

**CH 740 LUTHER AND THE GERMAN REFORMATION
ERSKINE THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**

Elective: Three Hours

Fall 2009

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Note: In Wittenberg, Germany at the Evangelisches Predigerseminar the course number will be Independent Study, DN 991 for D.Min students and CH 740 for M.Div. and Th.M. students

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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

“This course examines the Reformation led by Martin Luther from the perspective of its theological, social, political and ecclesiastical roots. Students will also study those people and groups within Luther’s circle (including Melancthon, Karlstadt, Zwingli and the Anabaptists) who shaped or condemned his vision for reformation.”

COURSE PURPOSE:

This elective course in Church History is offered to allow students to go beyond the introduction they receive in CH 502 regarding Luther. Because Luther played a variety of roles as priest/pastor, scholar, reformer, author and leader, it is essential that students have a structured context to examine his ideas.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

The mission of Erskine Theological Seminary is to educate persons for service in the Christian Church. This class will allow students to see Luther in various settings within the context of the church. It will assist students to prepare for a ministry of teaching or preaching that is Biblically based and theologically informed. It will contribute to their knowledge base of the Protestant Reformation and principles of the Reformation.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

NOTE: Students are required to secure their own copies of required texts. As a convenience, Erskine Theological Seminary has a bookstore portal on the website at <http://www.erskineseminary.org/bookstore.html>. There you will find links to familiar vendors and can check availability, compare prices, and place orders. The Erskine Campus Bookstore will carry a limited number of each required text, and you may place orders through the Campus Bookstore.

John Dillenberger, *Martin Luther: Selections From His Writings*. Anchor Books.
ISBN 13: 9780385098762

Christian Commitment and Excellence in Learning

Robert Kolb and Charles A. Arand, *The Genius of Luther's Theology*. Baker Books, 2008. ISBN 978-0-8010-3180-9

Heiko Oberman, *Luther: Man Between God and the Devil*. 2nd ed., Trilateral. ISBN 13: 9780300103137

NOTE: Students taking this course for **Th.M. credit must ALSO** purchase the following two books and write brief critiques, due in December.

Th.M.

Martin Luther, *Commentary on Galatians*. Grand Rapids: Kregel Books. ISBN 0825430836

James M. Bradley and Richard Muller, *Church History: An Introduction to Research, Reference Works, and Methods*. Wm. B. Eerdmans, 1995. ISBN 13: 9780802808264

RECOMMENDED TEXTS:

James Atkinson, *Martin Luther Prophet to the Catholic Church*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, reprint of Paternoster Press, Exeter, 1983. ISBN 0-8028-1260-0

Roland Bainton, *Here I Stand*. Abingdon Press, reissued, 1990. ISBN 10: 06787168953

Dale Brown, *Understanding Pietism*. Evangelical Pub. House, revised ed., 1996. ISBN 10: 0916035646

C. Scott Dixon. *The Reformation in Germany*. Oxford: Blackwell, 2002. ISBN 0-631-20253-6

Bruce Gordon, *The Swiss Reformation*. Manchester: Manchester UP, 2002. ISBN 0-7190-5118-5

Hartman Grisar, *Martin Luther, His Life and Work*. Westminster, Maryland: The Newman Press, 1930. A fair, but dated Roman Catholic biography of Luther.

Eric W. Gritsch, *A History of Lutheranism*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2002. ISBN 0-8006-3472-1

Robert Kolb and Charles P. Arand, *The Genius of Luther's Theology*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2008. ISBN 9780801031809

Eric Lund, ed., *Documents From the History of Lutheranism, 1517-1750*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2002. ISBN 0-8006-3440-3

Martin Luther, *Three Treatises*. Augsburg Fortress Press, various editions. ISBN 10: 0800616391

James E. McGoldrick, *Luther's English Connection*, Milwaukee: Northwestern Publishing House, 1979. ISBN 0-8100-0070-9

_____. *Luther's Scottish Connection*. Rutherford, New Jersey: Farleigh Dickinson University Press, 1989. ISBN 0-8386-3357-9

Donald K. McKim, ed., *The Cambridge Companion to Martin Luther*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003. ISBN 0-521-81648-3

Karin Maag, ed., *Melanchthon in Europe: His Work and Influence Beyond Wittenberg*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1999. ISBN 0-8010-2223-1

Richard Marius, *Martin Luther: The Christian Between God and Death*. Cambridge, Massachusetts: The Belknap Press, 1999. ISBN 0-674-00387-X

E. Gordon Rupp and Philip S. Watson, eds., *Luther and Erasmus: Free Will and Salvation*. Philadelphia: The Westminster Press, 1969. ISBN 0-664-24158-1

E.G. Schwiebert, *Luther and His Times*. St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1950. This is considered a standard work on Luther.

Paul R. Waibel, *Martin Luther: A Brief Introduction*. Harland Davidson, 2005. ISBN 0-8829-52-315

COURSE METHODS AND REQUIREMENTS:

The purpose and objectives of the course are achieved through three learning components:

1. Each student (except **Th.M. students**) will take two written exams.
2. Each student will write an original paper, based on one or more of the primary source writings of Martin Luther. The paper is due one week before final exams. The length will depend on the specific degree program (12-20 pages of text). I have a separate sheet for **Th.M. students** identifying the requirements for the paper. Details TBA. Worth 60% of total grade.
3. Each student will give an oral presentation of their paper. **Th.M. students** will be given about an hour of class time to present their findings and research.

ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS:

Please arrive on time and don't leave early. Perfect, or nearly perfect attendance is the expectation of this class. In general, students are allowed up to three hours of unexcused absence without penalty. A student who misses more than three class sessions for any reason will automatically fail the course.

GRADING POLICIES:

See the current catalog for the grading scale, pp.42-43

Criteria for grading papers/projects:

- Grasp of basic information
- Completion of assignment according to the instructions
- Proper use of English
- Use of primary sources
- Depth and creativity of argument
- Conformity to the latest edition (6th) of Turabian, *Manual of Style*

KEY POLICIES:

Plagiarism

It is my belief that most students whom plagiarize do so out of ignorance not out of malicious intent. It is therefore important to understand the requirements and expectations of citing your sources throughout the paper. You should paraphrase in your own words the content you wish to use, and cite your source using (1) an in text citation; (2) a footnote; or (3) at the end of the paper. Become familiar with these methods of documenting your sources. Any direct quotation (rare in short papers) require indentation if the direct quote is five lines or longer. See page 41 of the current catalog for a fuller

treatment of this issue including the specific consequences for violation and grievance procedures.

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

Grade of Incomplete

A grade of incomplete (I) will be handled in accordance with policy statements in the catalog. A grade of incomplete is rare. It is **not** the prerogative of the student to “take” and incomplete. Granting this grade is at the discretion of the professor, and only under circumstances which warrant it. Students cannot “take” an incomplete simply because they could not finish the requirements on time. A substantial portion of the course must be completed before a professor could consider this option. Note that there is a processing fee associated with “Incompletes.” The remaining work must be completed by the stated deadline or the grade automatically becomes an “F.” Only the Dean may approve extensions of deadlines for Incompletes.

Drop/Add

Please note the following memo from the Registrar’s office: “I understand that once I have completed, signed and submitted my registration to the Registrar’s office for this class, it is a BINDING CONTRACT. 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 with the appropriate signatures. Failure to properly withdraw from this class will result in receiving a grade of “F” for the course, and full tuition charges apply. **No exceptions will be made to this policy.**”

Notice regarding Office Hours:

My office hours are posted on my door each semester. However, due to meetings, and unforeseen circumstances that may arise, my schedule may change. If you need to see me, I strongly recommend that you call or e-mail me to schedule an appointment at 379-6662. If you are off campus call my office or home or contact me through e-mail. All those contact numbers are posted on the first page of this syllabus.

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”).

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 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.

COURSE OUTLINE

Beginning Sept. 3: Distribute syllabus. Introductions, etc.

Topics for month of **SEPTEMBER:**

Lecture- “Introduction to the Reformation”

Lecture- “Overview of Luther and Lutheran Theology”

Lecture- “Historiography of Luther and Lutheranism

Lecture Topics: Luther’s Debates and Trials
Life in Wittenberg

Reading Assignment for September:

Kolb & Arand, pp. 9- 128

Oberman, pp. 3-110

Dillenberger, Essay- “Two Kinds of Righteousness” pp. 86-96

Luther’s : *The Freedom of a Christian*, also called: *A Treatise on Christian Liberty*, Dillenberger, pp. 42-85.

We will discuss this treatise on Sept. 24th

Writing Assignment:

Bring to class notes and observations from your reading
By Sept. 25 bring to class, proposed research paper topic, outline,
and preliminary bibliography

Topics for **OCTOBER:**

- Luther, Zwingli and the Marburg Colloquy
- Education, Universities and Reformation
- Philip Melancthon and Luther's circle
- Erasmus and the Debate over Free Will
- Luther and the Anabaptists

Reading Assignment due October 8:

Read Luther's, *Babylonian Captivity of the Church*, also called: *The Pagan Servitude of the Church*, Dillenberger, pp. 249-359, Discuss October 8

Read: Kolb and Arand, pp. 129-159

Read: Oberman, pp. 113-206

Writing Assignment:

Bring your written questions from your reading
Submit any revised research topics, outlines and preliminary bibliography

Study/Review Assignment:

Exam #1. October 16

Topics for **NOVEMBER:**

Lecture- "Luther, Zwingli and the Marburg Colloquy, 1529"

Lecture- "Luther's Spirituality: Parts I and II"

Lecture- "Lutheran Confessions"

Lectures-"Understanding Pietism"

" Arndt, Spener, Francke and Zinzendorf"

Begin student oral presentations

Fall Break/Thanksgiving – No Classes, Nov. 23-27

Reading Assignment due by the end of November:

Kolb and Arand, pp. 161-223

Oberman, pp. 209-330

Topics for **DECEMBER:**

Continue student oral presentations, and **Th.M. presentations**

FINAL EXAMINATIONS

Reading Assignment:

Complete all reading assignments

Miscellaneous, housekeeping, wrap-up

Course evaluations