

CH 745
ERSKINE THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
The Scottish Reformation
Dale Walden Johnson, Ph. D.
Spring, 2010

Class Meets: Thursdays, 6-9 PM, Thursday Evening, Greenville ARP Church

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Office Hours: My office hours will be posted on my door. It is best to contact me personally, by phone or by e-mail.

Course Description:

Students examine such key individuals such as John Knox, Queen Mary, Andrew Melville, James VI, Alexander Henderson, and Samuel Rutherford in order to assess the Reformation era in Scotland. The story and documents of the development of Scottish Presbyterianism, from the Scots Confession up to the Standards of the Westminster Assembly in England, provide students with resources for leadership in the Church today.

Course Purpose:

The purpose of this class is to build on the knowledge and skills introduced in the required introductory courses in Church History. The seminar format involves lectures delivered by the professor, but perhaps more importantly, will focus on student research guided by the professor. We will cover both a narrative of the key events as well as important historiographical issues. The course is not limited to, but is of particular importance to students in the Presbyterian and Reformed tradition. The capstone of the course is a summative paper that addresses an important interpretive issue in the Scottish Reformation, or Scottish Church History.

Course Objectives:

The mission of Erskine Theological Seminary is to educate persons for ministry in the Christian Church. We thus encourage students to value the theological and historical resources of the Church including creeds, and theological treatises of Church leaders. It is the instructor's goal that by the end of the course each student will be able to demonstrate the following skills:

1. Identification of the causes of the Scottish Reformation
2. Ability to explain the relationships between the Renaissance and Reformation
3. State leadership principles as demonstrated in the life of John Knox
4. Identify and explain the distinctive content of the Scots Confession of Faith
5. Synthetic skills of research in a summative research paper
6. Identification of historiographical issues in the discipline

For Christ and His Church

Course Methods:

The purpose and objectives of this class are achieved through lectures and class discussion, a summative paper and student presentations

1 oral presentation based on a journal article

1 research paper (10-12 pages of text, including footnotes/endnotes and full bibliography; Required minimum length for Th.M. students, 20 pages of text)

On the first day of class the professor will give details and requirements of the information stated above. Progress on the research paper is “required” each week of class. Please read the due dates below as they relate to the research paper.

Required Texts:

Richard G. Kyle and Dale W. Johnson, *John Knox: An Introduction to His Life and Works*. Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock Publishers, 2009 ISBN 13: 978-1606080900

James McGoldrick, *Luther's Scottish Connection*. Farleigh Dickinson University Press, 1989; reprint ed., Solid Ground Christian Books, 2008.
ISBN 13: 978-1599251363

Jane Dawson, *Scotland Reformed: 1488-1587*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2007. ISBN 13: 978-0748614554 (Be sure to purchase the paperback ed. - \$40.00)

Margo Todd, *The Culture of Protestantism in Early Modern Scotland*. Yale U P, 2002. ISBN 13: 978-0300092349

NOTE: Students taking this class for Th.M. credit must also read the following:

Alister McGrath, *Reformation Thought: An Introduction*. Blackwell Publishers, Oxford, and Baker Book House Co., 1988, 1995. Third edition, Wiley-Blackwell, 2001.
ISBN 13: 978- 0631215219

W. Ian P. Hazlett, *The Reformation In Britain and Ireland: An Introduction*. New York: T & T Clark International, 2003. ISBN 13: 978-0567082800

Note: The professor will distribute numerous handouts throughout the course. The student may also expect occasional reading assignments on reserve in the library.

Course Requirements:

Attendance at each class is vital to the success of each student. One absence is allowed if it is of an extraordinary nature. Each student is expected to complete the reading assignments and be prepared to offer informed comments in any class discussion. Students should focus their efforts on producing a high caliber research paper.

Criteria for Grading Research Papers:

Adherence to instructions, use of both primary/secondary sources

Use of journal articles

Clear thesis statement/historiographical/interpretive issue

Strong defense of the thesis

Convincing solution or resolution of the issues
Depth, analysis, and use of sources
Proper use of English language

Grading Scale:

See pages 46-47 of the current seminary catalog

Notice Regarding Drop/Add::

Each student must note the following information. Class registration is a BINDING CONTRACT. Should you decide to drop this class, you must complete the DROP/ADD form with the appropriate signatures and submit it to the registrars office. Failure to properly withdraw from the class will result in a grade of “F” for the course and full tuition charges will apply. NO EXCEPTIONS WILL BE MADE TO THIS POLICY.

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 language 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 (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.”

