



ERSKINE | For Christ and His Church
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

CH 791 INDEPENDENT STUDY
Reformation and Modern Church History
Reformation Heritage Study Tour
In conjunction with the Evangelisches Predigerseminar
Lutherstadt Wittenberg, Germany, 6-27 July, 2011, (includes Dresden
and Prague)
or 11-27, July 2011, begin in Wittenberg
Dale Walden Johnson
Professor of Church History

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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

“This survey course covers the historical, spiritual, and institutional development of Western Christianity from the Renaissance to 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. *Elective: 3 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. In this particular class we live and study in Wittenberg, Germany the historic university town of Martin Luther. We live in the Luther complex, have access to the Luther museum and the Melancthon House. We also reside in close proximity to the city church (Stadtkirche) and the castle church (Schlosskirche). Additionally, we travel to historic sites and cities related to the Protestant Reformation. Beyond the historical narrative, emphasis is also placed on important historiographical issues of the Reformation and Modern era.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

The mission of the 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, Anglican and Anabaptist
4. demonstrate skills of historical and theological analysis

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS:

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.

Bainton, Roland, *The Reformation of the Sixteenth Century*. Boston: Beacon Press. 1952., revised in 1985. ISBN 13: 0807013014

OR:

Reeves, Michael, *The Unquenchable Flame: Discovering the Heart of the Reformation*. Nashville, TN: B & H Academic Publishing, 2009.

Brown, Dale W., *Understanding Pietism*, revised. ed., Nappanee, Indiana: Evangel Publishing House, 1996. ISBN 0-916035-64-6

Kyle, Richard and Dale W. Johnson, *John Knox: An Introduction to His Life and Works*, Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock Publishers, 2009. ISBN 13: 987-1606080900

NOTE: There are two additional required texts for Th.M. students:

McGrath, Alister. *Reformation Thought an Introduction*. Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell, 3rd. ed. 2001.

Bradley, James M. and Richard Muller, *Church History: An Introduction to Research, Reference Works, and Methods*. Grand Rapids: W.B. Eerdmans, 1995.

RECOMMENDED READING:

Bagchi, David and David Steinmetz, ed., *The Cambridge Companion to Reformation Theology*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2004

George, Timothy. *Theology of the Reformers*. B & H Academic reprint, 1999.

Holder, R. Ward. *Crisis and Renewal: The Era of the Reformations*. Louisville: Westminster/John Knox Press, 2009.

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

COURSE METHODS AND REQUIRMENTS:

The purpose and objectives of the course are achieved through three learning components: **NOTE: This does not apply to auditors, but those taking the class for academic credit through Erskine Theological Seminary.**

1. Each student will complete an oral exam
2. Each student will complete an essay exam at the end of the course
3. Each student will research and write a paper (12-15 pages of text), due 6 weeks after students return from Germany. The topic will be based on a collaborative discussion between professor and student.

NOTE: Th.M. students will also complete a paper (20-25 pages of text). The bulk of this Th.M. paper will be based on primary sources. Each student must receive approval of the topic from the professor.

The research papers are written according to the Turabian, *Manual of Style*. Each paper must use 12 point type, one inch margins, typed, double-spaced with full citation of sources and bibliography. The cover page and the bibliography are not counted toward page requirements.

COURSE / LECTURE OUTLINE / READING ASSIGNMENTS and Travel Schedule

WEEK ONE: July 7-10

Distribution of syllabus, course overview, introductions
Lecture topics for week one- "Introduction to the Study of History"
"Forerunners of the Reformation" – J. Wyclif and John Hus

NOTE: Lectures will begin in Prague.

Reading assignment: By July 11 please read the first 5 chapters in Bainton.

**Travel: We spend July 7 & 8 in Dresden, and July 9 & 10 in Prague.
We will leave Prague by train Monday morning and arrive in
Wittenberg late afternoon or evening.**

WEEK TWO: July 12-16

Lecture topics for week two: "Reforming the Renaissance"
"Erasmus, Prince of Humanists"
- "M. Luther and the 3 Principles of Protestantism"
(Parts 1 and 2)
"The 'Reformed' Branch – Zwingli & Zurich"

NOTE: We will meet again on Wednesday evening for lectures.

Travel: On Friday afternoon, July 15, we will travel to Torgau. On Saturday, July 16 we will travel by train to Eisenach for a breathtaking visit to the Wartburg Castle where Luther hid for nearly a year after the Diet of Worms (Spring 1521). I will return to Wittenberg on Saturday. Some class members may wish to stay and continue their own tour of Erfurt and the surrounding Weimar region.

Reading assignment: By July 19 please finish Bainton and the first 5 chapters of Kyle and Johnson, *John Knox*.

WEEK THREE: July 18-23

Lecture topics for week three-
 “Calvin’s Early Years & Calvin’s Geneva”
 “Anabaptists and the ‘Radical Reform’”
 “The English and Scottish Reformation”
 “Post-Ref. Scholasticism & Enlightenment Thought”
 “Pietism and Puritanism”
 “The Awakenings and Revival”

NOTE: We will meet again on Wednesday evening for lectures.

Travel: The lectures on Pietism will provide a good background for our Saturday travel to Halle, July 23 to tour the Francke orphanage, and the music museum and home of Handel.

Reading assignment: By July 23, finish the Knox book and try to read the Pietism book by Dale Brown before our Saturday trip (July 23) to Halle.

WEEK FOUR: July 24-27

Lecture topics for this short week: This is a “catch-up” week on lectures
 The Written Final is Tuesday afternoon

Travel: Wednesday morning we will leave Wittenberg by train and leave Berlin Tegel, for our flight home.

NOTE: Each Saturday evening there is an English Speaking Worship Service at 6:00 alternating between the Castle Church and City Church. This service is sponsored by the (mainline) ELCA and the (Evangelical) Missouri Synod Lutheran Church in America. I make every effort to attend these worship services when we are in Wittenberg.

We have chapel every weekday 8:45-9:05. We hope to organize two worship services on Sunday's in the Chapel of our residence hall, the Augustium.

Seminary Policies Link for Students:

http://seminary.erskine.edu/content_policies/SeminaryPoliciesforETSSStudents.pdf