

**HTS 501 History of Christianity**  
**3 cr hr or 4 ceu**  
**Online Class**

<b>Instructor Name</b>	Thomas W. Shepherd, M.Div.
<b>Office Hours</b>	By appointment (online class).
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<b>Required Texts</b>	<p>Braden, Charles S. (1984). <i>Spirits in Rebellion: The Rise and Development of New Thought</i>. Dallas, TX: SMU Press.</p> <p>Chidester, David. (2000). <i>Christianity: A Global History</i>. NY: HarperSanFrancisco..</p> <p>Shepherd, Thomas W. (2006). <i>Friends in High Places</i>, 3rd Ed. Lincoln, NE: iUniverse Books.</p>
<b>Other Required Reading</b>	Handouts, website references, and all posted forum materials.
<b>Recommended Reading</b>	Howard Stone and Duke, J.O. (2006). <i>How to Think Theologically</i> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> Ed. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press. (Highly recommended.)

**Highly recommended:** Read the opening four chapters of Howard Stone and J.O. Duke, (2006). *How to Think Theologically*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition before the course begins.

### Course Description

Tracing the family tree of New Thought Christianity, this course approaches Church history by studying selected thinkers and surveying the great theological themes which have dominated various stages in the development of the Christian faith. Studies will enrich and deepen the student's spiritual lives and provide ample resources for preaching and teaching in the ministry. Students will be required to write a major paper which represents original research in source materials. Basic skills in historical research and the ability to "think theologically" are assumed.

### 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.

Assignments for the Master of Divinity Program: TBA

### Grading

Assignment	Possible Points	Meets Learning Objective
First Exam	15%	MD-4
Mid-Term Exam	15%	MD-4
Final Exam	15%	MD-4
Online Participation	15%	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: TBA

### Grading

Assignment	Possible Points	Meets Learning Objective
First Exam	15%	C-4
Mid-Term Exam	15%	C-4
Final Exam	15%	C-4
Online Participation	15%	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: TBA

### Grading

Assignment	Possible Points	Meets Learning Objective
First Exam	15%	MA-1
Mid-Term Exam	15%	MA-1
Final Exam	15%	MA-1

Online Participation	15%	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 All Students

Students are expected to read assigned material in advance and be prepared to discuss it. Participation in online discussion forums is required.

**Detailed Syllabus:** To be posted at website when course begins.