



**BRISBANE COLLEGE OF THEOLOGY  
UNIT OUTLINE**

**GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN THEOLOGY  
GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN THEOLOGY**

UNIT TITLE	<b>INTRODUCTION TO CHURCH HISTORY</b>
UNIT CODES	D73024
UNIT STATUS	Core (alternate - see D73011 Early Church to 500 CE)
HOST FIELD	D
PREREQUISITE/S	-
INCOMPATIBLES	D51024 is incompatible with D73024
CREDIT POINTS	10cp
REQUIREMENTS	3 hours per week contact and 7 hours per week study over a 13-week semester.
FREQUENCY OF OFFERING	Annually — Semester 1.
PREPARED BY	Revd Dr Chris Hanlon
UNIT COORDINATOR	Dr David Pascoe
TEACHING STAFF	Revd Dr Chris Hanlon
DATE PREPARED	20 April 2004

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**Rationale**

The history of the Christian church represents one of the major areas of study for theological endeavour. As an introduction to the many possibilities available in theological studies, an historical overview is of assistance in establishing the context of particular individuals and theological movements within the broader scope of the Church's story.

An introduction to the study of theories of history, together with an outline of the various commonly used divisions of Church History, is beneficial to those approaching the study of history for the first time. It also enables those whose major area of theological study lies in an area other than Church History to gain some general understanding of the subject. Thirdly, it provides linkages with other areas of theological study, such as Biblical Studies, Hermeneutics, and the History of Philosophy.

**Relation to Course**

Church History is the aspect of theological study which enables and encourages various reflections on Faith to occur, not in the world of abstract realities, but rather within whole networks of lived experience. Individual students who undertake theological studies do so at differing stages of their academic development. Students will be expected to display mastery of a range and complexity of issues at a deep and sustained level of reflection. The assessment process will determine the extent to which these factors have been manifested by individual students.

## **Aims**

This unit aims to give students an introduction of the various theories of history, a critical appreciation of the various stages in the development of the Christian churches and of the key issues which determine these stages, and thereby to prepare them for further work in at a more advanced level in the field.

## **Objectives**

On successful completion of this unit, students will be able to:

1. demonstrate a critical appreciation of the various stages in the development of the Christian Church;
2. demonstrate familiarity with significant people and their place in the development of the history of the Christian Church;
3. give an account of the most important issues that have faced the Christian Church throughout its history;
4. demonstrate skills and knowledge to enable the pursuit of more specialised studies in the areas of history and theology.

## **Content**

Part A. Survey of Church History (1 hour each week)

1. Why Study Church History?
2. The Church of the Apostolic Age.
3. The Church of the Christian Roman Empire
4. The Church of the Early Middle Ages.
5. The Church of the Later Middle Ages.
6. The Orthodox Way
7. The Church of the Renaissance and Reformation (1).
8. The Church of the Renaissance and Reformation (2).
9. The Church of the Age of Enlightenment
10. The Church of the Modern World.
11. Australian Church History.
12. Theories of History: Empiricism and Hagiography.
13. Conclusions.

Part B. Theories of History (2 hours each week)

1. History as Art: Hesiod and the Muses.
2. History as Science: Von Ranke and Lord Acton.
3. History as Psychoanalysis: Erikson and Osborne.
4. Tutorial Discussion 1: Historians and Bias (Material relating to the Sack of Constantinople in 1204 will be used)
5. History as Hermeneutic: Gadamer.
6. History as a Semiotic Discourse: Greimas.
7. History as Narrative/Novel: Eco.
8. Tutorial Discussion 2: Historians and Memory (Extracts from Mark Raphael BAKER, *The Fiftieth Gate*, Flamingo, Sydney 1997, and Frank McCourt, *Angela's Ashes*, Harper/Collins, London 1996, will be used)
9. History as the Progress of Civilizations: Spengler and Toynbee.
10. History as Evolution: Teilhard de Chardin.
11. History as a Record of Ecclesiological Tradition: De Lubac and Congar.
12. History as a Means of Reconciliation: Pope John Paul II, the Year of Jubilee, and the Australian Context.
13. Towards an Interpretation of Church History.

