**Bible 12 Syllabus for Church History**

**Pioneer Valley Christian Academy**

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**I. Academic Information:**

**Department: Bible**

**Course: Bible 12, Church History**

**Length: Two Semesters (4 Quarters)**

**Grade Level: High School Senior (Fourth Year)**

**Primary Text: *Church History in Plain Language*, 4th Edition, Bruce L. Shelley, Thomas Nelson, Publishers. Nashville: 2013. Holy Bible (ESV). Assorted materials including a variety of electronic media and teacher-prepared information.**

**II. Description:**  Bible 12, Church History is the fourth-year Bible course at PVCA for high school seniors. William Boekestein wrote that “A forward-looking church is also a backward looking church. Likewise, well-balanced, progressive Christians will be students of church history.” The word "remember" is used 164 times in 39 of the 66 Bible books. In repeating this word, God is saying, "Don't neglect the past." Or as C.S. Lewis so memorably put it, "Don't be a chronological snob," only valuing the era in which you live. The Bible supports this. In [1 Corinthians 10](about:blank), Paul reviews a portion of Israel's history, particularly their exodus from Egypt and their subsequent desert exile. Paul tells us in verse eleven that "all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition..." Not only are we to learn from history, we must also be teachers of history. [Psalm 145:4](about:blank) says, "One generation shall praise our works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts." The result of this command to teach God's history is recorded in [Psalm 44:1](about:blank): "We have heard with our ears, O God, our fathers have told us, the deeds You did in their days, in days of old."

“Christianity, as revealed in Scripture, is an inescapably historical religion. The Christian conception of time itself is linear, not cyclical. That is, time has a beginning, a middle and an end. It is within this spectrum of time that the great themes of the Bible are all rooted. The Creation, the Fall of mankind, Redemption and Restoration of humanity are not merely ideas; they are real events that remind us of the importance of history. Therefore, we study Church History as . . . the history of the church soberly reminds us that we take our place in the ranks of the army of God. We take up the same battle-beaten armor that the saints of old used. We use the same weapon, the gospel of Jesus Christ. And we fight, not only to continue our heritage but to leave a lasting legacy for future generations as well” (Boekestein, William. *Meet the Puritans: the Alliances Voice of Puritan and Reformed Theology.* Reformation21, October, 2010).

**III. Course Outline:**

**Prologue**

**1. The Law and Jewish History 2000 BC – 400 BC**

A. Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (Israel)

