RAISON D’ETRE: The purpose of this course is to engage students in an historical examination of the beginnings of Christianity and to trace its development to a time immediately prior to the Protestant Reformation (approximately 1500 A.D.). Reference to expansion of the faith in parts of the emerging New World during the 16th century will also be included.

STANDARDS: The Association of Theological Schools’ standards for the Master of Divinity Degree and for the Master of Arts in Religion insist on a thorough understanding of the Christian religious tradition. In most seminary classes, the instructor refers to Christian history, to theologians, and to religious leaders and movements throughout the history of Christianity. The Christian Movement courses are designed to provide students with a foundation of knowledge necessary for historical research in their own program of study as well as to enable them to impart the best of the Christian tradition.

EXPECTATIONS: When the semester ends, students should understand how a scholar must approach history, be familiar with the major turning points in Christian history during the period covered, and possess an overall understanding and appreciation for the role the Christian faith has played in this period of history. Students should be able to talk intelligently about individuals who played decisive roles in the development of Christianity and convey why their roles were important; discuss the major events and how they fit in a wider historical context; talk intelligently about the theological tenets of Christianity and how they developed; and be able to discuss the emergence of divergent religious movements that share a common background with the Judeo-Christian tradition.

CLASS SESSIONS: There will be twelve class meetings, one research week and two reading weeks during the semester. Class meetings will be three hours in length and generally follow the schedule below:

50-minute lecture
10-minute break
25-minute discussion
50-minute lecture
10-minute break
25-minute discussion
10-minute wrap-up
EXAMS: There will be a mid-term and a final exam. Exams will test a student’s knowledge by the following methods: **ESSAY QUESTIONS**, plus multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, and short-answer questions.

TERM PAPER: Students shall complete a term paper on a subject directly related to the course and agreed upon in advance with the instructor. The paper will be at least 8-10 pages in length.

TEXT: The Story of Christianity. Gonzalez, Justo L.  
   ISBN: 0062010743

   (excerpts from Bettenson will be provided/posted plus handouts)

GRADING:  
   25% - Mid-term exam  
   25% - Final Exam  
   25% - Term Paper  
   25% - Class attendance and participation in discussion