



**ERSKINE**  
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

*For Christ and His Church*

## **HT 804 LUTHER AND THE GERMAN REFORMATION**

### **Th.M. Seminar**

**Thursdays 8-11, Due West Campus**

**Spring 2011**

**Dale Walden Johnson, Ph.D.**

e-mail: [djohnson@erskine.edu](mailto:djohnson@erskine.edu)

Office Phone: 864-379-6662

Seminary Fax: 379-3171

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 668, Due West SC 29639

#### **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.”

*Required for Th.M. students majoring in Historical Theology. Elective for other Th.M. students. D.Min. students may take this course as a norms or contexts elective. Offered alternate years. Three hours.*

#### **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:**

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.

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

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

Paul R. Waibel, *Martin Luther: A Brief Introduction to His Life and Works*. Wheeling, IL: Harlan Davidson, Inc. 2005. ISBN 13:978-0882952314

Timothy Wingert, ed., *The Pastoral Luther: Essays on Martin Luther's Practical Theology*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 2009. ISBN 13: 978-0802863515

James M. Bradley and Richard Muller, *Church History: An Introduction to Research, Reference Works, and Methods*. Wm. B. Eerdmans, 1995. ISBN 13: 978-0802808264

**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

James M. Kittleson, *Luther the Reformer*. Fortress Press, 2003. ISBN 13: 978-0800635978

Robert Kolb, *Martin Luther: Confessor of the Faith*. Oxford UP, 2009 ISBN 13: 978-0199208944

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.

### **COURSE METHODS AND REQUIREMENTS:**

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

1. 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 will distribute a separate sheet identifying the requirements for the paper. Details TBA. Worth 50% of total grade.  
Following the correct process/format of the paper, due dates, etc., is worth 20%. Each student will critique and assess another student paper. This is worth 10%.
2. 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.
3. Each student will write a 3 page book critique of the texts, Kolb and Wingert. Each critique is worth 10% of your final grade. (i.e- 2 critiques).

### **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.85-87.

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 (6<sup>th</sup>) 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) requires indentation if the direct quote is five lines or longer. See page 82-84 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**

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.

**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 Feb. 3: Distribute syllabus. Introductions, etc.

Topics for month of **FEBRUARY:**

### **Library and research instruction/databases, etc**

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 February:**

Kolb & Arand, pp. 9- 128

Waibel, chapter 1 & 2

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. **DISCUSS, Feb. 24**

Read: Wingert, pages TBA

### **Writing Assignment:**

Bring to class notes and observations from your reading

By Feb. 24 bring to class, proposed research paper topic, outline, and preliminary bibliography

Topics for **MARCH:**

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

### **Reading Assignment due March 10:**

Read Luther's, *Babylonian Captivity of the Church*, also called: *The Pagan Servitude of the Church*, Dillenberger, pp. 249-359, Discuss March 10

Read: Kolb and Arand, pp. 129-159

Read: Waible, chap 3-5

Read: Wingert, TBA

**Writing Assignment:**

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

Topics for **APRIL:**

Lecture- "Luther's Spirituality.

Lecture- "Lutheran Confessions

Lectures-"Understanding Pietism:

Arndt, Spener, Francke and Zinzendorf" (time permitting)

Begin student ORAL PRESENTATIONS

**Spring Break/Holy Week – No Classes, April 16-24****Reading Assignment due by the end of April"**

Kolb and Arand, pp. 161-223

Waibel, chapter 6 and appendix

Wingert, TBA

Topics for **MAY:**

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

Final papers are due by Thursday of Final Exam Week

**Reading Assignment:**

Complete all reading and writing assignments

Miscellaneous, housekeeping, wrap-up

Course evaluations