

**American Baptist Churches of New York State
Lay Study Program**

CHURCH HISTORY

A Brief Course Description

The course is designed to provide an overview of church history, focusing on issues and incidents that have had the greatest impact on the Church and its relationship to the world. It will provide an historical context for the issues, personalities, and events studied. Students will be provided the tools and techniques to do competent research in church history.

Expected Outcomes

The student will:

- Be able to place major events of church history on a timeline.
- Possess a basic acquaintance with the changing church governance, structure, and doctrinal development over time.
- Understand how church-state relationships have changed within the history of the church.
- Appreciate the mystery of how the Church has been used as a tool by God throughout history.
- Have a greater understanding of the origins of their own theological convictions and traditions.
- Be familiar with how to research church history through reliable sources.
- Possess greater wisdom for living today and tomorrow through an understanding of our past.
- Be familiar with the various expressions of the quest for holiness in the unfolding of the history of the church.
- Be familiar with the successes and failures of the church in fulfilling its mission in the various periods of church history.

Class Expectations

Students will read the assigned readings and participate in class discussions.

Students taking the course for credit will attend at least eight out of ten classes.

Students who are taking the course for credit will create and hand in the written assignments and/or complete projects, designed by the teacher, which may include paper/s and/or class presentations on particular subjects, etc.

Classes

The course is expected to have ten classes which are two hours long. A short break may be included in the middle of the class time. Classes may be designed to include a variety of learning experiences, including but not limited to interactive lectures and group discussions.

Suggested Resources

Texts

The Story of Christianity Vol. 1: The Early Church to the Dawn of the Reformation (Revised and Updated) by Justo L. Gonzalez, Harper Collins, NY. 2010

The Story of Christianity Vol. 2: The Reformation to the Present Day (Revised and Updated) by Justo L. Gonzalez, Harper Collins. 2010.

Church History Volume 1: From Christ to Pre-Reformation by Everett Ferguson, Zondervan, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49530. 2013.

Church History Volume 2. From Pre-Reformation to the Present Day by John D. Woodbridge and Frank A. James III, Zondervan, Grand Rapids, Michigan. 2013.

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