



ERSKINE
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

For Christ and His Church

CH 750 The English Reformation and Puritanism
ERSKINE THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
Course Syllabus
J-Term, 2012
Dale Walden Johnson, Ph.D.

Class meets: Wednesdays, 9:00-5:00

e-mail: djohnson@erskine.edu

Office Phone: (864) 379-6662

Seminary Fax: 379-3171

Course Description:

This course provides students the opportunity to examine the dramatic changes in the English Church through the Tudor and Stuart monarchies. Students focus on the causal factors and history of the English Reformation, the origin of Puritanism, and the struggle between the Anglican Church over governance, worship, and theology. *Elective. Three hours.*

Course Purpose:

The purpose of this course is to develop the knowledge and skills introduced to students in the church history survey classes. It will expand on the introductory lecture given on the English Reformation in CH 502, Reformation and Modern Church History. This three hour elective course will include both narrative and interpretive (historiographical) instruction.

Course Objectives:

The mission of Erskine Theological Seminary is to educate persons for ministry in the Christian Church. Thus we encourage students to take elective classes such as The English Reformation to expand their knowledge of the history and theology, and creedal statements of diverse faith communities in the Christian church.

It is the instructor's goal that each student will develop:

1. ability to identify the "causes" of the English Reformation and Puritanism
2. ability to explain the role of anticlericalism, the Lollards, Lutheranism and Christian humanism in the English Reformation
3. ability to cite and explain the nature, purpose and content of key creedal expressions, *viz. The 6 Articles, The 42 Articles, The 39 Articles*
4. skills in historiography as they relate to schools of thought in the English Reformation

Course Methods:

The purpose and objectives of this class are achieved through lectures, class discussion, oral presentations, papers and essay exams. There are four grades. Each student will complete:

Weekly quizzes (3 of them) = 1 test grade

1 Final examination

2 Written book critiques (One is on the history of English Bible translation)

(Details TBA, critiques are 4-5 pages of text)

(Quizzes together = 25% of grade

1 Final Examination = 25% of grade

2 written book critiques = 50% of grade)

Required Texts:

Students are expected to secure their own copies of all required textbooks. As a convenience, the seminary has a bookstore portal on the website at <http://www.erskineseminary.org/bookstore.html>. There you will find links to familiar vendors (CBD, Amazon, B&N, and Book-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.

A.G. Dickens, *English Reformation*, 2nd ed., Penn State University Press, 1994.
ISBN 0271007982

Francis J. Bremer, *Puritanism: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford: Oxford UP, 2009. ISBN-13: 978-0195334555

Note: The professor will distribute additional handouts and assign some small reading assignments.

Course Requirements:

Attendance at each class is vital to the success of each student. One absence is allowed. Any additional class missed is allowed only if it constitutes a crisis or emergency. Each student is expected to complete the reading assignments and be prepared to offer informed comments in class discussions. In addition to the assigned texts, each student will read and critique a book approved by the professor, and provide each class member with a copy of their one page book critique. The idea of "extra-credit" is highly discouraged. Students should focus their energies on a consistent basis to the regular assignments and not seek special projects or work to rescue them. Each student should review pertinent Seminary policies which will be followed in this class by going to the following link:

http://seminary.erskine.edu/content_policies/SeminaryPoliciesforETSStudents.pdf

Please check my office door (#22) for my J-term schedule. If you need to speak with me about the class I urge students to make an appointment. Contact me by email or by office phone.

Criteria for Grading Book Critiques and Research Paper:

- Adherence to the instructions
- A clearly stated thesis
- Analysis of the thesis and content
- Judicious use of book reviews and comments
- Use of journal articles in the research paper
- Depth, insight and originality of comments
- Proper use of English language

The Seminary Grading Scale will be used (ETS 2011-12, *Catalog*, p. 99)

Letter Grade	Numerical Grade	GPA
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 Outline: Lectures and Assignments

JANUARY 4

- Distribution of the syllabus. Introductions, explanations, etc.
- Lecture- “An Overview of the English Reformation”
- Lecture- “The State of the Church in Pre-Ref. England
- Lecture- “The Henrician Reformation
- Lecture- “Edward VI as King Josiah”

Reading: Dickens, Chaps. 2, 4-8

JANUARY 11

Quiz # 1

- Lecture- “The Marian Reaction”
- Lecture- “The Marian Exiles”
- Lecture- “The Elizabethan Settlement”
- Reading: Dickens, Chaps, 9-14
- Reading: Bremer, Chap. 1-2

JANUARY 18

Quiz # 2

Lecture- "The Historiography of the Eng. Reformation

Lecture- "Historiography, Part Two"

Lecture- "Defining Puritanism

Lecture- "The Theological Distinctions of Puritanism"

Reading: Bremer, *Puritanism: A Very Short Intro.* Chaps. 3-4

Turn in your FIRST book critique

JANUARY 25

Quiz # 3

Lecture- "Puritan Worship"

Lecture- "American Puritanism"

Lecture- "The Making of the King James Version of the Bible"

Turn in your SECOND book critique

FINAL EXAMINATION BEGINS @ 2:30 pm

End of course student evaluation