

# Certificate in Church History

## *Level Three: Advanced Track*

### **BENEFITS**

The Advanced Level Church History track is designed to provide the student with a thorough knowledge of the history of the Christian Church from the first century to the present.

### **DESCRIPTION**

The Advanced Level track consists of thirty-one courses that can be completed in a three-year period. Although students may take longer to complete the courses if they wish, the courses are designed so that the student may earn the Certificate in three years.

After registration, the student will be assigned a tutor to answer questions that may arise from the required reading and who will evaluate the student's coursework. An online forum will also be provided. The forum will provide a place for students in the Advanced Level Church History track to submit questions to the tutor and to discuss course related issues with other students registered for the same track.

### **REQUIREMENTS**

Each of the thirty-one courses in the Advanced Level Church History track requires a large amount of reading. In order to benefit from the reading, the student is required to keep a reading journal, which is to be submitted to the tutor after completing the final course. The reading journal must be typed. For each required text, the student is to include the following information:

1. State the author and title of the book.
2. In no less than 25 and no more than 50 words, state what the book is about. In other words, what is the subject matter of the book, and how does the author present the material?
3. In no less than 300 and no more than 350 words, summarize how the book has contributed to your knowledge of church history. What were the major events covered? Who were the major antagonists discussed? Were any important theological issues discussed?
4. In no less than 125 and no more than 150 words, state whether you think the author accurately and adequately handled the historical evidence. If the work is a primary source, state whether the author's views were well argued.
5. In no less than 25 and no more than 50 words, state what difference reading this book has made in your life.

In addition to the reading journal, the student is required to write and submit one research paper after completing the final course. The student may choose any subject covered in one or more of the required courses. The paper should be no less than 4,000 and no more than 5,000 words.

The research paper should adhere to the format outlined in Kate L. Turabian. *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*. 7<sup>th</sup> Edition.

Students may also find the following work useful in the preparation of the research paper: Robert Hudson, ed. *The Christian Writer's Manual of Style*, updated and expanded edition.

# **Certificate in Church History**

## **Required Courses**

1. The Meaning of History
2. The Apostolic Age
3. The Apostolic Fathers
4. The Persecution and Defense of Christianity
5. Early Heresies
6. The Development of the Old Catholic Church
7. Second and Third Century Theologians
8. Constantine and the Victory of Christianity
9. The Arian Controversy and the Councils of Nicea and Constantinople
10. Christological Controversies and the Council of Chalcedon
11. Great Church Fathers
12. The Beginnings of Monasticism
13. Political Disruption and Papal Power
14. Developments in the West and East
15. Papal Supremacy
16. The Crusades
17. Scholasticism
18. Thomas Aquinas
19. Forerunners of the Reformation
20. Europe and the Roman Church on the Eve of the Reformation
21. Luther and the Lutherans
22. Zwingli and the Swiss Reformation
23. John Calvin
24. The English Reformation
25. The Radical Reformation
26. The Counter Reformation
27. Seventeenth Century England
28. The Enlightenment
29. The Church in America
30. The Nineteenth Century
31. The Twentieth Century

**Course One: *The Meaning of History***

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course introduces the student to the philosophy of history and examines the various ways in which the meaning of history has been understood.

**REQUIRED TEXTS**

Nash, Ronald H. *The Meaning of History*.

Nash, Ronald H. *Christian Faith and Historical Understanding*.

Trueman, Carl. *Histories and Fallacies*.

**Course Two: *The Apostolic Age***

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course introduces the student to the first century history of the church.

**REQUIRED TEXTS**

Bruce, F.F. *New Testament History*.

Eusebius. *The History of the Church*.

**Course Three: *The Apostolic Fathers***

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course introduces the student to the teaching of the apostolic fathers.

**REQUIRED TEXTS**

Drobner, Hubertus R. *The Fathers of the Church: A Comprehensive Introduction*  
(pp. 1–59).

Jefford, Clayton. *The Apostolic Fathers: An Essential Guide*.

Holmes, Michael W., ed. *The Apostolic Fathers in English*.

## **Course Four: *The Persecution and Defense of Christianity***

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course introduces the student to the times of early persecution against the church as well as the writings of the early apologists.

### **REQUIRED TEXTS**

Frend, W.H.C. *Martyrdom and Persecution in the Early Church.*

Drobner, Hubertus R. *The Fathers of the Church: A Comprehensive Introduction*  
(pp. 63–103).

Justin Martyr. *Dialogue with Trypho; First Apology; Second Apology.*

Athenagoras. *A Plea for the Christians.*

**Course Five: *Early Heresies***

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course introduces the student to some of the most important heresies in the early church.

**REQUIRED TEXTS**

Rudolph, Kurt. *Gnosis: The Nature and History of Gnosticism*.

