History of Modern Christianity
Comprehensive Exam Bibliography

This bibliography immerses students in the history and historiography of Christianity since the 16th century. It encourages deep understanding of major topics as well as thorough engagement in scholarly debates about sources and methods as they influence interpretations of the past. This list is designed with specific attention to histories of reform, the intersections of Christianity with colonialism and the enlightenment, and the relations of Christianity to secularism, nationalism, race and ethnicity, religious difference, and gender. While its emphasis rests on Christianity in Europe and North America, the list can be tailored—with the addition of up to ten texts in consultation with the examiner—to treat other geographical locations of interest to the student. Moreover, the thematic and chronological organization of this list represents just one way to organize these sources. Students with their examiners may want to identify alternate clusters of texts speaking to particular themes or concerns. Texts centered on a particular period of interest may also be added.

In addition to these thematic, geographic, or chronological additions and rearrangements, students are required to select between five and seven major primary documents (again in consultation with the examiner) spanning the entire period from the 16th to the 20th century. A list of texts containing collections of primary documents is included to help identify appropriate readings, which must be read not in excerpt form, but in their entirety.

With this format, the comprehensive exam in the history of modern Christianity aims to:

- Develop student mastery of the major topics of the last four hundred years of Christian history;
- Develop skills in reading and assessing historical arguments in relation to religion;
- Build proficiency and appreciation for the methods of historical thinking in relation to religion;
- Stimulate historical comparisons and/or provide historical context for a student’s likely dissertation topic;
- Equip the student successfully to teach an undergraduate level course on the history of Christianity from the 16th century to the present;
- Provide an historiographical platform for advanced undergraduate or graduate teaching in the history of Christianity from the 16th century to the present.

Following departmental norms, students are asked to finalize their lists in consultation with their examiner twelve months in advance of the targeted examination date. Typically, this will mean finalizing lists during the spring semester of their second year and beginning exam preparation during the summer between the second and third year. Meetings with the examiner, to discuss texts, explore gaps of understanding, and cultivate arenas of interest, should commence between six or eight months in advance of the examination date, typically in the early fall of the third year.

Implemented April 22, 2015—may be replaced by older list for anyone enrolled in PhD program Fall 2014 or earlier.
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**Protestant and Catholic Reformations (16th-18th)**


**Christianity, Colonialism, and Enlightenment (17th-early 20th century)**


Christian Modernities


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Suggested Readers for Selection of Primary Documents (in consultation with examiner)
(Note: readers frequently only offer excerpts, but students must locate and read their selected documents in their entirety)


