

Birmingham Theological Seminary
2200 Briarwood Way
Birmingham, AL 35243
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HT 4721 Reformation & Modern Church History

Fall 2019

Class: (9/12-14;Thur.-Sat.)

Professor: Rev. Jackie D. Gaston

Class Hours: 2

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Course Purpose

The purpose of this course is to present the historical theology and history of the church in the causes and events leading up the Reformation with focus on its leaders and effects. This course also covers the Counter-Reformation, the Evangelical Revival and growth of the Protestant Church to the present. Special attention will be given to exploring how experiences and insights from the Christian past inform contemporary faith and practice.

Course Objectives

1. The student will be able to name major events, issues and leaders of the Reformation and those that led to the Reformation.
2. The student will be able to discuss in detail the lives of the key Reformers.
3. The student will be able to articulate the impact of the Reformation on the Church in the years that followed the Reformation.
4. The student will be able to describe the Roman Catholic response to the Reformation.
5. The student will be able to trace the development of the growth of the Protestant Church from the Reformation to the present day.
6. The student will be able to apply past history to present ministry and the state of the church.

Course Texts - Required

(Certificate students - only * books)

George, Timothy. *Theology of the Reformers*. Nashville: Broadman and Holman Publishers, 1988. (337 pgs) or the updated 2013 25th Anniversary edition (423 pgs)

*Gonzales, Justo L. *The Story of Christianity, Volume II: The Reformation to the Present Day*. HarperOne Publishers, 2010. (whole text, 560 pgs)

McGrath, Alister E. *Historical Theology: An Introduction to the History of Christian Thought*, 2nd Ed. Wiley-Blackwell, 2013. (pgs 124-270)

*Choose one for a book report: (Suggestions below)

1. Bainton, Roland H. *Here I Stand: A Life of Martin Luther*. Abingdon Press, 1978.
2. Parker, T.H.L. *John Calvin: A Biography*. Westminster John Knox Press, 2006.
3. Biographies on George Whitefield, Jonathan Edwards, Charles Spurgeon, George Muller, John Bunyan, John Owen, D.L. Moody, J. Gresham Machen, Charles Hodge, C.S. Lewis, Hudson Taylor, John Newton, Adoniram Judson, William Wilberforce, William Carey, Amy

Carmichael, Corrie Ten Boom, Billy Graham, and others in church history - get approval of professor (it must be one you have not read before - read something new!).

Collateral Texts (not required):

Woodbridge, John D. and Frank A. James, III. *Church History: Volume Two, From Pre-Reformation to the Present Day - The Rise and Growth of the Church in Its Cultural, Intellectual, and Political Context*. Zondervan, 2013.

Course Requirements

1. Class attendance and *participate* in class discussions - we will have several prepared discussion questions every class period and you are expected to interact with the questions. In the absence of professor permission, more than two unexcused absences drops the final grade one letter grade. Lap top computers are allowed in class for note taking only; cell phones should be on silent mode or turned off. Answer or reply to your phone only in case of emergencies out of courtesy to the professor.
2. Completion of all assigned reading - you must complete your reading to truly cover the material of the course and to be prepared for the exams.
3. A book critique of George's *Theology of the Reformers*. (maximum of 3-5 pages) The critique should include an analysis of the purpose and themes of the book and whether you agree or disagree with the author's presentation, speak to its strengths and weaknesses, also include what you gained professionally and personally from reading the book.
4. Book report on one of the biographies listed above. (maximum of 5-7 pages) This should be a narrative of the person's life and contribution to the Church of his/her day. Please include reflections on insights from their life that might be useful to you personally and professionally today.
5. Time Line project of important events, dates, and people from the Pre-Reformation to Present Day. This project is designed for you to see trends and patterns in history, and also to see what was going on concurrently throughout the Church. This project can be quite creative and colorful, or basic bullet points in sequence. This project will prove to be very beneficial for ordination exams, future teaching and preaching, etc.
6. A final exam - Take home exam (closed book/note)

Grading

1. Completion of assigned reading, class attendance and participation 10%
2. Book critique 10% (Note: certificate students — 0%)
3. Book report 10% (Note: certificate students — 20%)
4. Time Line project 20%
5. Final exam 50% (Note: certificate students — 50%)

BTS FORMAT AND STYLE STANDARDS

BTS uses the Turabian style of formatting as a standard for papers. However, students should regard individual professor preferences if they communicate any variance in outlining their requirements for papers, as in this class (see below). Professors retain discretion in determining how “formal” a paper must be. In this technological age, information is readily available; make sure that you understand about giving reference sources the proper recognition. Please refer to the BTS Student Handbook section on plagiarism for guidance.