Thus, the seminary encourages all students to make use of language, in reference to human beings, that is inclusive rather than needlessly exclusive. It is the mark of a good communicator to build bridges rather than barriers; therefore, such language should be used in all written work and oral presentations. The seminary catalog stands as an example of recommended language.

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.

Plagiarism:

Plagiarism is the use in writing of wording or ideas produced by others without crediting the author and/or source from which the material was taken. Plagiarism is a serious offense that undermines both the witness and integrity of the Christian community. See pp. 44-5 of the current catalog for a fuller treatment of this issue including the specific consequences for violation and the grievance procedures.

ANY STUDENT GUILTY OF PLAGIARISM OR CHEATING IS IN VIOLATION OF SEMINARY POLICY AND IS LIABLE FOR DISMISSAL.

All written work must conform to the Turabian Manual of Style.

A grade of incomplete is rare and must conform to policy statements in the catalog. A student does not have the option of simply "taking" and incomplete when they fail to complete the requirements of the class. It is granted to a student who has completed most of the work and because of illness or some other extenuating circumstances is providentially hindered from completing the course on time. 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

Course Outline: Lecture and Reading Schedule

MONTH #1

Month of February: Distribution of the syllabus, introductions, explanations, etc.

Lecture- "The English Reformation and its Relationship to Scotland"
(with reference to current literature)

Lecture- "An Overview of the Scottish Reformation"
Part One: Historiography of the Reformation
(with reference to current literature)

Lecture- Part Two: Contributing Factors to the Scottish Reform.

Discussion of book: *Luther's Scottish Confession*

Reading Assignment for February:

By the end of February: finish McGoldrick book
Jane Dawson, chapters 1-2
Kyle & Johnson, chapters 1-2
Margo Todd, *Introduction*

Writing Assignment; come to class on Feb. 25 with:

- A. Preliminary research topic
- B. Preliminary thesis statement
- C. Preliminary research design
- D. (Very) preliminary bibliography

Select, read and prepare a relevant journal article for an Oral presentation

MONTH #2

Month of March:

Lecture- (as needed) “Contributing Factors to the Scot. Reform.”
Slide show of Scotland: St. Andrews, Edinburgh and Stirling

Lecture- “The Life and Work of John Knox”

Lecture- “The Prophetic Self-Image of John Knox”
Handout: “Will the Real John Knox Please Stand Up?”

Lecture- “John Knox, the Marian Exile and the Geneva Bible”

Lecture- “The Calvinist Contribution to the Scottish Reformation”
(cf. James Kirk, *Patterns*)

Oral Presentations of signif. articles concerning the Scot. Reform.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Reading Assignment for the end of March:

Jane Dawson, chapters 3-6

Kyle & Johnson, chapters 3-5

Todd, chap. 1-3

Writing Assignment:

- A. Submit revised research topic
- B. Revised thesis statement
- C. Revised/updated research design
- D. Revised/updated bibliography

Prepare to give a brief oral presentation of your topic

MONTH #3

Month of April:

Lecture- “Significant Writings of John Knox”

Handout: -Chronology of Writings

-Bibliography, Primary Sources

-Chronological Development of Knox’s Writings on

-Predestination

Oral presentation of signif. articles concerning the Scot. Reform.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Lecture- "Examination of Reformation Documents"

-*Scots Confession*

-*First & Second Book of Discipline*

Lecture- "Andrew Melville and Scottish Presbyterianism"

NOTE: SPRING BREAK - HOLY WEEK, March 27 – April 4

Begin Oral presentations of **RESEARCH PAPERS** April 15th:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

April 25th:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Reading Assignment for the end of semester:

Jane Dawson, chapters 7-9

Kyle & Johnson, chapters 7-9

Todd, Chap. 4-6

MONTH #4

Month of May:

Lecture: "Presbytery and Episcopacy: The Post Reformation Era"
(time permitting)

Oral Presentations of **RESEARCH PAPERS:** (as needed) May 6

- 1.
- 2.

May 13 (as needed)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Discussion of the Margo Todd book

NOTE! NOTE! NOTE! Last day to Submit Research Papers by May 13th

Course evaluation completed by students

IMPORTANT DATES/EVENTS FOR SPRING SEMESTER

Spring Missions Emphasis Week: February 9 - 11, Dr. Frank Van Dalen

Special Lecture- "*How Christians Gain a hearing in a Hollywood Culture*"
March 18, 2010 Bowie Chapel, Erskine Theological Seminary
Dr. Phil and Kathleen Cooke, Co-Founders, Cooke Pictures, Burbank, CA

Annual Spring Conference Whitesides Pastors' Institute, Dr. Walter Kaiser
Robinson Lectures, Dr. Esther Meek,
April 21-22, 2010, Bowie Chapel, 10:00 – 3:30