GCS Mission statement:
“Equipping the Saints for Pastoral Ministry.” We are committed to equip the saints for quality pastoral ministry through quality graduate-level distance education programs in biblical, theological, ministerial and pastoral studies informed by Incarnational Trinitarian faith.

Course Description: Church History 1: The First Millennium
Church History 1: The First Millennium is a survey of the events, people, and ideas of Christianity from Jesus’ ascension to the “Great Schism” of 1054. The focus is on mastering the key events and cultural contexts of the period and how they affected God’s people. The course introduces the student to the challenges and legacies (including devotional legacies) of the church’s first millennium. Proctored exam at the end.

Required Textbooks
These texts will be necessary for in-depth reading in order to fulfill the requirements of the course:


**Book Report #1:** Five-page Book Report submitted on this required text by Wednesday of the seventh week of class:


**Book Report #2:** One of the following texts is to be read by the student and a five-page book report submitted at the end of Week Twelve. Some are available as .pdf files online, so there is no need to buy them unless you want to. Prices mainly standard Amazon/Barnes and Noble offerings.

Augustine, *Confessions*. Varied publishers.


Copan, Paul and Matthew Flannagan. *Did God Really Command Genocide*?


Student Learning Outcomes In Brief

Through this course, students will…
1. Identify the key events and ideas of the first one thousand years of Church History and investigate the order in which the events took place.
2. Explain how issues of Christology and the Holy Spirit led key thinkers to defend and deepen the Church’s belief in the Incarnate Christ.
3. Analyze how the Holy Spirit led prominent church leaders and writers to eloquently articulate their experience of Christ working with them and left a “matchless legacy” (Noll) across the centuries.
4. Demonstrate that to one degree or another the Spirit was always working with the Church.

Review of Course Requirements:

1. **Two short answer/multiple choice quizzes.** Third week quiz worth 10% of final grade.

2. **Two Book Reports** selected from the list of additional texts. One due in Week Seven and one in Week Twelve. See Full Syllabus (page 4) for report guidelines and Student Handbook for formatting instructions.

3. **Five Online Discussions/Forums worth 10% of final grade.** Scores depend on how each post reflected the themes of the course—people, ideas and events. Class interaction encouraged. Original propositions welcomed.

4. **One proctored 3-hour exam in Week Eleven.** Consists of a Multiple Answer Quiz worth 25 points and a Reflection/Response paper worth 15 points. Week Eleven. See Full Syllabus for pointers on Reflection Paper.

**Weekly Topics, Assigned Readings and Course Assignments Chart**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lecture Topics</th>
<th>Assignment for Next Class</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2. Victory and Controversy</td>
<td>Gonzalez, pp. 44-90 “Persecution under Nero” to “Tertullian,”; Basil, Chapter 18-24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignment</td>
<td>Hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------</td>
<td>-------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading the syllabus and lectures</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Watching video and listening to audio</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Activity</td>
<td>Time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------------------------------</td>
<td>------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading discussions and making responses</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taking quizzes</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading the textbooks</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Studying for quizzes</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing Book Reports</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing reaction or review paper</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total – about 10 hours each week</td>
<td>130</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NOTE: These are rough estimates. A student who reads quickly may be slow in writing papers and vice versa. Some will indeed complete the course requirements in less time, some will need more. Contact instructor re. different needs.

**Grading Standards:** See Full Syllabus and Student Handbook.

**OFFICE HOURS**—we are hoping to have some Zoom or Skype times for students to meet face to face across the semester. Probably Friday, 10AM (CT) but will be as announced in weekly class memos.