

UNDERGROUND INSTITUTE
2017 SEMESTER

HISTORY OF CHRISTIAN ACTION

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Course Description

This class will be a history of Christianity through the lens of mission and Christian action. Each student should have a basic grasp on Christian history and the place of activism and mission within it. By looking back we will also be able to rediscover new possibilities for ministry and action in our time and context.

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| June 6 | Little Christs: The way of Jesus in the First Church (35-100 AD)
Reading: A Short History, Part 1: ch. 1-3; Peoples History, Introduction |
| June 13 | Martyrs: Christianity and the Roman Empire (100-300)
Reading: A Short History, Part 1: ch. 4-6; Peoples History, ch. 1-3. |
| June 20 | Culture Makers: The Rise, Fall and Reformation of Roman Christianity (300-600)
Reading: A Short History, ch. 7-10 |
| June 27 | Lights: Being the Church in the Dark Ages (600-1000)
Reading: A Short History, Part 2: ch. 1-4; Peoples History, ch. 4

Monks: The Monastic Revival of the Middle Ages (1000-1500)
Reading: A Short History, Part 2: ch. 5-10; Peoples History, ch. 5 |
| July 11 | Protesters: The Re-formation of the Church and its Practice (1500-1700)
Reading: A Short History, Part 3: ch. 1-3; Peoples History, ch. 7-9 |
| July 18 | Prophets and Preachers: The Reformation of the Reformation (1700-1900)
Reading: A Short History, Part 4: ch. 1-4 |
| July 25 | Revolutionaries: The Era of Liberation and Civil Rights (20th century)
Reading: A Short History, Part 4: ch. 6-9 |

Essential Texts

Stephen Tompkins, A Short History of Christianity. Eeardmans, 2005.

Diana Butler Bass, A People's History of Christianity. Harper One, 2009.

For Credit

Students working for course credit should complete a term paper of 8-12 pages expanding on one of the figures, movements or practices of Christian history.