

PH.D. IN CHURCH HISTORY & HISTORICAL THEOLOGY
Field Essay Study Guide
School of Theology

The field essay in Church History and Historical Theology will consist of two questions, each designed to take an hour of the applicant's 2-hour time allotment. Questions will be as follows:

I. A Question on the Major Turning Points of Christian History.

In preparation for this question, read Mark A. Noll's *Turning Points: Decisive Moments in the History of Christianity* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1997). Two questions will be given, and you will be asked to choose one of the two. The questions may focus on any of the "turning points" identified by Noll and may call for comparison or contrast between two or more of them. The essays will be evaluated for accuracy of detail and interpretive insight.

2. A Question Pertaining to the Applicant's Major Area of Interest.

Once again, two questions will be offered and you will be asked to choose one of the two. The questions will require a familiarity with the historical events and ideas that structure your particular area of interest. To help you prepare for this part of the field essay, read the work or works suggested for your chosen area below:

Patristics

Jaroslav Pelikan. *The Christian Tradition: A History of the Development of Doctrine, Vol. 1: The Emergence of the Catholic Tradition*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1975.

Robert Louis Wilken. *The Spirit of Early Christian Thought: Seeking the Face of God*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 2005.

Reformation Studies

Alister McGrath. *Reformation Thought*. 3rd ed. Oxford: Blackwell, 1999.

Steven Ozment. *The Age of Reform: 1250-1550*. New Haven: Yale Univ. Press, 1980.

American Christianity

Nathan Hatch. *The Democratization of American Christianity*. New Haven: Yale Univ. Press, 1989.

Sidney E. Ahlstrom. *A Religious History of the American People*. New Haven, Yale Univ. Press, 1972.

Baptist History

Robert G. Torbet. *A History of Baptists*. 3rd. ed. Valley Forge: Judson Press, 1973.

Walter B. Shurden. *Not a Silent People: Controversies That Have Shaped Southern Baptists*. Macon, GA: Smyth & Helwys, 1995.