

Carey Theological College

HIST 502 Global Church History II: The Reformation and Modern Church

Winter 2026
Jan 5, 2026 - March 9, 2026
3 Master's Credits (127.5 hours)

Instructor Information

Instructor: Jesse F. Owens, PhD
Email: jessefowens@gmail.com

Ph.D., Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, 2021
M.Div., Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, 2013
B.A., Welch College, 2010

Institutional Mission

Carey Theological College strives to deliver contextualized theological education that builds faith, character, and competency in students. Our commitment is to resource churches and ministry leaders to advance their mission, fostering sustainable partnerships for our shared vision. This course seeks to promote the four values of Carey: Bible, Jesus, Mission, and Church.

Course Description

This course surveys the history of Christianity from the Age of Reform to the Modern church period until 1950. Students will gather historical insights and apply them to contemporary church issues and ministry situations.

Course Format

This online course consists of Zoom class meetings (two hours, weekly), primary and secondary source readings, online discussions, individual presentations, weekly quizzes, and an essay. Students should miss no more than one Zoom class meeting. If a student anticipates missing a class meeting, he or she must inform the professor in advance to make arrangements to receive the material covered during the meeting.

The Zoom link for class meetings will be available on Populi.

Course Objectives

After completing this course, students will be able to:

1. Identify the overarching framework, key movements, and significant figures of Reformation and modern church history.
2. Articulate and analyze the major theological, ethical, socio-cultural, pastoral, and ecclesiastical issues faced by the Reformation and modern church.
3. Understand and appreciate the spiritual heritage and roots of both their own and the broader Christian community.
4. Develop a sense of historical analysis and its contemporary application.

Time Investment (Student)

Assignment	Hours Expected
Live course meetings (Zoom)	20 hours
Weekly Readings	55 hours
Weekly Quizzes	9 hours
Discussion	10 hours
Presentation	20 hours
Essay	13.5 hours
Total	127.5 hours

Note: A three-hour accredited master's level graduate course is calculated to include 127.5 hours of study per term, so approximately 12.5 hours per week. Please pace yourself and budget your time accordingly

Regular Substantive Interaction (Professor)

Synchronous course	Weekly hours
Live course meetings (Zoom)	2 hours
Assignments and grading	2 hours
Course communication	.25 hours
Total	4.25 hours

Required Textbooks

Chute, Anthony, L., Nathan Finn, and Michael A. G. Haykin. *The Baptist Story: From English Sect to Global Movement*. Second Edition. Brentwood, TN: B&H Academic, 2025.

Gonzalez, Justo L. *The Story of Christianity: Volume 2: The Reformation to the Present Day*. New York, NY: HarperOne, 2010.

Placher, William C. and Derek R. Nelson, eds. *Readings in the History of Christian Theology: Volume 2, From the Reformation to the Present*. Revised Edition. Louisville, KY: WJK, 2017.

Course Assignments

Weekly Readings: Each student will complete the assigned reading prior to each class meeting. The primary readings will be from González's *The Story of Christianity*, Placher and Nelson's *Readings in the History of Christian Theology*, and Chute, Finn, and Haykin's *The Baptist Story*. There will be occasional supplemental readings available on Populi.

Weekly Discussion: Students are expected to complete the weekly reading assignments prior to each class meeting so they can engage in class discussion. Students are also expected to engage in weekly discussion posts on Populi.

Presentation: Each student will select and read one supplemental book for the course that will serve as the basis for an in-class presentation. The professor will provide a list of books to choose from. Some of the books will be biographies and others will be broader histories or primary sources. Presentations should focus on the following: 1) the author's thesis/argument; 2) pertinent information about the figure and/or time period covered; 3) an assessment of the book's strength and weaknesses; 4) application for the contemporary Christian. Presentations should last approximately 20–25 minutes. Each student's presentation notes will be submitted to the professor prior to the class meeting.

Quizzes: Weekly quizzes will be given via Populi and should be completed before the class meeting. Each quiz is timed and will cover the assigned reading for the week.

Essay: Students will write a 1,200–1,500-word essay on the importance of Church history for the Church and the individual Christian today. Essays should reference at least two historical figures or events that we can learn from today. Give a sense of how you would convey the enduring significance of the figure(s) and/or event(s) to a local church. Students must reference one course textbook and two additional academic resources (primary or secondary) for their essay.

