Term Exam	20%	MA-1
Final Exam	20%	MA-1
Term Paper (20+ pp)	40%	MA-1

Final Grade Determination

Percentage	Points	Grade
90% - 100%	4.0	A
80 - 89%	3.0	B
70 - 79%	2.0	C
Below 70 %	0.0	F

Expectations of Students

Students are expected to come to class having read the assigned material and being prepared to discuss it.

Classroom Protocol

All classes are lecture-discussion. Students are encouraged to ask questions, raise controversial issues, and make critical observations in the spirit of academic inquiry and collegiality. See UI Catalog and Student Handbook for other details about classroom protocol.

Late Assignment Policy

Exams must be taken when scheduled. No make-up exams will be given except for bona fide emergencies; documentation may be required. All work is due on the day scheduled. Late assignments will be assessed five percent (5%) penalty per day, weekends and holidays included.

Attendance Policy

While attendance has no direct impact on the final grade, there is a very strong correlation between attendance and success in the class. If students miss a class, students are responsible for obtaining the lecture notes, information and/or directions from another student. Should students decide to quit attending this class, they must officially drop it at the Registrar's Office. Failure to do this will result in an F for the course regardless of how many days the student has attended.

Academic Honesty

Unity Institute assumes that all students desire to pursue their academic and transformational work with honesty and scholarly integrity. Cheating, plagiarism, facilitating academic dishonesty and misrepresentation of self or other students are strictly prohibited. In this course of study, resubmitting old papers or extensively quoting from previously written materials from student files—even though written by the student who is submitting the assignment—are not acceptable. The rule is, *new work for new assignments*. For further information about academic honesty, please review the Unity Institute Catalog and Student Handbook.

Special Concerns

If students have any special concerns and/or challenges that may affect their performance in this course, they are encouraged to speak with the instructor immediately so that any accommodations, if necessary, may be made.

Selected Bibliography

TBA