B. Joseph – Moses and the Exodus

C. The Tabernacle – Promised Land

D. Canaan and the Tribal Settlement

E. Worship: Priests, Prophets, and Kings

F. King David – The Divided Kingdom

G. The Minor Prophets and the Majors

H. The Silent Years, BC 410 – BC 6 (and the Apocrypha)

**2. The Age of Jesus and the Apostles, BC 6 – AD 70, p.1**

Chapter 1 – Jesus and the Jews, p. 3

Chapter 2 – The Gospel to the Gentiles p. 14

**3. The Age of Catholic (Universal) Christianity, AD 70 – AD 312, p. 27**

Chapter 3 – Catholic Christianity p. 40

Chapter 4 – The Persecution of Christians, p. 40

Chapter 5 – The Rise of Orthodoxy, p. 49

Chapter 6 – The Formation of the Bible, p. 64

Chapter 7 – The Power of Bishops, p. 75

Chapter 8 – The Alexandrians, p. 84

**4. The Age of the Christian Roman Empire, AD 312 – 590, p. 95**

Chapter 9 – The Conversion of the Empire, p. 97

Chapter 10 – The Doctrine of the Trinity, p. 105

Chapter 11 – The Christian Creeds, p. 116

Chapter 12 – The Beginning of Monasticism, p. 125

Chapter 13 – Augustine, p. 133

Chapter 14 – The Papacy’s Beginnings, p. 141

Chapter 15 – Eastern Orthodoxy, p. 150

Chapter 16 – Mission to the Barbarians, p. 162

**5. The Christian Middle Ages, AD 590 – AD 1517, p. 171**

Chapter 17 – Gregory the Great, p. 173

Chapter 18 – Charlemagne, p. 182

Chapter 19 – The Papacy and the Crusades, p. 192

Chapter 20 – Scholasticism, p. 201

Chapter 21 – Apostolic Lifestyle, p. 214

Chapter 22 – Papal Decline, p. 225

Chapter 23 – Wyclif and Hus, p. 234

**6. The Age of the Reformation, AD 1517 – AD 1648, p.245**

Chapter 24 – Martin Luther and Protestantism, p. 247

Chapter 25 – The Anabaptists, p. 258

Chapter 26 – John Calvin, p. 267

Chapter 27 – The Church of England, p. 275

Chapter 28 – Catholic Reformation, p. 282

Chapter 29 – America and Asia, p. 292

Chapter 30 – Puritanism, p. 303

Chapter 31 – Denominations, p. 313

**7. The Age of Reason and Revival, AD 1648 – 1789, p. 321**

Chapter 32 – The Cult of Reason, p. 323

Chapter 33 – Pascal and the Pietists, p. 334

Chapter 34 – Wesley and Methodism, p. 346

Chapter 35 – The Great Awakening, p. 357

**8. The Age of Progress, AD 1789 – 1914, p. 367**

Chapter 36 – Catholicism and the Age of Progress, p. 397

Chapter 37 – 19th Century England, p. 381

Chapter 38 – Protestant Missions, p. 390

Chapter 39 – A Christian America, p. 400

Chapter 40 – Protestant Liberalism, p. 411

Chapter 41 – The Social Crisis, p. 422

**9. The Age of Ideologies, AD 1914 – 1989, p. 433**

Chapter 42 – 20th Century Ideologies, p. 435

Chapter 43 – American Evangelicals, p. 447

Chapter 44 – The Ecumenical Movement, p. 459

Chapter 45 – Roman Catholicism: Vatican II, p. 468

**10. The Age of Global Expansion and Relocation, AD 1989 – 21st Century, p. 479**

Chapter 46 – Decline and Reconstruction, p. 481

Chapter 47 – What is “New Christianity”?, p. 494

Chapter 48 – Places and Persons of Faith, p. 507

**IV.** **Methodology and Pedagogy**: While based on Bloom’s Taxonomy, the teacher will employ a variety of academic, instructional methodologies: text and supplemental materials, lecture, group discussion, memorization, digital curriculum, student presentations, individual coaching, guest speakers, presentations, videos, etc. All papers should be written using either MLA or APA style guides.

**V. ASSESSMENT AND GRADING POLICY**

**Grade Weights and Measures: Grade Weights Grading Measures**

**Participation and Homework 15% 90 ­ 100 = A**

**Scripture Memorization 15% 80 ­ 89 = B**

**Brief Written** **Assignments and Quizzes**  **20% 70 ­ 79 = C**

**Major Papers, Projects, and Exams 50% 65 - 69 = D**

**0 ­ 64 = F**

**100%**

**VI. Homework, Attendance, Behavior, and Discipline:**

**A. Homework –** All homework is due on the date assigned. Late work is homework not turned in on time. Any work that is missing will receive an automatic zero in the grade book.  The work can be made up, but will receive a percentage off according to the day of the class it was due: one class period late = 15% off, two class periods late = 30% off.  After the third class period late, no credit will be granted. Excused absences, such as illnesses, family emergencies, death of a relative, etc. are treated on an individual basis. **(In the case of on-line learning, a one day delay is the normal expectation.)**

**B. Attendance –** Attendance is vital to keeping up with the class. Participation grades require your presence and it’s difficult to catch up once you fall behind. Students employing on-line learning platforms are monitored for attendance by electronic method. Please respond accordingly. See Handbook for Policy.

**C. Behavior –** Behavioral expectations are provided in the PVCA Student & Parent Handbook. See D below. RCD (Responsibly-Centered Discipline) measured will be employed if and when necessary.

**D. Discipline –** My philosophy is this: **Respect God, Respect People, and Respect Property**. Though unexpected, if these guidelines are not met, the PVCA Handbook Discipline Plan and Responsibly-Centered Discipline (RCD) will be followed.

**VII. Miscellaneous:**

You are in charge of your own behavior: attendance, submission of work, speech, actions, looks, tone, and attitude – these are within your power to control. Each of you determines how our class will go. My primary objective is for you to be successful and enjoy Bible, perhaps for the very first time in your life. It is my belief that if you fail, I have failed – both you and myself. I want to be successful. I do not like to fail. If we work hard as a team together (Colossians 3:23 – 24) and put forth our best effort, we will both be successful.

**VIII. Additional Instructional Materials:**

A. Bible translations, such as New International Version, King James Version, New Living Translation, American Standard Version, English Standard Version, etc.

B. Bible Commentaries, such as those written by Matthew Henry, John Stott, J. Vernon McGee, etc.

C. Videos and Electronic Media produced by ACSI, The Hope Project, Ligonier Ministries, Hillsong Ministries, Gateway Ministries, etc.