



BTS Mission:

Providing sound Biblical and practical theological training to equip leaders for Christ's Church.

Eastwood Presbyterian Church • 1701 E. Trinity Blvd. • Montgomery, Alabama 36106 •
Extension Coordinator: Lydia Pickett, 334-284-5056

Semester:	Fall 2020
Day & Time:	Mon. 5:30-7:30 pm
Professor:	Dr. Wm. Harrison Taylor
E-mail:	wtaylor@alasu.edu

Course:	Reformation & Modern Church History
Room:	TBD
Credits:	2 Hours
Phone:	(M) 662-312-1727 (O) 662-312-1727

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Causes and events leading up the Reformation with focus on its leaders and effects. Also covered are Counter-Reformation, the Evangelical Revival and growth of the Protestant Church to the present.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Identify major events and leaders of the Reformation and the events that led to the Reformation.
2. Discuss in detail the lives of the key reformers.
3. Evaluate the impact of the Reformation on the Church in the years that followed the Reformation.
4. Assess Rome's response to the Reformation.
5. Explain the development of and the growth of the Protestant Church from the Reformation to the present day.

REQUIRED COURSE TEXTS AND MATERIALS

McGrath, Alister, E. *Christianity's Dangerous Idea: The Protestant Revolution—A History from the Sixteenth Century to the Twenty-First*. New York: HarperOne, 2008.

Machen, J. Gresham. *Christianity and Liberalism*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2009.

COURSE EXPECTATIONS

All work must be submitted on the prescribed due dates. Carefully **proofread** your work before submitting, all submissions must be error free.

This class will meet weekly students are expected to set aside a minimum of 2-3 hours each week in preparation for the 2-hour class time. That figure includes readings, writing assignments, and work on your final paper. Note that each lesson may not require the same amount of time designated for coursework. Read the syllabus thoroughly; Proper Prior Planning Prevents Poor Performance.

ASSIGNMENTS/GRADES

Submission of **weekly chapter notes/summaries** from the assigned readings in Alister McGrath's *Christianity's Dangerous Idea*. These notes/summaries should be saved as Word documents and submitted to me by email (wtaylor@alasu.edu). The emails should be titled "Reformation and Modern Church History, McGrath, Chapter #."

Write two "**Response Essays**" (3-4 pages exclusive of title page and footnotes) examining the following questions to be submitted on the discussion dates noted in the course schedule below. These essays need to be saved as Word documents and submitted to me by email (wtaylor@alasu.edu). The emails should be titled "Reformation and Modern Church History, Response Essay #."

a) After reading Part II of Alister E. McGrath's *Christianity's Dangerous Idea* (Chapters 9-13) examine the many manifestations of the Protestant Revolution and whether they are significant (and how so) for modern Christians?

b) After reading J. Gresham Machen's *Christianity and Liberalism* discuss how the book is an expression of the Protestant Reformation and how, as such, it might benefit the modern Christian.

Complete the **Book Review Project**. This is comprised of three parts:

a) A book review essay (7-9 pages exclusive of footnotes, bibliography, title page, and table of contents) on any one of the books listed in the Bibliography section below. You may write on another book with the professor's prior approval. This essay should address the author, the audience, the surrounding literature, the argument(s), the evidence and how convincing the book was as a whole. All papers must be 12 point Times New Roman font and formatted in accordance with Turabian/Chicago standards. This paper needs to be saved as a Word document and submitted to me by email (wtaylor@alasu.edu). The email should be titled "Reformation and Modern Church History, Book Review Essay."

b) An oral presentation of your chosen book.

c) A summary/outline of your chosen book addressing the surrounding literature, the argument and key themes, as well as the evidence employed by the author. This summary will be distributed to your classmates and it should be typed and no more than two pages single spaced.

A mid-term exam made up of short answer, multiple choice, and short essay questions.

A final exam which will made up of short answer, multiple choice, and short essay questions.

GRADING WEIGHT & COMMENTS

COURSE REQUIREMENT	Points/Weight	COMMENTS
Class participation	100 (20%)	Class participation is a vital assessment
Response Essays (2)	100 (20%)	
Midterm	100 (20%)	
Book Review Project (3 parts)	100 (20%)	
Final Exam	100 (20%)	
Total	500 (100%)	

