I.2   The
      Syllabus

This syllabus

The syllabus, outlined following the pattern
of Pre-reformation church history...the headings
being in the margin and being summaries of the con-
tent, contains the essence of what the Instructor
thinks is most important. By so stating it allows
freedom of discussion in other areas. It is being
revised and up-dated as of 1989, and in this present
form is a new edition of thoughts old and new. It
will be enhanced by added materials presented in
class and the reports of some of the students as they
work for extra credit. As the syllabus serves as a
guide for discussion, the student does well to read
it and keep class progress posted in connexion with
its arrangement. Since it is typed by the teacher of
the course...it is expected that mistakes in typing,
etc., will occur. Hopefully these will not very
often ruin the sense of a passage or make the
material unintelligible.

I.3   Details and
      Trends

Of Details and Trends

This is one of the major problems: the details
may become overwhelming and the student lost in
them...with the result that one can distinguish
neither forest nor trees. The mass of detail and the
multitude of names may make the study a dismal swamp
and in this academic bog many a prospective history
student has lost his way and perished in the
quicksands of nothingness.

To avoid this the student must learn to
distinguish between details and trends. One must
discriminate in judgment to such an extent as to
recognize people and events and to connect them with
the events and circumstances that gave them
importance and service in the church. Ultimately the
value of the course is not in knowing a hundred
strange names but in the ability to evaluate an
action of history or to discover a procedure that, in
the context of one's position, may be used
predictably. We are seeking to understand the
utilitarian side of history throughout our course and
the student must seek to develop one's own thought
and method in making that program clear. One must
try to see what is happening and then associate the
people and events that go with it.