



ERSKINE
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

For Christ and His Church

CH 502 Reformation and Modern Church History
Course Syllabus
Spring Semester 2011 – Due West Campus
Professor: Dale Walden Johnson, Ph.D.

Class meets: Tuesday, 1:00-4:00 PM
e-mail: djohnson@erskine.edu
Office Phone: (864) 379-6662
Seminary Fax: 379-3171

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. 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.

Three Required Texts:

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.

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, OR: 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

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.

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.

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.

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.

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 the 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 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 catalog, pp. 85-86:**

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 (I 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 you find on the net. (See pp. 82-83 in the catalog.)

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.

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 requirements.

Incompletes:

The grade of “I” or incomplete is given at the discretion of the professor. A grade of “I” is normally given when a student has substantially completed the requirements for a course but has been prevented by extraordinary circumstances from completing the remainder of the course requirements. A student who wishes to request an incomplete should normally complete an incomplete form prior to the end of the semester and ask the professor to grant the request. (Under unusual circumstances, the student may communicate with the professor by phone or email rather than in person, and the professor may then agree to fill out the form at the student's request. Under exceptional circumstances, the professor may initiate the process by filling out the form on the student's behalf.) If the professor grants the request, he/she will sign the incomplete form and turn it in with his/her final grade report. An “I” in any course must be removed by March 1 for the Fall Term, April 1 for the January Term, August 1 for the Spring Term, and November 1 for the Summer Term. Only the Dean may grant extensions of incompletes beyond the established completion date. Otherwise, these grades automatically become “F.”

Drop/Add and Course Withdrawal: Once a student has completed, signed, and submitted his/her registration to the Registrar for this class, it is a binding contract, and billing will be based on this registration. If the student decides not to take this class, he/she must complete a “drop/add” form and secure the appropriate signatures prior to the drop/add deadline during the second week of the semester or term. If one wishes to withdraw from the course after the drop/add deadline, one must complete a withdrawal form, and tuition will be refunded on a pro rated basis. Failure to withdraw from the class properly will result in the student’s 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 class, beginning Feb. 1st:

“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”

**Erskine Missions Emphasis Week, Chapel, February 9 - 11
at 11:00 AM, led by Dr. Frank Van Dalen,
Executive Director of World Witness**

Reading Assignment for February (Complete by end of Feb.)
Bainton, chapters 1-5; 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 8

Mid-Term, Essay Exam, March 22

Reading Assignment for March:

Bainton, chapters, 6-9; McGrath, 83-150

Kyle & Johnson, chapters 1-4

Writing Assignment : Book Critique due, March 8

Study Assignment: Review notes, Exam, March 22

Month of April: **Lecture Topics for April:**

“The English Reformation”

“Post-Ref. Scholasticism and Enlightenment Thought”

Christian Commitment and Excellence in Learning

“Pietism and Puritanism”
 “The Awakenings and Revival”

Spring Break – Holy Week, (No classes April 16-24)

Whitesides Pastor’s Institute and Robinson Lectures
Spring Bible Conference, April 13-14, 10:00 AM – 3:30 PM, Bowie Chapel
Dr. Craig Blomberg and Dr. Robert Smith

Reading Assignment complete by the end of April:

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

Kyle & Johnson, chapters 5-9

Writing Assignment: Your second book critique is due April 19

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

Month of May: Lecture Topics for May:

“Fundamentalism and Evangelicalism”

FINAL EXAM, MONDAY – May 9

Reading Assignment for May:

McGrath, Finish reading the book

Course Evaluations

IMPORTANT DATES FOR SPRING SEMESTER:

Senior Day festivities on Due West campus, May 2

Final Exams on campus: Week of May 9 – 12

Senior Grades due in Registrar’s Office: May 13

Commencement in Due West – Saturday, 4:00 PM

May 14th, Due West, Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church