RELH 315 Seventh-day Adventist History – COURSE DESCRIPTION

RELH 315 is a course tracing the rise and development of the Seventh-day Adventist Church with a focus on its important founders, Joseph Bates, James White, and Ellen Harmon/White as well as other leading figures in our past history. The course will present major turning points in the history of the church, discuss events leading up to these turning points and review how these turning points influenced subsequent church developments.

The key premise of the course: Major turning points in the history of the SDA Church were defining moments that have lessons and relevance for us today, both corporately and individually, as we live life in anticipation of Jesus' soon return to our broken planet. We will focus on the Biblical rationale for the Seventh-day Adventist churches' emergence, message, mission, organization, and hope that provides the matrix for our Adventist heritage and purpose in the world today.

Since Ellen White was deemed to be called by the Lord to receive the "prophetic gift", her role in defining our church history during her lifetime and beyond to today, will constitute a major component of the course. Attention will be given to how the church understood the significance of her writings, how we related to them in the past, and the ongoing efforts within the Adventist Church today, to arrive at a balanced view of what "inspired writings" mean.

This class is organized by weeks with an Orientation Week prior to the beginning of the four-week intensive. The Orientation must be completed before you will be allowed to start the intensive. Please introduce yourself in D2L during the Orientation Week. The course will require 80 – 120 hours of study. Students are independent learners who must complete readings, videos, and assignments to meet personal and institutional deadlines. The content is arranged in four weeks of study. Tasks for each unit should be completed within the week allotted and the final task must be submitted by the last day of class.