Brown, Harold O. J. *Heresies*.

Drobner, Hubertus R. *The Fathers of the Church: A Comprehensive Introduction*  
(pp. 104–117).

**Course Six: *The Development of the Old Catholic Church***

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course introduces the student to the earliest stages of orthodox self-definition. Topics covered include the development of the canon, the creed, and the episcopate.

**REQUIRED TEXTS**

Metzger, Bruce. *The Canon of the New Testament*.

Hanson, R. P. C. *Tradition in the Early Church*.

Chadwick, Henry. *The Early Church*.

## **Course Seven: *Second and Third Century Theologians***

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course introduces the student to the writings of some of the most important second and third century Christian theologians.

### **REQUIRED TEXTS**

Drobner, Hubertus R. *The Fathers of the Church: A Comprehensive Introduction* (pp. 117–184).

Bettenson, Henry, ed. *The Early Christian Fathers* (pp. 65–273).

Irenaeus. *Against Heresies*.

## **Course Eight: *Constantine and the Recognition of the Church***

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course covers the conversion of Constantine and the subsequent conversion of the Roman Empire.

### **REQUIRED TEXTS**

Baker, G. P. *Constantine the Great*.

Alfoldi, A. *The Conversion of Constantine and Pagan Rome*.

Drobner, Hubertus R. *The Fathers of the Church: A Comprehensive Introduction* (pp. 187–216).

**Course Nine: *The Arian Controversy and the Councils of Nicea and Constantinople***

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course covers the history of the Arian controversy and the events leading up to and including the ecumenical councils of Nicea and Constantinople.

**REQUIRED TEXTS**

Hanson, R. P. C. *The Search for the Christian Doctrine of God: The Arian Controversy.*

**Course Ten: *Christological Controversies and the Council of Chalcedon***

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course covers the history of the controversies and events leading up to and including the Council of Chalcedon.

**REQUIRED TEXTS**

Davis, Leo Donald. *The First Seven Ecumenical Councils* (pp. 170–206).

Drobner, Hubertus R. *The Fathers of the Church: A Comprehensive Introduction* (pp. 457–489).

Nichols, Stephen J. *For Us and For Our Salvation: The Doctrine of Christ in the Early Church*.

Kelly, J.N.D. *Early Christian Doctrines* (pp. 280–343).

## Course Eleven: *Great Church Fathers*

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course examines the lives and teaching of some of the most important church fathers of the fourth and fifth centuries.

### REQUIRED TEXTS

Drobner, Hubertus R. *The Fathers of the Church: A Comprehensive Introduction* (pp. 246–290, 296–351, 386–424).

Brown, Peter. *Augustine of Hippo: A Biography*.

Choose One of the Following:

Kelly, J. N. D. *Golden Mouth: The Story of John Chrysostom*.

Kelly, J. N. D. *Jerome: His Life, Writings and Controversies*.

Anatolios, Khale. *Athanasius*.

Meredith, Anthony. *The Cappadocians*.

## **Course Twelve: *The Beginnings of Monasticism***

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course examines one of the major responses by Christians to the end of official persecution – the rise of the monastic movement.

### **REQUIRED TEXTS**

Drobner, Hubertus R. *The Fathers of the Church: A Comprehensive Introduction* (pp. 352–385).

Dunn, Marilyn. *The Emergence of Monasticism*.

Burton-Christie, Douglas. *The Word in the Desert*.

## **Course Thirteen: *Political Disruption and Papal Power***

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course examines the history surrounding the fall of the Roman Empire and the rise of the power of the papacy.

### **REQUIRED TEXTS**

Heather, Peter. *The Fall of the Roman Empire*.

LaDue, William. *The Chair of Saint Peter* (pp. 20–91).

Ullmann, Walter. *A Short History of the Papacy in the Middle Ages* (pp. 1–200).

**Course Fourteen: *Developments in the West and East***

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course examines the history of the church from the fall of the Roman Empire to the eleventh century.

**REQUIRED TEXTS**

Collins, Roger. *Early Medieval Europe 300 – 1000*.

Norwich, John Julius. *A Short History of Byzantium*.

Davis, Leo Donald. *The First Seven Ecumenical Councils* (pp. 207–322).

## **Course Fifteen: *Papal Supremacy***

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course examines the rise of the medieval papacy.

### **REQUIRED TEXTS**

La Due, William. *The Chair of Saint Peter* (pp. 92–134).

Morris, Colin. *The Papal Monarchy: The Western Church from 1050 to 1250*.

Barracough, Geoffrey. *The Medieval Papacy*.

**Course Sixteen: *The Crusades***

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course examines the history of the Crusades.

**REQUIRED TEXTS**

Mayer, Hans. *The Crusades*.

Phillips, Jonathan. *The Fourth Crusade and the Sack of Constantinople*.

