

HT 804: Seminar in the Reformation (The Scottish Reformation)
ERSKINE THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Dale Walden Johnson, Ph. D.

Spring, 2009

Due West

Class Meets: Thursdays, 8:00-11:00 a.m.

e-mail> djohnson@erskine.edu

Office phone: (864) 379-6662

Home phone: 260-9504

Seminary fax # 379-3171

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:

In a seminar format, students investigate one or more theological and/or historical issues from the Reformation era (AD 15-17-1648). The seminar requires the reading of both primary and secondary sources. Each year this course is structured around a given branch of the Reformation or movement within the Reformation, in this case, the Scottish Reformation), with students examining historiographical features culminating in oral presentations and written papers.

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 service 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. Ability to list both the successes and failures of the Scottish Reformation
7. Identification of historiographical issues in the discipline

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 (15-20 pages of text, including footnotes/endnotes and full bibliography)

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: (Note: Required textbooks may be ordered from the Erskine Theological Seminary Online Bookstore at <http://www.ecampus.com/erskine>.)

Andrew Lang, *John Knox and the Reformation*, 1905, republished by Kessinger Publishing, 2007.

James McGoldrick, *Luther's Scottish Connection*. Farleigh Dickinson University Press, 1989; reprint ed., Solid Ground Christian Books, 2008.

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

Margo Todd, *The Culture of Protestantism in Early Modern Scotland*. Yale U P, 2002.

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 page 42 of the current seminary catalog

Drop/Add/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.**

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.”

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.

Style and Bibliographical Formatting Requirements

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). The paper’s cover page and bibliography are not counted towards page requirements.

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 p. 41 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.

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)

NOTE : Thursday, February 26, we will attend the Psalm Singing Conference from 10:00-12:00 in Bowie Chapel

Lecture- Part Two: Contributing Factors to the Scottish Reformation

Reading Assignment for March:

By the end of February: finish McGoldrick book
McGrath, Chap. 1-3
Lang, Chap. 1-5

Writing Assignment; come to class on Feb. 26 with:

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

MONTH #2

Month of March:

Lecture- (as needed) “Contributing Factors to the Scottish Reformation.”
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. Ref.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.

Reading Assignment for the end of March:

McGrath, Chap. 4-6
Lang, Chap. 6-10
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

Lecture- "Examination of Reformation Documents"

-*Scots Confession*

-*First & Second Book of Discipline*

Lecture- "Success and Failure of the Scottish Reformation"

Lecture- "Andrew Melville and Scottish Presbyterianism"

NOTE: SPRING BREAK - HOLY WEEK, April 4 – 12

Begin Oral presentations of research papers April 17th:

- 1.
- 2.

April 24th:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Reading Assignment for the end of semester:

Lang, Chap. 11-15

McGrath, Chap. 7-9

Todd, Chap. 4-6

MONTH #4

Month of May:

Lecture: "Presbytery and Episcopacy: The Post Reformation Era"

Oral Presentations: (as needed) May 11

- 1.
- 2.

May 14:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

NOTE! NOTE! NOTE! Last day to Submit Research Papers by May 14th

Course evaluation completed by students

IMPORTANT DATES/EVENTS FOR SPRING SEMESTER

The Bible and Archeology February 12, Dr. Craig Evans, Bowie Chapel

Spring Missions Emphasis Week February 17-19, Dr. Frank Van Dalen

A Symposium On Congregational Psalm Singing February 26 - 27

Sermon on the Resurrection April 15, Dr. Craig Barnes

Annual Spring Conference Whitesides Pastors' Institute, Dr. David Dockery
Robinson Lectures, Dr. Darrell Guder, April 22-23