COURSE SCHEDULE

DAY	DATE	AGENDA / TOPIC
Monday	9/7	Readings and Materials <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review Syllabus • “Introduction” of Alister E. McGrath, <i>Christianity’s Dangerous Idea</i>.
Monday	9/14	Readings and Materials <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 1 of Alister E. McGrath, <i>Christianity’s Dangerous Idea</i>. Assignments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit (by email) your notes/summary of Chapter 1. • Discuss Christianity and Society in Western Europe prior to the Reformation.
Monday	9/21	Readings and Materials <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 2 of Alister E. McGrath, <i>Christianity’s Dangerous Idea</i>. Assignments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit (by email) your notes/summary of Chapter 2. • Discuss the theology of Martin Luther.
Monday	9/28	Readings and Materials <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 3 of Alister E. McGrath, <i>Christianity’s Dangerous Idea</i>. Assignments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit (by email) your notes/summary of Chapter 3. • Discuss the early Protestant alternatives to Martin Luther.
Monday	10/5	Readings and Materials <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 4 of Alister E. McGrath, <i>Christianity’s Dangerous Idea</i>. Assignments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit (by email) your notes/summary of Chapter 4. • Discuss the theology of John Calvin. • Submit (by email) your Response Essay on McGrath’s Part II.
Monday	10/12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fall Break
Monday	10/19	Readings and Materials <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 5 of Alister E. McGrath, <i>Christianity’s Dangerous Idea</i>. Assignments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit (by email) your notes/summary of Chapter 5. • Discuss the English Reformation.

Monday	10/26	Mid-Term Exam
Monday	11/2	Readings and Materials <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 6 of Alister E. McGrath, <i>Christianity's Dangerous Idea</i>. Assignments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submit (by email) your notes/summary of Chapter 6. Discuss the shifting contours of Protestantism in the 17th and 18th centuries.
Monday	11/9	Readings and Materials <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 7 of Alister E. McGrath, <i>Christianity's Dangerous Idea</i>. Assignments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submit (by email) your notes/summary of Chapter 7. Discuss the American Protestantism.
Monday	11/16	Readings and Materials <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 8 of Alister E. McGrath, <i>Christianity's Dangerous Idea</i>. Assignments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submit (by email) your notes/summary of Chapter 8. Discuss the Protestantism in the 19th century. Submit Response Essay on J. Gresham Machen's <i>Christianity and Liberalism</i>.
Monday	11/23	Readings and Materials <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 14 of Alister E. McGrath, <i>Christianity's Dangerous Idea</i>. Assignments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submit (by email) your notes/summary of Chapter 14. Discuss modern American Protestantism. Submit the Book Review Essay.
Monday	11/30	Readings and Materials <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 15 and 16 of Alister E. McGrath, <i>Christianity's Dangerous Idea</i>. Assignments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submit (by email) your notes/summary of Chapter 15 and 16. Discuss the Pentecostalism and the rise of the Global South. Book Review Presentations. Distribution of Book Summary/Outline.
Monday	12/7	Final Exam

BTS FORMAT, STYLE, AND WRITING STANDARDS

BTS has adopted Turabian as the standard form and style for writing formal papers. However, professors retain discretion in determining how “formal” a paper must be. Students should reference Kate Turabian’s *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations, 9th Edition*. A Turabian Supplement is available through the seminary. Students should also refer to the BTS Student Handbook on academic integrity/plagiarism. Below is a Paper Grading Rubric for formal papers:

A to A-	B to B-	C to C-	D to D-
Correct spelling and grammar/punctuation	Minor errors in spelling or grammar/punctuation	Many errors in spelling or grammar/punctuation	Difficult to read due to English writing errors
Smooth writing that provides for effective and efficient reading	Writing is acceptable, but not as organized and coherent	Writing is not smooth, sometimes confusing and inconsistent	Writing lacks clarity, focus, structure, and is incoherent
Person and format are proper for assignment	Person and format are inconsistent	Person and format are not appropriate	Person and format are totally inappropriate
Scripture, paraphrases, quotes, and summaries are appropriately used, cited, and clearly supports main argument	Scripture, paraphrases, quotes, and summaries are appropriate but need more depth and use of critical thinking	Scripture, paraphrases, quotes, and summaries are inadequate for main argument and do not reflect understanding	Scripture, paraphrases, quotes, and summaries are improperly used, overused, under used, or cited in error
Paper completely conforms to Turabian's <i>Manual for Writers</i>	Paper generally conforms to Turabian's <i>Manual for Writers</i>	Paper somewhat conforms to Turabian's <i>Manual for Writers</i>	Paper does not conform to Turabian's <i>Manual for Writers</i>

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Students are expected to demonstrate punctuality and attend all class sessions. Any absences should be communicated to the professor and/or seminary office prior to the absence. In the absence of professor approval, a student will be permitted two absences per semester in a course. Tardiness may be recorded and three unexcused tardies will be counted as one unexcused absence. Unexcused absences and tardies exceeding the allowance may result in the student being dropped from the course with an "F" grade.

CLASS POLICIES & PROCEDURES

Refer to Student Handbook:

<https://bts.education/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/Student-Handbook-2016-Current.pdf>

ANNOTATED SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Ahlstrom, Sydney E. *A Religious History of the American People*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1972.

Anyabwile, Thabiti. *The Decline of African American Theology: From Biblical Faith to Cultural Captivity*. Downer's Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2007.

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2002.

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STUDENT SIGNATURE

Your signature below indicates that you have read this syllabus, understand it, and willing accept the requirements and responsibilities for successfully completing this course.

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____