

Reformation and Modern Church History Online CH 502Z

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Meeting Location: Online

Elective. Three credit hours.

Course Description

This survey course covers the historical, spiritual and institutional development of Western Christianity from the Renaissance through the Modern era. Students examine the Protestant Reformers, the Counter-Reformation, the Enlightenment, Pietism and the development of Evangelicalism.

Course Purpose

The purpose of this course is to build on the knowledge and skills introduced in CH 501. The format typically involves lecture and discussion. We seek to master the chronology of the period, study the key people, the events and ideas. Beyond the historical narrative, emphasis is also placed on important historiographical issues of the Reformation and Modern era.

Course Objectives

The mission of Erskine Theological Seminary is to educate persons for service in the Christian Church. Thus, we encourage students to value the theological and historical resources of the Church, including creeds and theological writings of Church leaders. It is the instructor's goal that each student can:

1. identify the primary and secondary causes of the Reformation
2. explain the relationship between the Renaissance and Reformation
3. identify and explain the historical and theological distinctions of four movements – Lutheran, Reformed, Anabaptist and Anglican
4. trace the creedal and confessional development in the Reformation and Modern era.
5. demonstrate skills of historical and theological analysis
6. identify two or three key historiographical interpretations

Course Methods

The purpose and objectives of this class are achieved through lectures, class discussion book critiques and through essay exams. There are 4 grades of equal weight: two one page book critiques, and two essay exams.

Reading Requirements:

Each student is expected to complete the reading assignments and be prepared to offer informed comments on the discussion board posted in the online classroom. In addition to the assigned texts, each student will read and critique two additional books approved by the professor. Each student will also produce a one-page book critique and also supply each class member (and [Mr. Fred Guyette](#), the Reference Librarian) with a copy. Each student must score (on average) a passing grade on the two essay tests in order to pass the class. So-called "extra-credit" is greatly discouraged and is inappropriate in a graduate school setting. Students should rather focus their energies on the regular assignments and not seek some special project to rescue them.

Criteria for Grading Book Critiques:

- Adherence to the instructions
- Identification of the thesis
- Analysis of the thesis and content
- Judicious use of books reviews and comments
- Depth and originality of comments
- Proper use of English language

Resources

Required textbooks may be available from the campus bookstore for spring semesters, or may be ordered from online sources. See www.erskine.edu/seminary for bookstore portal.

Roland H. Bainton, *The Reformation of the Sixteenth Century*. Boston: Beacon Press, 1952. (Note: Various publishers have kept this book in print for over fifty years. In 1985 Bainton revised the text and added new material)

Alister McGrath, *Christianity's Dangerous Idea: The Protestant Revolution from the Sixteenth Century to the Twenty First*, Harper, 2007, 552p.

Recommended Reading

George Marsden, *Understanding Fundamentalism and Evangelicalism*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1990. ISBN 0802805396

Mark A. Noll, *Turning Points: Decisive Moments in the History of Christianity*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1997. ISBN 0801057787 (Note: It is recommended that you read the second half of this book for this class).

Note: The professor will post additional handouts and other reading assignments in the online classroom.

Grading Criteria and Scale

Note current catalog, pp. 42-43:

A	95-100	4.0	A-	93-94	3.7
B+	91-92	3.3	B	88-90	3.0
B-	86-87	2.7			
C+	84-85	2.3	C	80-83	2.0
C-	78-79	1.7			
D+	76-77	1.3	D	72-75	1.0
D-	70-71	0.7			
F	0-69	0.0			

Course Components

FAQ's

1. All assignments must be submitted via e-mail attachments unless otherwise notified.
2. Please use Microsoft Word when submitting assignments electronically.
3. All assignments should be clearly marked on the e-mail subject line with the student's last name and assignment number. Failure to include this information will result in a returned assignment.

COURSE PLATFORM

Erskine Seminary is accredited by the Association of Theological Schools (ATS). According to the ATS Standard 10.3.4.3, "Institutions shall ensure that distance education programs provide appropriate opportunity for collaboration, personal development, interaction among peers within a community of learning, and supervised field or internship opportunities when appropriate to the degree program." It is with this stipulation that EDEN has implemented a web-based learning platform which will serve to provide a number of collaborative learning experiences. The learning platform is Moodle and according to their website, "Moodle is a course management system designed to help educators who want to create quality online courses . . . and create effective online learning communities." You will be provided with additional information concerning Moodle tutorials, site information, and the peer mentoring program. In order to meet the online discussion component of this course, you will need:

- A computer (or access to a computer)
- High speed access to the Internet

Course Assignments

The purpose and objectives of this course will be achieved through the following assignments.

MODULE #1

All work for the first module is due four weeks from the **course** start date.

Weeks	Topics	Assignment
1 - 4	"Introduction to the Study of History" "Forerunners of the Reformation" "Erasmus' Anti-Theology and the Northern Renaissance" "Martin Luther and the Principles of Protestantism"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Bainton, chapters 1-5; • McGrath, TBA • Writing Assignment: Select book for book critique • Study Assignment: Review notes

MODULE #2

All work for the second module is due eight weeks from the **course** start date.

Weeks	Topics	Assignment
5 - 8	"Luther," (continued) "The 'Reformed' Branch: Zwingli and Swiss Reform." "Calvin's Early Years and Calvin's Geneva" "The Anabaptist and the 'Radical' Reformation"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Book Critique due at the end of week 5 • Mid-Term, Essay Exam, due the end of week 6 • Read Bainton, chapters 6-9; • McGrath, TBA • Study Assignment: Review notes

MODULE #3

All work for the third module is due twelve weeks from the **course** start date.

