



**ERSKINE**  
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

*For Christ and His Church*

## **CH 502**

### **Spring Semester 2012 – Due West Campus Course Syllabus – Reformation and Modern Church History Dale Walden Johnson, Ph.D.**

Class meets: Tuesday, 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. Students should complete CH 501 Early and Medieval Church History prior to taking this course. Required for M.Div. and M.A.T.S. students. *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)**

### **Three Required Texts:**

Michael Reeves, *The Unquenchable Flame: Discovering the Heart of the Reformation*, Nashville: B & H Publishing, 2009. ISBN 978-143366931-6

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

### **Required Readings and Resources:**

Students are expected to secure their own copies of all required textbooks. As a convenience, the seminary has a bookstore portal of the website: <http://www.erskineseminary.org/bookstore.html> There you will find links to familiar vendors (CBD, Amazon, B&N, Book-A-Million) and can check availability of texts, compare prices, and place orders. The ETS Student Body Association 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 textbook and orders for books can be placed through the Campus Bookstore.

### **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

Roger E. Olson, *The Story of Christian Theology: Twenty Centuries of Tradition and Reform*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 1999. ISBN 978-0-8308-1505-0  
(Recommended reading chapters 24-35, pp. 369-609.)

**Note:** The professor will distribute additional handouts and other reading assignments. The student may also expect occasional reading on reserve in the 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. At the Due West campus I will be available before class and after class (briefly, before Chapel).

**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 serious business. We expect students to give their best attention and efforts to the demands of graduate education. Students wishing to take a course which meets four times 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 absence without penalty.

**Seminary Policies:** -Click this link and read carefully as a part of this syllabus contract: [http://seminary.erskine.edu/content\\_policies/SeminaryPoliciesforETSStudents.pdf](http://seminary.erskine.edu/content_policies/SeminaryPoliciesforETSStudents.pdf)

**Policy Regarding Absences for Classes that meet 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 work missed and all 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 (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	C+	84-85	2.3	D-	70-71	0.7
A-	93-94	3.7	C	80-83	2.0	F	0-69	0.0
B+	91-92	3.3	C-	78-79	1.7			
B	88-90	3.0	D+	76-77	1.3			
B-	86-87	2.7	D	72-75	1.0			

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**Course Outline: Lectures and Reading Schedule****NOTE: First class begins Tuesday, January 31, 2012****Month of February:** Distribution of syllabus, course overview, etc.Lecture **Topics** for February 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 February** (Complete by end of Feb.)**Reeves, Prologue chapters 1-2; McGrath, pp. 1-82****Writing Assignment:** Select first book for book critique**Study Assignment:** Review notes**Month of March: Lecture Topics for March:**

“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, March 13****MID-TERM, Essay Exam, March 20****Reading Assignment for the month of March:**

Reeves, chapters, 3-4; McGrath, pp. 83-150

Kyle &amp; Johnson, chapters 1-4

**Writing Assignment :** Book Critique due, March 13**Study Assignment:** Review notes, Exam March 20

**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 31-April 8)****Reading Assignment complete by the end of April:**

Reeves, chapters 5-7; McGrath, pp. 173-386

Kyle & Johnson, chapters 5-9

**Writing Assignment:** Your second book critique is due April, 17

**Study Assignment:** Form a study group, prepare for Final Exam,  
(Tell me who is in your study group)

**Month of May: Lecture Topics for May:**

“Fundamentalism and Evangelicalism”

**FINAL EXAM, MONDAY – May 7**

**(NOTE: Final Exam is MONDAY, not Tuesday)**

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

McGrath, Finish reading the book

**Course Evaluations by students**

**SENIOR DAY – Monday, April 30, in Due West. BBQ and Softball Game**

**FINALS WEEK – May 7-10**

**COMMENCEMENT, 4 PM, SATURDAY, MAY 12, Due West ARP Church**