Grading

Assignment Weighting

Class Attendance	20%
Weekly Quizzes	20%
Presentation	20%
Essay	20%
Discussion	20%

Carey's Grading Scale

Grade class	Descriptors	Letter grades	GPA	Detail	%
A class work Excellent, superior work	Effectively and exceptionally accomplishes all course outcomes and objectives. Work produced is excellent quality, of publishable quality, and benefits the wider Christian community. Shows exceptional growth/mastery. Exceptionally creativity and originality in approach to the subject.	A+	4.0	Special Commendation work	100-98
		A	4.0	Consistent A-class work	97-94
		A-	3.7	Generally A-class work, some lapses and areas for refinement	93-90
B class work Good solid work	Accomplishes all course outcomes and objectives. Work produced is good quality, and beneficial to peers and fellow students. Growth/mastery of course material is good. Shows creativity and originality in approach to the subject.	B+	3.3	Primarily B-class, superior to some areas	89-87
		B	3.0	Consistent B-class work	86-84
		B-	2.7	Generally B-class work, some lapses and areas for refinement	83-80
C class work Passible but needs to improve	Accomplishes enough course outcomes and objectives to be passible. Work produced is not recommended for dissemination unless qualified. Growth/mastery is basic, but encouraged to repeat the course. Shows hints of creativity and originality, but not consistent.	C+	2.3	Primarily C-class, better in some areas	79-77
		C	2.0	Consistent C-class work	76-74
		C-	1.7	Generally C-class work, but this is based on generous interpretation. Elements that fall significantly short, marginally passable.	73-70
F class work Not passable	Fails to accomplish course outcomes and objectives. Work should not be disseminated under any condition. Little to no growth/mastery of course material. Fails to show creativity or originality in approach to the subject.	F	0	Generally unpassable work.	69-0

Course/Meeting Outline

Date	Reading	Class Topic	Written Assignment(s)
Week 1	González, Chs. 1–4	Forerunners to the Reformation	Reading Quiz 1
Week 2	González, Chs. 5–8 Placher, 1, 3	Reformation(s)	Discussion Post 1 Reading Quiz 2
Week 3	González, Chs. 9–14 Placher, 2 Chute, Ch. 1	Counter Reformation	Discussion Post 2 Reading Quiz 3 Presentations 1 & 2
Week 4	González, Chs. 15–20 Chute, Chs. 2–3	Puritanism and Early Baptists	Discussion Post 3 Reading Quiz 4 Presentations 3 & 4
Week 5	González, Chs. 21–24 Placher, 4	Rationalism & Pietism	Discussion Post 4 Reading Quiz 5 Presentation 5
Week 6	González, Chs. 25–27 Placher, 5 Chute, Chs. 4–5	The Great Awakenings	Discussion Post 5 Reading Quiz 6 Presentations 6 & 7
Week 7	González, Chs. 28–32 Placher, 6 Chute, Chs. 6–7	The Rise of Modernism	Discussion Post 6 Reading Quiz 7 Presentations 8 & 9
Week 8	González, Ch. 33 Chute, Chs. 8–10	Baptists and Missions	Discussion Post 7 Reading Quiz 8 Presentations 10 & 11
Week 9	González, Chs. 34–35 Placher, 7 Chute, Chs. 11–12	Developments within Catholicism	Discussion Post 8 Reading Quiz 9 Presentations 12 & 13
Week 10	González, Chs. 36–38 Chute, Ch. 13–Concl.	Ecumenism	Essay Due

Book Selections for Presentations

Bainton, Roland H. *Here I Stand: A Life of Martin Luther*. New York, NY: Abingdon-Cokesbury Press, 1950.

Blair, William and Bruce F. Hunt. *The Korean Pentecost and the Sufferings Which Followed*. Carlisle, PA: Banner of Truth Trust, 2015.

Bolt, John. *Bavinck on the Christian Life: Following Jesus in Faithful Service*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2015.

Carey, S. Pearce. *William Carey: Father of Modern Missions*. London: Hodder and Stoughton, 1923.

Gordon, Bruce. *Calvin*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 2009.

Hart, D. G. *Defending the Faith: J. Gresham Machen and the Crisis of Conservative Protestantism in Modern America*. Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R Publishing, 2003.

Hindmarsh, Bruce. *John Newton and the English Evangelical Tradition: Between the Conversions of the Wesleys and Wilberforce*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2001.

Jacobs, Alan. *The Book of Common Prayer: A Biography*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2013.

Jenkins, Philip. *The Next Christendom: The Coming of Global Christianity*. Third Edition. New York: Oxford University Press, 2011.

Machen, J. Gresham. *Christianity and Liberalism*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2009 [1923].

Marsden, George M. *Fundamentalism and American Culture*. 2nd ed. New York: Oxford University Press, 2006.

Marsden, George M. *A Short Life of Jonathan Edwards*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2008.

Meyer, Jason C. *Lloyd-Jones on the Christian Life: Doctrine and Life as Fuel and Fire*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2018.

Noll, Mark A. *The Civil War as a Theological Crisis*. Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press, 2006.

Noll, Mark A. and Carolyn Nystrom. *Cloud of Witnesses: Christian Voices from Africa and Asia*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 2011.

Steer, Roger. *George Müller: Delighted in God*. Ross-shire, Scotland, UK: Christian Focus, 2015.

Xi, Lian. *The Conversion of Missionaries: Liberalism in Protestant Missions in China, 1907–1932*. University Park, PA: Pennsylvania State University Press, 1997.

Course Bibliography

Allison, Gregg. *Historical Theology: An Introduction to Christian Doctrine*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2011.

