Church History and Historical Theology (CHHT)

CHHT 501 Episcopal Church History (3)
This is a study of The Episcopal Church in the United States from 1607 until the present. It will focus on both the theology and history of The Episcopal Church. The course will stress understanding that which is distinctive about The Episcopal Church. This course also has the attribute of ANGL.

CHHT 511 Church Histories I: Asia and Africa (3)
This course focuses on the patristic and medieval periods. It concentrates on the narrative history of the church with emphasis on doctrinal developments, major theological controversies, heresies, missionary expansion, and the development of distinctive church institutions.

CHHT 512 Church Histories II: Europe and North America (3)
This course focuses on the Reformation period as well as on developments to the present. It concentrates on the Caroline Divines, the Evangelical Revival, the Tractarians, Christian Socialism, and the expansion of Anglicanism.

CHHT 513 The Inklings: C. S. Lewis, J. R. R. Tolkien, and Dorothy L. Sayers (3)
This course will survey many of the major imaginative and theological works by C. S. Lewis, J. R. R. Tolkien, and Dorothy Sayers. Lewis and Tolkien, along with Charles Williams and Owen Barfield, are more commonly called the Inklings, but Dorothy Sayers was an equally prominent and popular theologian, a contemporary who shared their Oxford formation and many of their intellectual interests, not least in the work of Dante. We will compare these authors' understandings of how a transcendent God engages with his creation, as well as their imaginative engagement with such theological subjects as free will, divine providence, sin, purgatory, suffering, and the nature of evil. This course also has the attributes of THEO.

CHHT 528 Varieties of Early Christianity (3)
Scholars have become increasingly aware of the diversity of Christian beliefs and practices in the first three centuries. It is no longer sufficient to describe some groups as heretics, who fell from the orthodoxy that was handed down from the apostles; a much more complex process was involved in the definition of belief and practice in the early period of the church's history. This course will explore what various churches looked like on the ground as early Christians engaged with each other as well as pagans and Jews. We will examine the strengths and weaknesses of the practice of Christianity in the communities for which we have historical evidence.

CHHT 529 Classics of Anglicanism (3)
Beginning with the English Reformation and following the major writers in the history of Anglicanism, this course will examine Anglicanism's claim to represent a "via media" among churches, upheld by a threefold cord of Scripture, Tradition and Reason. In each class we will discuss a short text representative of the work of Richard Hooker, the Caroline Divines, the Nonjurors, the Evangelical Revival, the Oxford and Broad Church Movements, the Modernist controversy, the Chicago-Lambeth Quadrilateral and the Anglican Covenant. The historical context of each text will help us understand the development of Anglicanism and provide a background to our own ministry whether as Anglicans or non-Anglicans today.

CHHT 531 American Church History (3)
This course focuses on the important religious movements in the United States, the authoritative figures and writings associated with them, and the major denominations. The purpose of the course is to study the history of Christianity in the United States in order to understand the present American religious context.

CHHT 543 Christian Origins (3)
This course introduces students the tumultuous first three hundred years of the Christian church, from its origins as a small apocalyptically-minded Jewish reform movement, through its centuries-long struggle to define and assert itself in a pervasively hostile "pagan" environment, to its eventual establishment as an imperial church complete with canon and creed and an increasingly influential cadre of powerful bishops. A theme running throughout the course will be the surprising variety that existed among these early Christ believers, as well as the significant challenges this diversity posed for developing orthodoxy.

CHHT 545 Reformation to Revolution: Religion and Politics in Early Modern England (3)
This seminar examines political and religious change in England in the tumultuous sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, a period marked by religious schism, two revolutions, and a failed experiment in republican government. Topics include reformation of church and government, patterns of rebellion and political instability, Puritan culture, and the shaping of domestic life. This course also has the attribute of ANGL.

CHHT 546 The Oxford Movement (3)
This course will chart the history of the Oxford Movement and its impact on the liturgy and the religious and social beliefs of the Church of England. The Oxford Movement did not arise in a vacuum, so the course will begin by exploring the High Church and Evangelical background of 18th century Britain. Nor did the Movement exist in a vacuum, so we will see its interaction with other Anglicans as well as the so-called "crisis of faith" in the mid-19th century. Finally, we will examine the successors of the Oxford Movement into the 20th century: slum priests, the Liberal Catholics, the liturgical renewal and the parish communion movement. This course also has the attribute of ANGL.

CHHT 547 Augustine and North African Christianity (3)
This course is a seminar that will examine the theology and practice of early North African Christianity, with particular focus on Augustine of Hippo. We will seek to understand Augustine both within his own historical context and especially within the tradition of North African Christianity. Student work will be focused on reading selections of primary sources and developing skills of historical interpretation and analysis, with class sessions driven by discussion of student work. Secondary attention will be given to the significance of our historical work for contemporary ministry.

