

PH.D. IN CHURCH HISTORY & HISTORICAL THEOLOGY
Entrance Exam 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

J. N. D. Kelly. *Early Christian Doctrines*. 5th ed. New York: Harper & Row, 1978.

Jaroslav Pelikan, *The Christian Tradition. A History of the Development of the Doctrine*. Vol. 1: *The Emergence of the Catholic Tradition (100–600)* (Chicago, IL/London: University of Chicago Press, 1971).

Reformation & Puritan Studies

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

Dairmaid Macculloch, *The Reformation: A History*. New York: Viking, 2004.

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

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

Anthony L. Chute, Nathan A. Finn, and Michael A.G. Haykin, *The Baptist Story: From English Sect to Global Movement*. Nashville, TN: B&H, 2015.