

HTS 501 History of Christianity
3 cr hr or 4 ceu
Online Class – Spring 2008

Instructor Name	Thomas W. Shepherd, M.Div.
Office Hours	By appointment (online class).
Telephone	(816) 347-5529 / Cell phone: (816) 695-0857
E-Mail	shepherdtw@unityonline.org
Required Texts	<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>
Other Required Reading	Handouts, website references, and all posted forum materials.
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 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 life and provide ample resources for preaching and teaching in the ministry. Working knowledge of basic metaphysical terms, rudimentary skills in historical research, and an ability to think theologically/critically are assumed.

Learning Objectives

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

1. Evaluate the main points of the major historical figures studied in this course.
2. Analyze the progression of thought from ancient precursors to modern metaphysical Christianity.
3. Correlate Unity's emergence as a movement in the 19th and 20th centuries with the social, political and theological processes at work throughout Christian history.

Assignments for the Master of Divinity program:

Grading

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

Grading

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

Grading

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

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