## **Organisation and Teaching Strategies**

Contact hours per week will be divided between one hour of input and discussion on Part A and two hours of input and discussion plus some tutorials on Part B.

Material for the tutorial discussions will be distributed by the lecturer prior to the tutorials, and this will form the basis for ensuing discussion. The aim of the tutorials is to provide special analyses of two factors which influence the way in which history is written: an historian's bias; and the relationship that exists between memory and historical accuracy.

### **Assessment**

Since the subject is an introductory one, assessment will serve a dual purpose: (a) to provide a means of evaluating the extent to which a candidate has acquired specific methodological skills used in the study of Church History and (b) to provide a means of evaluating a student's capacity to study a particular episode or figure from Church History, in preparation for enrolling in more advanced level subjects offered by Field D.

Accordingly, assessment will be as follows:

1. A written examination, covering the student's understanding of the unit material as a whole (Objectives 1n and 2) (2 hours). (50%).
2. One assignment of 4000 words based on any of the topics listed as subjects in Parts A or B for tutorial discussion, or a topic decided upon after consultation with the lecturer (Objectives 3 and 4) (50%).

### **Generic Attributes**

- Ability to interpret, analyse and critique historical events and trends
- Ability to locate current scholarly theological debates within their historical context.
- Ability to evaluate opinions, make decisions and reflect critically on the justifications for decisions.
- Ability to apply critical reasoning to issues through independent thought and informed judgement.
- Ability to collect, analyse and organise information and ideas and to convey those ideas clearly and fluently, in both written and spoken forms.
- Consolidation and adaptation of academic skills and knowledge acquired in previous undergraduate and postgraduate studies.
- Development of skills underpinning scholarly discourse in theology and ministry.

### **Textbooks**

#### **Required**

McManners, John (ed.), *The Oxford Illustrated History of Christianity*, Oxford University Press, Oxford 1990

#### **Recommended**

Jedin, Hubert, and Dolan, John, *History of the Church*, Seabury Press, New York 1980-1981

Stevenson, J., *A New Eusebius*, SPCK, London 1977

Stevenson, J., *Creeks, Councils and Controversies*, SPCK, London 1976

### **Academic & General Resource Requirements**

#### **Week 1: Why Study Church History? – History as Art: Hesiod and the Muses**

Hug, P.L., *History, Theology of, New Catholic Encyclopedia*, vol.7, pp. 27-31

Jedin, H., *Historiography, Ecclesiastical, New Catholic Encyclopedia*, vol.7, pp. 5-13

Mohan, R.P., *History, Philosophy of, New Catholic Encyclopedia*, vol.7, pp. 22-26

Schafer, B.C., *History, New Catholic Encyclopedia*, vol.7, pp. 13-22

#### **Week 2: History as Science: Von Ranke and Lord Acton**

Acton, John Emerich Edward Dalberg, *Lectures on Modern History*, Macmillan & Co, London 1930

Von Ranke, Leopold, *The History of the Popes during the Last Four Centuries*, G, Bell & Sons, London 1913

Von Ranke, Leopold, *History of the Reformation in Germany*, George Routledge & Sons, London 1905

**Week 3: History as Psychoanalysis: Erikson and Osborne**

- Barzun, Jacques, *Clio and the Doctors; Psycho-History, Quanto-History and History*, Chicago 1974
- Collingwood, R.G., *The Idea of History*, Oxford University Press, 1961
- Erikson, Erik H, *Young Man Luther: A Study in Psychoanalysis and History*, W.W. Norton & Co., New York 1958 (rpt.1962)
- Erikson, Erik H, *Childhood & Society*, Penguin Books, Harmondsworth 1965 (rpt. 1973)  
{ See lecturer for copy }
- Erikson, Erik H, *On the Nature of Psycho-Historical Evidence: In Search of Gandhi*, *Daedalus* 2 (1968) pp.694-731
- Erikson, Erik H, *Gandhi's Truth: The Origins of Militant Non-violence*, New York 1969
- Johnson, R.A., *Psychohistory and Religion: The Case of Young Man Luther*, Philadelphia 1977 [especially the article by Ronald H. Bainton]
- Langer, Walter, *The Next Assignment*, *American Historical Review* 63 (1958) pp.286ff

