

CH 502CO
ERSKINE THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
Spring Semester 2010 - Columbia Campus
Course Syllabus – Reformation and Modern Church History
Dale Walden Johnson, Ph.D.

Class meets: Saturday, 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM

February 20, March 13, April 10 and May 1, First Presbyterian Church

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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 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 is able to:

1. identify the primary and secondary causes of the Protestant Reformation
2. explain the relationship between the Renaissance and Reformation movements
3. identify and explain the historical and theological distinctions of four movements-
Lutheran, Reformed, Anglican and Anabaptist
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/interpretive issues from the period

Course Methods:

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

For Christ and His Church

Three Required Texts:

Roland H. Bainton, *The Reformation of the Sixteenth Century*. Boston: Beacon Press, 1952. ISBN 13: 0807013014 (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 & Row, 2007, 552p.
ISBN 13: 978- 0061436864

Richard G. Kyle and Dale W. Johnson, *John Knox: An Introduction to His Life and Works*. Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock Publishers, 2009. ISBN 13: 987 – 1606080900

Recommended Reading:

George Marsden, *Understanding Fundamentalism and Evangelicalism*. Grand Rapids, MI: Wm.B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1990. ISBN 13: 978-0802805393

Mark A. Noll, *Turning Points: Decisive Moments in the History of Christianity*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1997. (Note: Read the second half of the book).
ISBN 13: 978-0801062117

Note: The professor will distribute additional handouts and other reading assignments. The student may also expect occasional reading on reserve in the McCain Library.

Office Hours:

My normal office hours are posted on my office door. When you are on campus please check my office door for specific times. You can contact me by e-mail or voice mail. If the class meets in the Due West campus I will be available both before and after class.

Course Requirements:

See below.

Official Seminary Class Attendance Policy:

Attendance at each class is vital to the success of each student. One absence is allowed. Any additional class time missed is allowed only if it constitutes a genuine emergency. Seminary is a serious undertaking. We expect students to give their best attention and efforts to the demands of graduate education. Students wishing to take a course which meets over the semester (such as a Saturday class) **must** attend the first meeting of the course. In general, students are allowed up to three **hours** of unexcused absences without penalty.

Policy Regarding Absences for Classes Meeting Each Week:

Students are required to attend all class sessions. If a student must miss a class for any reason, he/she is still responsible for all the work missed and all the work due. A student who misses more than three class sessions for any reason will automatically fail the course

Reading Requirements:

Each student is expected to complete the reading assignments and be prepared to offer informed comments during class discussion. 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 with a copy.

Each student must score (on average) a passing grade on two essay exams and two book critiques in order to pass the class. There is no such thing as “extra credit” and is inappropriate in a graduate school/seminary setting. Students should rather focus their energies on the regular assignments and not seek some special project to rescue them.

Chapel Attendance Policy: (if applicable)

All morning and afternoon on-campus classes (except for Friday and Saturday courses) carry a Chapel attendance requirement. Consult the catalog or registration booklet for specifics of the Chapel attendance policy. There is a per Chapel fee assessed if you attend fewer Chapels than required.

Criteria for Grading Book Critiques:

- Adherence to all the instructions
- Identification of the thesis (in one sentence)
- Analysis of the thesis and the content of the book
- Judicious use of professional book reviews from academic journals
- Depth and originality of comments
- Proper use of English language
- Proof read for typos, etc.

Grading Scale. Note current catalog pp. 46-47:

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

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" people rather than "men."

Plagiarism 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 found on the net.

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 discussion 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.

Style and Bibliographic Formatting Requirements:

All papers 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 course, footnotes (or endnotes) and a bibliography are required in each paper. The paper's cover page and bibliography are not counted toward the page number requirements.

Incompletes:

Student should review the Seminary policy on "Incompletes" in the Seminary catalog. A grade of "I" (incomplete) is rare and must conform to policy statements in the catalog and student handbook. Students do not have the option of "taking" an incomplete. Under certain circumstances, instructors will suggest or initiate a grade of incomplete. It can be given as a final grade only when the student (1) has completed most of the required course work and (2) has been providentially hindered from completing the coursework. Please note there is a processing fee associated with "Incompletes," and the work must be completed by the stated deadline or the grade becomes an "F." Only the Academic Dean may approve extensions of deadlines.

Notice regarding withdrawing from a course and Drop/Add:

“I understand that once I have completed, signed and submitted my registration to the Registrar for this class, it is a **BINDING CONTRACT**, and my billing will be based on this registration. I further understand if I decide not to take this class, a “drop/add” form must be completed, including securing the appropriate signatures. Failure to properly withdraw from the class will result in receiving a grade of “F” for the course and full tuition charges will apply. **NO EXCEPTIONS WILL BE MADE TO THIS POLICY.**”

Course Outline: Lectures and Reading Schedule

Month of February: Distribution of syllabus, course overview, etc.

Lecture Topics for February, beginning Feb. 20

“Introduction to the Study of History”

“Forerunners of the Reformation”

“Erasmus’ and the Renaissance/Reformation Connection”

Film: “Where Luther Walked”

“Martin Luther and the Principles of Protestantism” (Begin)

Erskine Missions Emphasis Week, Chapel, February 9-11 (Due West)

**Bowie Chapel, 11:00 AM led by Dr. Frank Van Dalen,
Executive Director of World Mission**

Reading Assignment for February: (complete by the end of February)

Bainton, chapters 1-5; McGrath, TBA

Writing Assignment: Select first book for book critique, Due March 13

Study Assignment: Review notes and prepare first book critique

Month of March: Lecture topics for March-

“Luther” (continued)

“The ‘Reformed’ Branch: Zwingli and Swiss Reform.”

“Calvin’s Formative Years and Ministry in Geneva”

“The Anabaptist Movement and the Radical Reformation”

First Book Critique due: March 13

Christianity & Culture, Lecture in Due West, March 18:

“How Christians Gain a hearing in a Hollywood Culture”

Dr. Phil and Kathleen Cooke, Co-founder Cooke Pictures

Reading Assignment for March:

Bainton, chapters, 6-9; McGrath, TBA
Kyle & Johnson, chapters, 1-4

Writing Assignment: First book critique due- March 13

Study Assignment: Review notes and prepare for Mid-term Exam- April 10

Month of April: Lecture topics for April-

“The English Reformation”

“Post-Ref. Scholasticism and Enlightenment Thought”

“Pietism and Puritanism”

“The Awakenings and Revival”

Spring Break – Holy Week, (No Classes, March 27- April 4)

Whitesides Pastor’s Institute and Robinson Lectures

Spring Bible Conference, April 21-22, 10:00 AM – 3:30PM, Bowie Chapel

Dr. Esther Meek and Dr. Walter Kaiser

Reading Assignment: Bainton, chapters 10-13; McGrath, TBA

Kyle & Johnson. Chapters 5-9

Writing Assignment: Your 2nd book critique is due, May 1

Study Assignment: Review notes for Final Exam, due May 1

Month of May: Lecture topic for May-

(Catch up if necessary)

“Fundamentalism and Evangelicalism”

FINAL EXAMINATION – Begins 2:00 PM, May 1

TURN IN 2ND BOOK CRITIQUE

Reading Assignment for May:

McGrath, finish reading the book

Course Evaluations

IMPORTANT DATES FOR SPRING SEMESTER

- Senior Day festivities on Due West campus, May 3
- Final Exams on campus: Week of May 10-13
- Senior Grades due in Registrar’s Office: May 14
- Commencement in Due West, Saturday, 4:00 PM
(May 15th, Due West, ARP Church)