



# Syllabus: HTS 515 History of Christianity

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## Course Overview

### Course Instructor

<b>Name</b>	Rev. Patricia Veenema, M.Div.
<b>Virtual Office Hours</b>	Monday - Thursday 9-5pm (Central Time)
<b>Telephone</b>	919 308-5653
<b>E-Mail</b>	newvistaunity@gmail.com
<b>Response Time Policy</b>	Within 24 hours Monday - Wednesday and Friday-Sunday.

### Course Description

Just as biography helps us appreciate and learn from the influential figures of the past, so the history of Christianity helps us appreciate and learn from the influence of Christianity in today's societies. Unity's roots are in that Christian tradition, so it is important for Unity ministers to be acquainted with Christian history. This course traces the history of Christianity from the perspective of New Thought Christianity by studying selected thinkers and surveying the great theological themes that have dominated various stages in the development of the Christian faith. This process will enrich and deepen the students' spiritual lives and provide ample resources for preaching and teaching in the ministry.

### Course Learning Objectives

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

- Explain the main points of predominant theologians and philosophers of Christianity.
- Analyze the progression of Judeo-Christian religious thought from early Christian to postmodern Christianity.
- Compare elements in proto-orthodox theologies that contributed to the development of Unity and other progressive religious movements.
- Explain the historical process that led to Unity's emergence and growth as a movement in the 19th and 20th centuries.

### Required Text/Readings

- [The Christian Tradition](#), Ralph Keen, Rowman & Littlefield, 2004.
- [Christianity: A Global History](#), David Chidester, Harper San Francisco 2000.
- [Friends in High Places: Tracing the Family Tree of New Thought Christianity](#), Thomas W. Shepherd, iUniverse, Lincoln, NE 2004

## Recommended Text/Readings

- [Spirits in Rebellion: The Rise and Development of New Thought](#), Charles S. Braden, Southern Methodist University Press, 1987.
- [A History of Christian Thought: In One Volume](#) Justo L. Gonzalez, Abingdon Press, 2014.
- [A History of Christian Thought](#) Paul Tillich

## Other Valuable Resources

- Video: *From Jesus to Christ: The First Christians* PBS, Frontline Documentary (in 4 parts)
  - [Part 1](#), Through Jesus' crucifixion
  - [Part 2](#), Through destruction of the Temple 51 CE- 70 CE
  - [Part 3](#), Through 2<sup>nd</sup> Century CE
  - [Part 4](#), Through Council of Nicaea 325 CE
- Videos: *Crash Course World History* These videos are fast (some will call it frantic), humorous (ok, rather corny), myth busting historical view. By John Green
  - [Home Page](#): Crash Course World History lists all 42 videos)
  - #11 [Christianity from Judaism to Constantine](#)
  - #13 [Islam, the Quran, and the Five Pillars All Without a Flamewar](#) (first 5 minutes)
  - #14: [The Dark Ages...How Dark Were They, Really?](#)
  - #15: [The Crusades – Pilgrimage or Holy War?](#)
  - #22 [The Renaissance: Was it a Thing?](#)
- [Religious Tolerance](#)
- [Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy](#)
- [Religious Freedom Project](#), Berkley Center for Religion, Peace & World Affairs.
- [History Summarized: Spread of Christianity](#) Key issues: trinity, nature of Jesus.
- [The Edinburg Lectures](#) by Thomas Troward pdf
- Video: [Renaissance and Christian Humanism](#) (first few minutes are free before they ask you to subscribe. Worth watching.)
- Integral Christian: [Christianity and the Integral Model pdf](#) covers topics Scripture, God, Sin, Jesus,

## Live Collaborate Class Sessions

*All times Central Time (CT) Zone*

200 Unity Circle North, Suite A, Lee's Summit, MO 64086 816.524.7414 [www.uwsi.org/](http://www.uwsi.org/)  
[www.unityworldwideministries.org](http://www.unityworldwideministries.org)

### **September 2021**

1. Tuesday, September 14 – 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. CT
2. Tuesday, September 21 – 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. CT
3. Tuesday, September 28 – 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. CT

### **October 2021**

4. Tuesday, October 5 – 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. CT
5. Tuesday, October 12 – 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. CT
6. Tuesday, October 19 – 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. CT
7. Tuesday, October 26 – 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. CT

### **November 2021**

8. Tuesday, November 2 – 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. CT
9. Tuesday, November 9 – 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. CT
10. Tuesday, November 16 – 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. CT