**Week 4: Bias and the Historian**

- Billings, Malcolm, *The Cross & the Crescent. A History of the Crusades*, BBC Publications, London 1987
- Clari, Robert de, *The Conquest of Constantinople*, trans. by Edgar Holmes McNeal, W.W. Norton & Co. Inc., New York
- Joinville, Jean de & Villehardoin, Geoffroy de, *Chronicles of the Crusades*, trans. & introduced by M.R.B. Shaw, Penguin Classics, Harmondsworth, 1963 (rpt.1977)
- Maalouf, Amin, *The Crusades through Arab Eyes*, translated by Jon Rothschild, Schocken Books, New York 1985
- Riley-Smith, Louise & Jonathan, *The Crusades. Idea & Reality 1095-1274*, Edward Arnold, London 1981
- Runciman, Steven, *A History of the Crusades*. In 3 Vols. Vol.3: *The Kingdom of Acre & the Later Crusades*, Penguin, Harmondsworth 1954 (rpt. Pergine Books 1978)

**Week 5: History as Hermeneutic: Gadamer**

- Di Censo, James, *Hermeneutics and the Disclosure of Truth. A Study in the Work of Heidegger, Gadamer and Ricoeur*, University Press of Virginia, Charlottesville 1990
- Foster, Matthew, *Gadamer and Practical Philosophy. The Hermeneutics of Moral Confidence*, American Academy of Religion. Studies in Religion No. 64, Scholars Press, Atlanta, Ga. 1991
- Gadamer, Hans Georg, *Truth and Method*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., Translation revised by Joel Weinsheimer and Donald G. Marshall, Crossroad, New York 1992
- Gadamer, Hans Georg, ed., *Truth and Historicity*, International Institute of Philosophy. 'Entretiens' in Heidelberg, 12-16 Sept., 1969, Martinus Nijhoff, The Hague 1972
- Heckman, Susan J., *Hermeneutics and the Sociology of Knowledge*, University of Notre Dame Press, Notre Dame, Indiana 1986
- Iser, Wolfgang, *The Act of Reading. A Theory of Aesthetic Response*, John Hopkins University Press, Baltimore and London 1978

**Week 6: History as a Semiotic Discourse: Greimas**

- Griemas, A.J., *On Meaning: Selected Writings in Semiotic Theory*, University of Minnesota Press, Minneapolis, 199
- Levi-Strauss, Claude, *Race and History*, UNESCO, Paris 1958
- Lévi-Strauss, Claude, *Structural Anthropology 1*, Penguin, Harmondsworth 1968 (rpt1993)

**Week 7: History as Narrative/Novel: Eco**

- Eco, Umberto, *The Name of the Rose*, Translated by William Weaver, Picador, London, 1984
- Eco, Umberto, *Reflections on 'The Name of the Rose'*, Translated by William Weaver, Secker & Warburg, London 1985

**Week 8: Some Observations on Memory**

- Baker, Mark Raphael, *The Fiftieth Gate*, Flamingo, Sydney 1997
- Mccourt, Frank, *Angela's Ashes*, Harper/Collins, London 1996

Wyschogrod, Edith, *Memory, History, Revelation: Writing the Dead Other* (A Conference Paper)

**Week 9: History as the Progress of Civilizations: Spengler and Toynbee**

Spengler, Oswald, *The Decline of the West*, 2 vols., Alfred A. Knopf, New York 1947

Toynbee, Arnold J., *A Study of History*, 8 vols., Oxford University Press, Oxford 1963

Toynbee, Arnold J., *Christianity & Civilisation*, Burge Memorial Lecture, 1940, Pendle Hill, Wallingford, Penn., 1947 (rpt. 1948)

Toynbee, Arnold J., *Civilization on Trial*, Oxford University Press, New York 1948