Caldwell, Robert. *Theologies of the American Revivalists: From Whitefield to Finney*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2017.

Carter, Heath W. and Laura Rominger Porter, eds. *Turning Points in the History of American Evangelicalism*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2017.

Collins, Kenneth J. *Power, Politics, and the Fragmentation of Evangelicalism: From the Scopes Trial to the Obama Administration*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2012.

Dochuk, Darren. *From Bible Belt to Sunbelt: Plain-Folk Religion, Grassroots Politics, and the Rise of Evangelical Conservatism*. New York, NY: Norton, 2012.

Eire, Carlos M. N. *Reformations: The Early Modern World: 1450-1650*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 2016.

Emerson, Michael O. and Christian Smith, eds. *Divided by Faith: Evangelical Religion and the Problem of Faith in America*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 2001.

George, Timothy. *Theology of the Reformers*. Revised Edition. Nashville, TN: B&H Academic, 2013.

Guelzo, Allen C. *Abraham Lincoln: Redeemer President*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2002.

Hankins, Barry. *Francis Schaeffer and the Shaping of America*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2008.

Hart, D. G. *Calvinism: A History*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 2013.

Hatch, Nathan O. *The Democratization of American Christianity*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1991.

Haykin, Michael A. G. *Eight Women of Faith*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2016.

Jenkins, Philip. *The New Christendom: The Coming of Global Christianity*. 3d Edition. New York: Oxford University Press, 2011.

Kidd, Thomas S. *God of Liberty: A Religious History of the American Revolution*. New York, NY: Basic, 2012.

Kidd, Thomas S. *The Great Awakening: The Roots of Evangelical Theology in Colonial America*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 2007.

Kidd, Thomas S. and Barry Hankins. *Baptists in America: A History*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 2015.

McDermott, Gerald R. *Seeing God: Jonathan Edwards and Spiritual Discernment*. Vancouver, BC: Regent College Publishing, 2000.

McGrath, Alister E. *Historical Theology: An Introduction to the History of Christian Thought*. Second Edition. Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell, 2013.

Miller, Perry. *The New England Mind: The Seventeenth Century*. Boston, MA: Belknap, 1983.

Noll, Mark A. *Turning Points: Decisive Moments in the History of Christianity*. Third Edition. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2012.

Noll, Mark A. *The Civil War as a Theological Crisis*. Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press, 2015.

Noll, Mark A. *The New Shape of World Christianity: How American Experience Reflects Global Faith*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2013.

Selderhuis, Hermann. *Martin Luther: A Spiritual Biography*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2017.

Sernett, Milton C. *African American Religious History: A Documentary Witness*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2000.

Shelley, Bruce L. *Church History in Plain Language*. Fourth Edition. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 2013.

Stark, Rodney. *The Victory of Reason: How Christianity Led to Freedom, Capitalism, and Western Success*. New York, NY: Random House, 2005.

Stout, Harry S. *The Divine Dramatist: George Whitefield and the Rise of Modern Evangelicalism*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1991.

Sweeney, Douglas A. *Edwards the Exegete: Biblical Interpretation and Anglo-Protestant Culture on the Edge of Enlightenment*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 2017.

Van Neste, Ray and J. Michael Garrett, eds. *Reformation 500: How the Greatest Revival Since Pentecost Continues to Shape the World Today*. Nashville, TN: B&H Academic, 2017.

Wills, Gregory A. *Democratic Religion: Freedom, Authority, and Church Discipline in the Baptist South: 1785–1900*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 2003.

Additional Expectations

Classroom Etiquette

While every student's level of participation will differ, it is expected that students remain attentive during class lectures and contribute with a Christ-like attitude when called upon by the instructor. Students should also engage one another professionally and Christianly. On Zoom, cameras should always remain on.

Academic Integrity

No plagiarism will be tolerated. If detected, it will result in a grade of zero for the assignment.

Generative AI

Outright ban: Students are not permitted to use generative AI for work produced in this course. Given this ban, work created by AI for this course, even if cited, will not be graded.

Academic Policies

Students are expected to attend all scheduled class sessions to fulfil degree requirements. This includes online webinars and/or live-streamed portions of courses.

Extensions for coursework will only be granted in exceptional circumstances. Extensions are subject to faculty discretion. The student may receive a grade reduction for work submitted under these extension guidelines.

All assignment extensions must be arranged and approved in writing between the student and faculty prior to the original due date. Students are advised to keep a written record of the communication since the Registrar's Office will only recognize written correspondence in the event of a dispute.

Final grades posted at the grade submission deadline (i.e., two weeks after the end of the term) are based on work completed. A student whose assignment(s) will be graded after the deadline will receive the grade corresponding to their work at that time, which in many cases may be an "F." A grade change will be posted after the assignment is submitted and evaluated.

For other academic policies, including Assessment & Grading, Grade Changes, Academic Probation, Academic Integrity, Plagiarism, Research Ethics and Academic Appeals, consult the [Academic Catalogue](#).