

## **CHS530: HISTORY AND POLITY OF THE CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE**

Semester II, 2007-2008  
Tuesday, 9:00 a.m. – 12:35 p.m.  
3 hours credit

Dr. Harold Raser

### **CATALOGUE DESCRIPTION**

The main persons, ideas, and events that have shaped the Church of the Nazarene from its beginnings to the present are examined together with the historical setting in which the church began, and the system of polity (organization) that the church has developed.

### **COURSE NARRATIVE AND RATIONALE**

This course exposes students to the main persons, ideas, and events that have shaped the Church of the Nazarene as a particular historical expression of the Church of Jesus Christ in the world.

The history of the church is examined against the background of the American holiness movement and the wider currents of American Christianity (these being the most formative influences on the Church of the Nazarene), with the aim of understanding who the Nazarenes are and how they fit into the broad stream of the Christian tradition.

Nazarene polity (system of organization) and other matters addressed by the Nazarene *Manual* (e.g., doctrine and Christian practice) are examined and analyzed in order to understand how the church is organized for ministry in the world, and how it expresses its doctrinal and ethical convictions in a systematic way.

This course specifically addresses the goals and objectives of each of the NTS degree programs, which call for students to develop an understanding of the history and heritage of the Christian faith and familiarity with the context in which ministry takes place today.

### **COURSE OUTCOMES**

Conscientious investment of oneself in the learning activities of the course should enable students to:

1. Learn the "Nazarene story" – how and why the Church of the Nazarene came into existence and how it has attempted to fulfill what it has understood to be its special "calling" throughout its history.
2. Develop the ability to tell the "Nazarene story" accurately and with critical insight into the church's history.
3. Gain an understanding of Nazarene doctrine and ethics as expressed in the *Manual*.
4. Develop understanding of Nazarene polity – especially be able to identify the important principles of the *Manual* that pertain to the organization and ministry of the local church

and to the responsibilities of the pastor at local and district levels, and be able to explain the governance systems of the church at local, district, and general levels.

5. Acquire the ability to enter into critical and fruitful conversation with the past in order to appropriate the historical heritage of the church as a resource for responsible and faithful ministry in the present and future.

## **REQUIRED TEXTS AND COURSE MATERIALS**

1. *Called Unto Holiness*, Volume I, Timothy L. Smith.
2. *Called Unto Holiness*, Volume II, W.T. Purkiser.
3. *Ordained Women in the Church of the Nazarene: the First Generation*, Rebecca Laird.
4. *A Century of Holiness Theology: The Doctrine of Entire Sanctification in the Church of the Nazarene, 1905-2004*, Mark Quanstrom.
5. *Manual*, Church of the Nazarene, 2005-2009.
6. **Assorted Articles and Readings** (provided by the professor).

## **FORMAT AND PROCEDURE**

This course is primarily a lecture course. Most class time is given to lectures and presentations by the instructor. Material presented in these lectures and presentations relates to assigned reading, but does not simply duplicate, or repeat the content of assigned reading. From time to time the instructor may use discussion, role-playing exercises, films or videos, presentations by guest lecturers, and other aids to learning to supplement instructor lectures/presentations.

## **COURSE ASSIGNMENTS AND REQUIREMENTS**

1. Completion of all assigned reading.
2. Reasonable mastery of assigned materials -- to be evaluated by the instructor primarily through written examinations and reading reports.
  - a. There are **two written exams**. These are largely essay in form. The first covers reading in Timothy L. Smith, *Called Unto Holiness, Volume 1*, pp. 1-179 and class lecture and discussion. The second covers selected portions of the *Manual*, as well as Smith, *Called Unto Holiness, Volume 1*, pp. 180-end and class lecture and discussion. The first exam will be **TUESDAY, MARCH 25**. Exam #2 will be **TUESDAY, MAY 6**.
  - b. **Reading Reports. Four (4) books dealing with the history of the Church of the Nazarene are to be read and reported on:** 1) *Ordained Women in the Church of the Nazarene: the First Generation*, Rebecca Laird; 2) *A Century of Holiness Theology: The Doctrine of Sanctification in the Church of the Nazarene, 1905-2004*, Mark Quanstrom; 3) *Called Unto Holiness, Volume 2*, W.T. Purkiser; 4) **A book of your choice, selected from the bibliography or elsewhere, dealing with some aspect of Nazarene history.**

Each of the four books is to be reported on in a brief essay (**no longer than 750 words in length**). These essays should include a brief summary of the content of the book, but their main purpose is not summarization. Their main purpose is to address three questions: 1) how has this person (or persons, or these events, or this doctrine, debate, etc.) helped to make the Church of the Nazarene what it is today? 2) how does the information in this book change/alter/contribute to my understanding of the Church of the Nazarene? 3) how has the information and insight gained from reading this book affected my understanding of how ministry is (and ought to be) carried on in the Church of the Nazarene?