Weeks	Topics	Assignment
9 - 12	"The English Reformation" "Post-Ref. Scholasticism and Enlightenment Thought" "Pietism and Puritanism"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Second Book Critique due at the end of week 9 • Prepare for Final Exam • Mid-Term, Essay Exam, due the end of week 6 • Read Bainton, chapters 10-13; • McGrath, TBA • Study Assignment: Review notes

MODULE #4

All work for the fourth module is due fifteen weeks from the **course** start date.

Weeks	Topics	Assignment
13 - 15	"The Awakenings and Revivalism" "The History of Protestant Fundamentalism" "The Rise of Evangelicalism and Evangelical Kaleidoscope" "The Emerging Church Movement"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare for Final Exam • Study Assignment: Review notes • Final exam due the end of week 15

WRITING THEOLOGICAL PAPERS

The seminary has produced a *Writing Theological Papers* document that guides a student through the process of producing a high quality theological paper. It is included as part of the materials for this course located in the online classroom and is part of your Student Handbook provided by the seminary.

Please edit your paper for typographical errors, misspelled words, stylistic miscues, and grammatical mistakes. The paper should be double-spaced and constitute original work written for this course only and cannot include material previously used in another course or for another purpose. Please read over the notation regarding the seminary policy on plagiarism included at the end of this syllabus. Your use of the work or thoughts of another without proper citation and acknowledgement constitutes plagiarism. **Content found at an Internet web site is construed to be copyrighted material written and produced by another person.** Undocumented wholesale use of words from an Internet web

site passed off as the student's own work in a research paper of this sort constitutes plagiarism and will be considered a violation of the seminary plagiarism policy. Students who are determined to have violated the seminary's policy on plagiarism will receive a grade of zero for the paper, will not be allowed to re-submit another paper, and will have a written record of the violation added to their permanent student record. Further violations of the seminary's plagiarism policy could result in temporary or permanent dismissal from the seminary.

Relevant Institutional and Course Policies

1. Language about God and Humanity: Although God transcends the distinction between male and female, the Bible and the Church's historic creeds and confessions use masculine language in reference to God. Thus, the Seminary encourages all students to retain this masculine usage when speaking and writing about God. Furthermore, the Seminary recognizes that all human beings, male and female, are created equally in the image of God (Gen. 1:26-27), and believers of both sexes are fellow heirs of the grace of life (1 Pet. 3:7). Accordingly, whenever students are speaking and writing about males and females, they should use language that clearly includes both men and women (for example, by saying/writing "humanity" rather than "man" or "people" rather than "men").
2. Conduct in Theological Discussions: Erskine Seminary is committed to the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church, and it expects its students to show respect for all who identify with that one Church. In all written work, oral presentations, and discussions both inside and outside the classroom, the Seminary expects students to conduct discussions of controversial issues in a context of respect for those with whom one disagrees. Please see the Community Life statement in the *Catalog* for more information.
3. Plagiarism: This is a serious issue. Any student guilty of plagiarism or cheating is in violation of Seminary policy and is liable for dismissal. All written work for this class must be original to this class. Do not submit anything recycled from some other class. You must attribute any sources you use, providing full citation to the author. It is also wise to avoid using content from the Internet. It is very difficult to verify content you find on the Internet.
4. Style and Bibliographic Formatting Requirements: All written work must conform to the latest edition of the Turabian manual of style. All papers must be typed/processed (twelve point type, double spaced, one-inch margins) and fully documented following the standards in the "Style and Form Standards for All masters Level Programs" (Erskine Seminary). In most courses, footnotes (or endnotes) and a bibliography are required in each paper. The paper's cover page and bibliography are not counted toward the page requirements.

5. Drop/Add/Withdrawal: Once a student has completed, signed, and submitted his/her registration to the Registrar for this class, it is a binding contract and billing will be based on this registration. If the student decides not to take this class, he/she must complete a "drop/add" form and secure the appropriate signatures prior to the drop/add deadline during the second week of the semester or term. If one wishes to withdraw from the course after the drop/add deadline, one must complete a withdrawal form, and tuition will be refunded on a pro rated basis. Failure to withdraw from the class properly will result in the student's receiving a grade of "F" for the course and full tuition charges will apply. No exceptions will be made to this policy.

6. Incompletes: The grade of "I" or incomplete is given at the discretion of the professor. A grade of "I" is normally given when a student has substantially completed the requirements for a course but has been prevented by extraordinary circumstances from completing the remainder of the course requirements. A student who wishes to request an incomplete should normally complete an incomplete form prior to the end of the semester and ask the professor to grant the request. (Under unusual circumstances, the student may communicate with the professor by phone or email rather than in person, and the professor may then agree to fill out the form at the student's request. Under exceptional circumstances, the professor may initiate the process by filling out the form on the student's behalf.) If the professor grants the request, he/she will sign the incomplete form and turn it in with his/her final grade report. An "I" in any course must be removed by March 1 for the Fall Term, April 1 for the January Term, August 1 for the Spring Term, and November 1 for the Summer Term. Only the Dean may grant extensions of incompletes beyond the established completion date. Otherwise, these grades automatically become "F."