Toynbee, Arnold J., *An Historian's Approach to Religion*, Based on Gifford Lectures delivered in the University of Edinburgh in the years 1952 & 1953 Oxford University Press, London 1956

**Week 10: History as Evolution: Teilhard de Chardin**

McElwain, Hugh, *Introduction to Teilhard de Chardin*, Argus Communications, Chicago 1967

Teilhard de Chardin, Pierre, *Building the Earth*, Geoffrey Chapman London 1963

Teilhard de Chardin, Pierre, *The Making of a Mind. Letters from a Soldier-Priest*, Collins, London 1965

Teilhard de Chardin, Pierre, *Toward the Future (Les Directions de l'Avenir)*, Collins, London 1975

Teilhard de Chardin, Pierre, *Hymne de l'Univers*, Éditions du Seuil, Paris 1961

Teilhard de Chardin, Pierre, *The Phenomenon of Man*, Introduction by Sir Julian Huxley, Readers Union, Collins. London 1961

Teilhard de Chardin, Pierre, *Le Milieu Divin. An Essay on the Interior Life*, Collins, London 1960 (rpt.1971)

Teilhard de Chardin, Pierre, *Building the Earth*, Geoffrey Chapman, London 1965

Teilhard de Chardin, Pierre, *The Vision of Past*, Harper & Row, New York 1966

Teilhard de Chardin, Pierre, *The Future of Man*, Translated by Norman Denny, Collins, London, 1964

Towers, Bernard, *Concerning Teilhard and other writings on Science and Religion*, Collins, London, 1969

**Week 11: History as a Record of Ecclesiological Tradition: De Lubac and Congar**

Congar, Yves Marie-Joseph, *Divided Christendom. A Catholic Study of the Problem of Reunion*, Geoffrey Bles: The Centenary Press, London 1939

Congar, Yves Marie-Joseph, *L'Écclésiologie du Haut Moyen Age. De Saint Grégoire le Grand à la désunion entre Byzance et Rome*, Les Éditions du Cerf, Paris 1968

Congar, Yves Marie-Joseph, *Power and Poverty in the Church*, Geoffrey Chapman, London 1964

Congar, Yves Marie-Joseph, *The Idea of Conversion*, *Thought* 33 (1958) pp.5-20

Congar, Yves, *Two Factors in the Sacralization of Western Society during the Middle Ages*, *Concilium* 7:5 (1969) pp. 28-35

De Lubac, Henri, *Catholicism. A study of dogma in relation to the corporate destiny of mankind*, Translated by Lancelot C. Sheppard, Burns, Oates & Washbourne, London 1950

De Lubac, Henri, *The Drama of Atheist Humanism*, Translated by Edith M. Riley, Sheed & Ward, London 1949

De Lubac, Henri, *The Splendour of the Church (Méditation sur l'Église)*, Deus Books, Paulist Press, Glen Rock, N.J., 1956

Wagner, Jean-Pierre, *La théologie fondamentale selon Henri de Lubac*, Les Editions du Cerf, Paris 1997

**Week 12: History as a Means of Reconciliation**

Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, *A Milestone for the Human Family*, A Pastoral Letter to mark the 50th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, North Sydney, 10 Dec. 1998

Hawthorne, Peter, *The Anguish of Memory*, *Time International* vol.152 no.19 (9 Nov. 1998)

- Hendricks, Joan & Heffernan, Gerry, (eds.), *A Spirituality of Catholic Aborigines and the Struggle for Justice*, Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Apostolate, Brisbane, 1993
- International Theological Commission, *Memory and Reconciliation: The Church and the Faults of the Past*, Rome, December 1999
- Tatz, Colin, *Genocide in Australia*, AIATSIS Research Discussion Papers No.8, Australian Institute of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Studies, Canberra 1999
- Yarnold, *Bringing them Home*, A guide to the findings & recommendations of the National Inquiry into the separation of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Children from their Families, Human Rights & Equal Opportunity Commission, Sydney 1997
- Yarnold, Edward, *The Theology of Original Sin*,
- Yarnold, *Towards Common Ground Project*, (website)
- Yarnold, *Truth and Reconciliation Commission, South Africa*, (website)