**Course Seventeen: *Scholasticism***

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course examines the origin and development of medieval scholasticism.

**REQUIRED TEXTS**

Pieper, J. *Scholasticism*.

Price, B. B. *Medieval Thought: An Introduction* (pp. 70–189).

Fairweather, Eugene, ed. *A Scholastic Miscellany*.

**Course Eighteen: *Thomas Aquinas***

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course examines the life and teaching of Thomas Aquinas.

**REQUIRED TEXTS**

Torrell, Jean-Pierre. *Saint Thomas Aquinas: The Person and His Work*.

Kretzmann, Norman and Eleonore Stump, eds. *The Cambridge Companion to Aquinas*.

## **Course Nineteen: *Forerunners of the Reformation***

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course examines the lives of men such as Wycliffe and Huss and their followers.

### **REQUIRED TEXTS**

Evans, G. R. *John Wyclif: Myth and Reality*.

Rex, Richard. *The Lollards*.

Schaff, David. *John Huss*.

**Course Twenty: *Europe and the Roman Church on the Eve of the Reformation***

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course examines the state of the Roman Church and Western Europe in the years immediately preceding the Protestant Reformation.

**REQUIRED TEXTS**

Ozment, Steven. *The Age of Reform 1250 – 1550*.

McGrath, Alister. *Intellectual Origins of the European Reformation*.

**Course Twenty One: *Luther and the Lutherans***

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course examines the life and teaching of Martin Luther.

**REQUIRED TEXTS**

Oberman, Heiko. *Luther: Man Between God and the Devil*.

Lohse, Bernhard. *Martin Luther's Theology*.

Lull, Timothy, ed. *Martin Luther's Basic Theological Writings*.

## **Course Twenty Two: *Zwingli and the Swiss Reformation***

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course examines the life and teaching of Ulrich Zwingli.

### **REQUIRED TEXTS**

Gabler, Ulrich. *Huldrych Zwingli: His Life and Work*.

Stephens, W. P. *Zwingli: An Introduction to His Thought*.

Jackson, Samuel M., ed. *Ulrich Zwingli: Early Writings*.

**Course Twenty Three: *John Calvin***

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course examines the life and teaching of John Calvin.

**REQUIRED TEXTS**

Gordon, Bruce. *Calvin*.

Reid, J. K. S., ed. *Calvin: Theological Treatises*.

Wendel, Francois. *Calvin: The Origins and Development of His Religious Thought*.

**Course Twenty Four: *The English Reformation***

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course examines the history of the Reformation in England.

**REQUIRED TEXTS**

Dickens, A. G. *The English Reformation*.

Bray, Gerald. *Documents of the English Reformation* (pp. 113–354).

**Course Twenty Five: *The Radical Reformation***

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course examines the history of the Radical Reformation.

**REQUIRED TEXTS**

Williams, G. H. *The Radical Reformation*.

Estep, William. *The Anabaptist Story*.

## **Course Twenty Six: *The Counter Reformation***

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course examines the history of the Roman Catholic Counter Reformation.

### **REQUIRED TEXTS**

Mullett, Michael. *The Catholic Reformation*.

Hsia, R. *The World of Catholic Renewal 1540 – 1770*.

*Canons and Decrees of the Council of Trent*.

## **Course Twenty Seven: *Seventeenth Century England***

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course examines the history of the church in seventeenth century England with a focus on the history of the Puritans.

### **REQUIRED TEXTS**

Stroud, Angus. *Stuart England*.

Spurr, John. *English Puritanism 1603–1689*.

## **Course Twenty Eight: *The Enlightenment***

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course examines the history and effects of the European Enlightenment.

### **REQUIRED TEXTS**

Cragg, Gerald. *The Church and the Age of Reason*.

Gay, Peter. *The Enlightenment: An Interpretation*, 2 vols.

**Course Twenty Nine: *The Church in America***

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course examines the history of the church in North America.

**REQUIRED TEXTS**

Noll, Mark. *The Old Religion in the New World.*

Holifield, E. Brooks. *Theology in America: Christian Thought From the Age of the Puritans to the Civil War.*

**Course Thirty: *The Nineteenth Century***

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course examines the history of the church in the nineteenth century.

**REQUIRED TEXTS**

Knight, Frances. *The Church in the Nineteenth Century*.

Hatch, Nathan. *The Democratization of American Christianity*.

Sandeen, Ernest. *The Roots of Fundamentalism: British and American Millenarianism, 1800 – 1930*.

## **Course Thirty One: *The Twentieth Century***

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course examines the history of the church in the twentieth century.

### **REQUIRED TEXTS**

Morris, Jeremy. *The Church in the Modern Age*.

Marsden, George. *Fundamentalism and American Culture*.

Murray, Iain. *Evangelicalism Divided*.