Course Outline (subject to change)

Day 1 - Introduction to the Reformation (Gonz. Chapters 1-4)

Luther and the Reformation; Zwingli and the Reformation Part I (Gonz. Chapters 5,6 & 9)
Zwingli and the Reformation Part II; Calvin and the Reformation (Gonz. Chapters 7, 10, 11)
England and the Reformation; Roman Catholicism and the Reformation (Gonz. Chapters 8, 12-16)

Day 2 -

Protestant Controversies; Post Reformation Catholicism.(Gonz. Chapters 18-20);
Post Reformation England (Gonz. Chapter 17)
Continental Protestantism, Post Reformation, Lecture: American Christianity (Gonz. 21-24)
The First Great Awakening, (Gonz. Chapters 25-27)

Day 3 -

19th Century American Christianity (Gonz. Chapters 28-30);
American Christianity Post Civil War to Present (Gonz. Chapters 31-36)
Evangelical Christianity Today - the State of the Church
Conclusion

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Berkhof, Louis. *The History of Christian Doctrines*. Baker: Grand Rapids, 1975.

Brown, Harold O.J. *Heresies: Heresy and Orthodoxy in the History of the Church*. Peabody, Massachusetts: Hendriksen Publishers, 1984, rep. 1998.

Dooley, Tim. *Introduction to The History of Christianity*. Fortress Press, 2002.

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Hill, Jonathan. *Zondervan Handbook to the History of Christianity*. Oxford: Lion

- Publishing, 2006.
- Kuiper, B.K. *The Church in History*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1964.
- Latourette, Kenneth Scott. *A History of Christianity*. vol. 2. *Reformation to the Present*. Peabody, MA: Prince Press, 1997.
- Lindberg, Carter. *The European Reformations*, 2nd Ed. Wiley-Blackwell, 2010.
- Luther, Martin. *The Bondage of the Will*. Translated by J. I. Packer and O. R. Johnston. Grand Rapids: Fleming H. Revell, 2002.
- McGrath, Alister E. *Historical Theology: An Introduction to the History of Christian Thought*, 2nd Ed. Wiley-Blackwell, 2013.
- McGrath, Alister E. *Reformation Thought: An Introduction*. Third edition. Malden: Blackwell Publishing, 1999.
- Marsden, G.M. *Fundamentalism and American Culture: The Shaping of Twentieth Century Evangelicalism 1870 – 1925*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2006
- Noll, Mark A. *A History of Christianity in the United States and Canada*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1992
- Noll, Mark A. *The Rise of Evangelicalism: The Age of Edwards, Whitefield and the Wesleys*. Downer's Grove: Intervarsity, 2003.
- Placher, William C. *Readings in the History of Christian Theology, Volume 2, From the Reformation to the Present*. Philadelphia: The Westminster Press, 1988.
- Schaff, Philip. *History of the Christian Church. Volumes VII and VIII*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans Printing Company, 1995.
- Cunningham, William. *The Reformers and The Theology of The Reformation*. Edinburgh; Carlisle, PA: The Banner of Truth Trust, 2000.
- Murray, Iain H. *Evangelicalism Divided: A Record of Crucial Change in the Years 1950 to 2000*. Edinburgh: The Banner of Truth Trust, 2001.
- Murray, Iain H. *Revival and Revivalism, The Making and Marring of American Evangelicalism 1750-1858*. Edinburgh; Carlisle, PA: The Banner of Truth Trust, 2002.
- Shelley, Bruce L. *Church History in Plain Language*, 2nd Ed. Thomas Nelson, 1995.
- Trueman, Carl. *Reformation: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow*. Fearn, Tain: Christian Focus Publications, 2011.
- Wells, David F. ed., *Reformed Theology in America, A History of its Modern Development*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1997.

Woodbridge, John D. and Frank A. James, III. *Church History: Volume Two, From Pre-Reformation to the Present Day - The Rise and Growth of the Church in Its Cultural, Intellectual, and Political Context*. Zondervan, 2013.