

CH 502CO
ERSKINE THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
Spring Semester 2008 – First Presbyterian Church, Columbia
Course Syllabus – Reformation and Modern Church History
Dale Walden Johnson, Ph.D.

Class meets: Saturday- 9-5, Feb. 9; March 1; March 29 and April 26
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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.

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 3 grades of equal weight: **2, one page book critiques**, and two essay exams.

Christian Commitment and Excellence in Learning

TEXTBOOKS. Required and recommended textbooks may be ordered from the Erskine Theological Seminary Virtual Bookstore at www.ecampus.com/erskin from January 4, 2008.

Required Texts:

Roland H. Bainton, *The Reformation of the Sixteenth Century*. Boston: Beacon Press, 1952. (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.

Recommended Reading:

George Marsden, *Understanding Fundamentalism and Evangelicalism*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1990.

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).

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.

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, p. 35:

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

Inclusive Language and Policy statements:

The seminary encourages all students to make use of language, in reference to persons, 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. Common sense should also prevail in what is often a divisive topic. Neither the instructor nor the institution will bend the knee to political correctness, nor allow the language police to dictate classroom vocabulary. Fairness,

equity and judicious use of language are the order of the day in the classroom. The seminary catalog stands as an example of recommended language.

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.

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:

Students should review the Seminary policy on “Incompletes” in the Seminary catalog. A grade of “I” (incomplete) is rare and must conform to policy statements in the catalog and student handbook. Students do not have the option of “taking” an incomplete. Under certain circumstances, instructors will suggest or initiate a grade of incomplete. It can be given as a final grade only when the student (1) has completed most of his/her course work and (2) has been providentially hindered from doing the rest of the course work. Note that there is a processing fee associated with “Incompletes,” and that “Incompletes” must be completed by the stated deadline or they automatically become an “F.” Only the Dean may approve extensions of deadlines for “Incompletes.”

Notice regarding withdrawal and drop/add:

“I understand that once I have completed, signed and submitted my registration to the Registrar for this class, it is a **BINDING CONTRACT**, and my billing will be based on this registration. I further understand if I decide not to take this class, a “drop/add” form must be completed, including securing the appropriate signatures. Failure to properly withdraw from the class will result in 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

Saturday, Feb. 9 Distribution of syllabus, course overview, etc.

Topics for February class:

“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 12-14
at 11:00 AM**

**Erskine Lecture Series- Holy Spirit in Pauline Theology
Dr. Gordon Fee Feb. 21, 11:00 & 1:00**

Reading Assignment for February

Bainton, chapters 1-5; McGrath, TBA

Writing Assignment: Select book for book critique

Study Assignment: Review notes

Saturday, March 1

Topics for the March 1 class:

“Luther,” (continued)

“The ‘Reformed’ Branch: Zwingli and Swiss Reform.”

“Calvin’s Early Years and Calvin’s Geneva”

“The Anabaptist and the ‘Radical’ Reformation

Annual Sermon on the Resurrection, Wed. March 26

Dr. Marvin A. McMickle, Bowie Chapel, 11:00 & 1:00

Reading Assignment for March:

Bainton, chapters, 6-9; McGrath, TBA

Writing Assignment :

Study Assignment: Review notes,

SPRING BREAK – HOLY WEEK

(No classes, March 17-21)

Saturday, March 29: Topics for the March 29 class

ESSAY EXAM – MID-TERM

“The English Reformation”

“Post-Ref. Scholasticism and Enlightenment Thought”

“Pietism and Puritanism”

**Whitesides Pastors' Institute and the Robinson Lectures
Spring Bible Conference, April 16-17, 10:00 A.M. – 3:30 P.M.**

Reading Assignment:

Bainton, chapters 10-13; McGrath, TBA

Writing Assignment: Your second book critique is due April 26

Study Assignment: Review for **Final Examination, April 26**

Saturday, April 26

Topics April 26:

“The Awakenings and Revivalism”

“Fundamentalism and Evangelicalism”

FINAL EXAM- Begins at 2:00

Turn in your second book critique

Reading Assignment for April:

McGrath, Finish reading the book

Course Evaluations, final “housekeeping details”

IMPORTANT DATES FOR SPRING SEMESTER:

Senior Day festivities on Due West campus, May 9

Final Exams on campus: Week of May 14 – 16

Senior Grades due in Registrar's Office: May 16

Commencement in Due West – Sunday, 4:00 PM

May 18th, Due West, Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church