

BUCKEYE BRETHREN INSTITUE
SYLLABUS: HISTORY OF THE CHURCH
WINTER 2026

INSTRUCTOR:

Tina Hunt

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DATES & TIMES: (2026—All Fridays) January 9, January 23, February 6; 9:30am - 3:30 pm with an hour planned for lunch at approximately 12 noon

LOCATION: NOCOB District Office, 1107 E. Main Street, Ashland, Ohio 44805 or by Zoom.

PURPOSE: This course will provide an overview of the History of the Christian Faith from Pentecost through the modern day. Emphasis will be given to the events and movements that had a leading role in the development and influence of the Church of the Brethren.

OBJECTIVES: By the end of this unit, the student will:

- A. Be able to place at least two dozen key figures and events on a timeline of the history of the church.
- B. Be able to construct a family tree of the church's story, showing different branches of Christendom and how various denominations relate to those branches.
- C. Be able to name some significant emphases of both the Anabaptist and Pieties movements.
- D. Be familiar with the life and thought of at least one Christian leader in (a) the church prior to 1500 and (b) the church since that time.
- E. Be able to identify one or more episodes in church history that shed light on events or issues in the church today.
- F. Be able to trace the development of the ecumenical movement and assess its significance for the life of the church.

COURSE TEXTBOOKS:

1. **Church History An Essential Guide**, Justo L. Gonzalez, Abingdon Press, 1996. (ISBN 0-687-01611-8)
2. **Christan History in Seven Sentences**, Jennifer Woodruff Tait, InterVarsity Press, 2021, (ISBN 978-0-8308-5477-6)

GENERAL COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

- attendance at all classes
- engaged participation in all class activities
- complete reading assignments as scheduled
- complete the writing assignments to be submitted as scheduled
- complete a reading log documenting all reading done for this class

In case of a participant needs to miss a class (due to illness or scheduling), to receive credit for the class the participant will need to watch the class recording (all classes are recorded off Zoom). Additionally they will have to choose three (3) points of class discussion to react to and share their reaction in a paper.

If a participant has to miss more than one class (2) they will not receive credit for the course and will be required to retake the course.

COURSE SCHEDULE/OUTLINE:

January 9, 2026 Lecture and Discussion on reading, reflection, and assigned articles.

January 23, 2026 Lecture and Discussion on reading, reflection, and assigned articles.

February 6, 2026 Lecture and Discussion on reading, reflection, and assigned articles.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS;

Session 1:

Reading: Gonzalez pages 1-50 (Intro through chapter 3); Tait pages 1-42 (Intro through chapter 2).

Session 2:

Reading: Gonzalez pages 51-76 (chapters 4-6); Tait pages 43-100 (chapters 3-5).

Session 3:

Reading: Gonzalez pages 77-95 (chapters 7-9); Tait pages 101-138 (chapter 6-7 and conclusion)

Each week class members will identify 5 persons who played a role in the time period covered by the reading, identify what their contribution was, and identify how their actions impacted history and may still be having an impact. This will be an accumulative document (building to the end of the course) that will be discussed during class and turned in at the end.

(See attached form for recommended format.)

The students will also create a time line of church history that will demonstrate their knowledge and interests. This will be turned in no later than one week after the final class.

Reading Log: Document all text, articles, and research related reading. Due at third session.

Plagiarism Position as stated in BBI Handbook:

This course complies with the Brethren Academy and BBI Policy on Citation Style and Plagiarism as described below: Integrity is central to life in community. In the Christian academic community, integrity means giving proper credit to people for the ideas and information we receive from them. It also means that the work we submit and represent as our own is really work we ourselves have done.

The Church of the Brethren 2008 Annual Conference Ethics in Ministry Paper (2008) Part III Code of Ethics for Ministerial Leaders states: 'I will give credit for all sources quoted or extensively paraphrased in sermons and prepared papers. I will honor all copyrights '(p. 8, Letter

M). Plagiarism is using the work of other people without giving them credit, whether in written assignments, oral reports and sermons.

The consequences for plagiarism will vary according to the extent of the offense. These may range from rewriting the assignment, non-crediting the assignment, or non-crediting the course.

Format for all written assignments:

-Papers must be typed utilizing Times New Roman, Calibri, Arial, or Optima font, 12pt, and double spaced.

-Indent the start of all paragraphs.

-Note all sources within the body of the paper and in a resource/bibliography.

-Any exceptions to this needs to be cleared with the faculty.\

Weekly Reading Assignment Reflection:

Week One:

(Create 3 Columns)

Who?

What?

Impact still felt?