In addressing these questions, one should reflect carefully and not be satisfied with only the most obvious answers. Draw upon your own experience in the church, and your developing knowledge of its identity and character (as you read, think about, and discuss this with the professor and your classmates) as well as the information in the books, to help you with this. The brevity of these reports demands that you think and write carefully!

**The four reading reports are due as follows:**

**READING REPORT #1 – due Tuesday, February 19**

**READING REPORT #2 – due Tuesday, March 11**

**READING REPORT #3 – due Tuesday, April 1**

**READING REPORT #4 – due Tuesday, April 22**

#### **METHOD FOR SUBMITTING ASSIGNMENTS**

Reading reports should be submitted to **the "ASSIGNMENT" section of Blackboard**. The instructions for the reading assignments given above will be repeated there. You may download those instructions and then upload your completed assignment. The professor will be able to access your completed work there. If you are unable to post completed work on Blackboard, you may submit printed copies to the instructor instead.

#### **POLICY REGARDING LATE WORK AND RESCHEDULED OR MISSED EXAMS**

**All reading reports are due no later than 11:59 p.m. of the day they are due.** Late work is reduced ½ letter grade for every three days (or portion thereof) overdue.

The two examinations will be given in class. **Exams may rescheduled or made up only through petition to the Dean's Office.**

#### **COURSE GRADING**

All written work is expected to evidence graduate level writing skills and this will be given due consideration in grading. In addition, all students are expected to be familiar with the

*NTS Handbook for Inclusive Language* and to follow its guidelines in the preparation of written work.

For the four reading reports, **the following criteria are employed in evaluation and grading:** 1) **"A" quality work** – is superior in every way – writing is clear, essentially without errors in grammar, syntax, word usage, spelling, etc. – content evidences careful reflection, insight, and originality; 2) **"B" quality work** – is above average – writing is generally clear, with few errors of grammar, syntax, spelling, word usage, etc. – content evidences careful preparation and meets the expectations of the assignment; 3) **"C" quality work** – average – writing is adequate, but may have errors – content is adequate, meets the minimum expectations of the assignment, but lacks insight and originality; 4) **"D" quality work** – below average – writing is poor, marred with frequent errors – content evidences lack of insight or lack of understanding of assigned material; 5) **"F" quality work** – failure to do satisfactory work – work evidences haste, lack of careful preparation, lack of basic understanding of the assigned material.

In determining the final grade for the course:

1. The two written exams combined count 40% of the final grade.
2. The four reading reports combined count 50% of the grade.
3. Class attendance and participation count 10% of the final grade.

**NOTE:** NTS is committed to make every reasonable effort to facilitate the learning of students capable of graduate level seminary work. Any student who has a condition that may hinder full demonstration of his or her abilities (e.g., difficulty seeing or hearing, dyslexia or other learning disabilities) should contact the instructor immediately, or as soon as possible, to discuss learning needs, alternatives which have worked for the student in the past, and mutually acceptable accommodations to ensure the student's full participation and appropriate evaluation in the course.

### **CONSULTING THE INSTRUCTOR**

My office is room 352 (through the door behind the organ in the chapel, to the top of the stairs, and down the hall). I aim to be available to students outside of class as much as I possibly can. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you wish to discuss course matters, or any other matters in which I might be of help to you. You can also e-mail me at: school - [heraser@nts.edu](mailto:heraser@nts.edu) or home – [hjderaser@aol.com](mailto:hjderaser@aol.com)

## **COURSE CALENDAR**

Feb. 5-12

I. The Nazarene Family Tree – Our  
Roots in Christian History

- A. Christian, Protestant, Wesleyan,  
and Holiness
- B. American
- C. Methodist

Feb. 19-Mar. 4

II. The Holiness Awakening of the 19<sup>th</sup>  
Century

- A. Methodist Antecedents
- B. Pre-Civil War Holiness  
“Awakening”
- C. Post-Civil War “Organized  
Holiness”

Mar. 4-11

III. Answering the “Church  
Question:” Building Blocks of  
the Church of the Nazarene

- A. The Chronology of Separation
- B. The non-American Link
- C. The Impulse for Union

**March 17-21**

**READING AND RESEARCH  
WEEK (NO CLASSES)**

**TUESDAY, MARCH 25**

**EXAM #1**

Mar. 25-Apr. 1

IV. Possibilities and Problems of  
Union

- A. 1907 Merger
- B. 1908 Merger
- C. Post-1908 Unions

Apr. 8

- V. Mission to the World
  - A. Evangelism and Missions
  - B. "Compassionate Ministries"
  - C. Education

Apr. 15

- VI. Called Unto Holiness in An Ever Changing World:  
Nazarenes Seek Their Place in the Second Half of the Twentieth Century – and Beyond
  - A. Standards and "Separation"
  - B. "Internationalization" and a Global Church
  - C. Holiness and Identity

Apr. 22-29

- VII. Nazarene Organization and *Manual*
  - A. The Development and Structures of Organization
  - B. Doctrine
  - C. Ethics of the "Holy Life"

**TUESDAY, MAY 6**

**EXAM #2 (10:00 a.m. – 11:50 a.m.)**