



**ERSKINE**  
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

*For Christ and His Church*

**CH 502CO**

**Fall Semester 2011 – Columbia Campus**

**Course Syllabus – Reformation and Modern Church History**

**Dale Walden Johnson, Ph.D.**

Class meets: Monday, 1:00-4:00 PM

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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. *Required for M.Div. & M.A.T.S. Three hours.*

**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:

**2, one page book critiques, and two essay exams (a mid-term and a final exam).**

*Christian Commitment and Excellence in Learning*

**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, 2007, 552p.  
ISBN 13: 978- 0061436864

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

**Recommended Reading:**

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

Mark A. Noll, *Turning Points: Decisive Moments in the History of Christianity*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1997. (Note: It is recommended that you read the second half of this book for this class). ISBN 13: 978 – 0801062117

R. Ward Holder, *Crisis and Renewal: The Era of the Reformations*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2009. ISBN- 13: 978-0-664-22990-0

\_\_\_\_\_. ed., *The Westminster Handbook to Theologies of the Reformation*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2010. ISBN 13: 978-0-664-22398-4

Scott H. Hendrix, *Recultivating the Vineyard: The Reformation Agendas of Christianization*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2004.  
ISBN 0-664-222713-9

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

Students are expected to secure their own copies of all required textbooks. As a convenience, the seminary has a bookstore portal of the website at <http://www.erskineseminary.org/bookstore.html>. There you will find links to familiar vendors (CBD, Amazon, B&N, and Books-A-Million) and can check availability of texts, compare prices, and place orders. The ETS SBA will receive a modest percentage of the profits from students' and professors' purchases through this portal. The Erskine Campus Bookstore will carry a limited number of copies of every required text and orders for books can be placed through the Campus Bookstore.

**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 is on the Due West campus I will be available before class and after class (briefly, before chapel).

**Course Requirements:**

See below.

**For Official Seminary Policies please use the following link:**

[http://seminary.erskine.edu/content\\_policies/SeminaryPoliciesforETSSStudents.pdf](http://seminary.erskine.edu/content_policies/SeminaryPoliciesforETSSStudents.pdf)

**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 (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

**Grading Scale:**

**Note current on line catalog:**

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

**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 requirement.

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## Course Outline: Lectures and Reading Schedule

**Month of September:** Distribution of syllabus, course overview, etc.  
Lecture **Topics** for August and Sept. classes:

“Introduction to the Study of History”  
“Forerunners of the Reformation”  
“Erasmus’ Anti-Theology and the Northern Renaissance”

**Film-** “*Where Luther Walked*”

“Martin Luther and the Principles of Protestantism”

**Reading Assignment for September** (Complete by end of Sept.)  
**Bainton, chapters 1-5; McGrath, pp. 1-82**

**Writing Assignment:** Select first book for book critique  
**Study Assignment:** Review notes

**Month of October** **Lecture Topics for October:**

“Luther,” (continued)  
“The ‘Reformed’ Branch: Zwingli and Swiss Reform.”  
“Calvin’s Early Years and Calvin’s Geneva”  
“The Anabaptist and the ‘Radical’ Reformation”

**First Book Critique Due, September 26**

**MID-TERM, Essay Exam, October 10 (My birthday!)**

**Reading Assignment for the month of October:**

Bainton, chapters, 6-9; McGrath, 83-150  
Kyle & Johnson, chapters 1-4

**Writing Assignment :** Book Critique due, September 26  
**Study Assignment:** Review notes, Exam Oct. 10

**Month of November: Lecture Topics for November:**

“The English Reformation”

“Post-Ref. Scholasticism and Enlightenment Thought”

“Pietism and Puritanism”

“The Awakenings and Revival”

**FALL BREAK – No Classes during Thanksgiving Week, November 21-27**

**Reading Assignment complete by the end of November:**

Bainton, chapters 10-13; McGrath, pp. 173-386

Kyle & Johnson, chapters 5-9

**Writing Assignment:** Your second book critique is due Nov. 17

**Study Assignment:** Form a study group, prepare for Final Exam,

**Month of December: Lecture Topics for December:**

“Fundamentalism and Evangelicalism”

**FINAL EXAM, MONDAY – December 5**

**Reading Assignment for the month of December:**

McGrath, Finish reading the book

**Course Evaluations by students**