CHHT 548 Anglican Divines in the Long Seventeenth Century (3)
This course is an introduction to the development of the character, polity, and spirituality of the Church of England in the years from the end of Elizabeth I to the "settlement" of Queen Anne, the so-called "long" seventeenth-century. It is the experiences of the seventeenth century which give England its Protestant patriotism, and so the course aims to outline the causes of the Civil War(s) of the British Isles and the consequences for the polity and spirituality of the church and people. This course will examine the work of some of the most influential writers and theologians in the Anglican tradition, including George Herbert, John Donne, and Jeremy Taylor.

CHHT 551 Global Anglicanism (3)
Beginning with the Reformation, this course traces the origins and the development of Anglicanism. Focusing on the Church of England, it will consider the events and ideas that shaped Anglicanism, especially the Reformers, the Deists, the Evangelical revival, the Oxford Movement and Anglo-Catholicism, the Social Gospel and the Anglican Communion. This course also has the attribute of ANGL.

CHHT 594 Directed Readings (1 to 4)
A Church History and Historical Theology topic developed by the student and a School of Theology faculty member to meet an educational goal not met through existing courses.

CHHT 598 Research Project (3)
M.A. students in the Church History concentration register for CHHT 598 while pursuing their research project.

CHHT 629 Classics of Anglicanism (3)
Beginning with the English Reformation and following the major writers in the history of Anglicanism, this course will examine Anglicanism's claim to represent a "via media" among churches, upheld by a threefold cord of Scripture, Tradition and Reason. In each class we will discuss a short text representative of the work of Richard Hooker, the Caroline Divines, the Nonjurors, the Evangelical Revival, the Oxford and Broad Church Movements, the Modernist controversy, the Chicago-Lambeth Quadrilateral and the Anglican Covenant. The historical context of each text will help us understand the development of Anglicanism and provide a background to our own ministry whether as Anglicans or non-Anglicans today.

CHHT 630 An Introduction to Ancient Eastern Christianity (3)
In this course we look closely at early, eastern varieties of Christianity. The history of early Christianity is usually told from the perspective of Greek and Latin-speaking communities, but we will focus our attention instead on the wealth of literature that survives from Christian communities who lived in areas as diverse as Syria, Mesopotamia, Persia, India and China, who largely spoke and wrote in a dialect of Aramaic called 'Syriac,' and who have survived as a minority religion from the earliest centuries until today.

CHHT 631 Origen, Spiritual Exegesis, and the Roots of Universal Salvation (3)
This course will focus on the life and writings of the third-century Christian writer, Origen of Alexandria, widely regarded as one of the greatest and most influential theologians of early Christianity. He pioneered a practice of scriptural interpretation that sought to bring to the surface successive layers of spiritual meaning. This practice, sometimes called "allegorical" interpretation, was both wildly influential and controversial (and it remains so today). Origen is also (in)famous for defending universal salvation, that is, the conviction that all of creation will eventually be saved at the end of time—an event he calls the apokatastasis or "restoration of all things." He thought of our salvation as a pedagogical process, in which our embodied sojourn on earth serves to rehabilitate our fallen minds. Our reading of Origen will be with an eye to retrieving his theology for contemporary use, both his practice of spiritual exegesis (for preaching and bible study) and his controversial conviction in universal salvation.

CHHT 647 Philosophy in the Desert: An Introduction to Early Christian Monasticism (3)
This course will inquire into the rise of Christian "monasticism" in the fourth-century, in which men and women withdrew from society, renounced sexuality and other pleasures (and burdens) of the flesh, and devoted themselves to spiritual exercises such as prayer, study, contemplation, and (crucially) wrestling with demons. This way of life was styled a new "philosophy," and was much informed by the vibrant intellectual scene in Alexandria. Egypt was at the center of this wider counter-cultural movement, and its deserts became the scenes for the pursuit of holiness - hence "philosophy in the desert." This course introduces students to the major figures and texts associated with Egyptian monasticism.

CHHT 648 Race, The Episcopal Church, and the University of the South: From Slavery to Civil Rights (3)
The diocese and parishes of the Episcopal Church are currently taking an unflinching look at their historic entanglements with slavery and slavery's legacies. So is the University of the South, the university owned by the Episcopal Church's southern dioceses and that shares their fraught history on matters of race and the institution of bondage that produced the ideology of racial injustice in this hemisphere. This course draws upon the expertise of those who work in the Roberson Project on Slavery, Race, and Reconciliation at the University of the South to examine the period from the civil war to civil rights in order to ponder how a more truthful understanding of its history may foster a more just future inside and outside The Episcopal Church.

CHHT 690 Readings in Church History (1 to 3)
This course addresses topics related to the field of church history and is offered depending on interest. This course may be repeated for credit when the topic differs. Prerequisites vary by topic.