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THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

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DN 967 CO The Legacy of John Calvin

Summer 2010

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Class Meeting Times and Location

Saturdays, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

June 5 and 19, July 17, August 7

Erskine Theological Seminary Columbia Campus

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OFFICE HOURS

During Summer: By appointment only.

My office is located at the Erskine Theological Seminary Columbia Campus, 1500 Lady Street, Suite 200, Room 205. Enter by the side door off the driveway from Lady Street and go to the second floor. In the summer semester my schedule varies greatly from week to week. If you need to see me, I strongly recommend that you schedule an appointment. You are welcome to call me at home when necessary. Please make your calls between 9:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. Because Columbia is not convenient for some students, I will do my best to be available. We can meet before or after class or during lunch. I have a flat rate long distance telephone service, so I shall be happy to bear the cost of long distance telephone meetings if that is more convenient for you.

CATALOG DESCRIPTION

John Calvin's work in Geneva beginning in 1536 and ending with his death in 1564 has become exemplary for "the best Reformed churches." This course examines the life and theology of John Calvin as a resource for pastoral ministry today. Students read and discuss Calvin with special attention to his thought about the Church and its ministry. *Elective. Three hours.*

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The mission of Erskine Theological Seminary is to educate persons for service in the Christian Church. The Doctor of Ministry program, which builds upon the work done in the student's Master of Divinity program or its equivalent, is designed to further the leadership competencies required for Christian ministry in contemporary society. This course examines John Calvin's work and impact as a pastor and theologian of pastoral ministry. Students will be challenged to reflect on their own ministry in the light of Scripture, while interacting with Calvin's writings and legacy.

1. To help students reflect theologically upon their practice of ministry and understanding of Scripture and theology.
2. To become a better minister in the service of God.
3. To engage in theological dialogue at an advanced level with peers and professor.
4. To refresh and cultivate the skills of careful reading, analytical thinking, and clear writing.
5. To be renewed in one's sense of calling to serve God in ministry.
6. To achieve greater knowledge and understanding of one of the church's most influential theologians.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

1. John Calvin, *Writings on Pastoral Piety*. Edited and with translations by Elsie Anne McKee. Paulist Press, 2001. ISBN-10: 0809140462, ISBN-13: 978-0809140466
2. W. Robert Godfrey, *John Calvin: Pilgrim and Pastor*. Crossway Books, 2009. ISBN-10: 1433501325, ISBN-13: 978-1433501326
3. David W. Hall, *A Heart Promptly Offered: The Revolutionary Leadership of John Calvin*. Cumberland House Publishing, annotated edition, 2006. ISBN-10: 1581825056, ISBN-13: 978-1581825053
4. Steven J. Lawson, *The Expository Genius of John Calvin*. Reformation Trust Publishing, 2007. ISBN-10: 1567690858, ISBN-13: 978-1567690859
5. Victor Shepherd, *A Ministry Dearer Than Life: The Pastoral Legacy of John Calvin*. Clements Publishing, 2009. ISBN-10: 1894667956, ISBN-13: 978-1894667951

NOTE ON SECURING BOOKS: *Students are expected to secure their own copies of all required textbooks. As a convenience, the seminary has a bookstore portal on 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.*

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. **Attendance** – Preparation, attendance, and participation in class sessions are required. Students must arrive on time for class and following breaks. You are expected to remain at each session until it concludes. A student who misses more than one full day of class or the equivalent in late arrival or early departure (*i.e.*, more than 7 hours) will normally be asked to withdraw from the course or receive a failing grade. Exceptions to this policy will be made only in extreme cases. **Attendance at the first day of class is mandatory; no exceptions can be made to this policy.**
2. **Three book response papers** – Three book responses are to be prepared of about 5 pages each. These will be presented in class with the first one due at the first class session. These papers will eventually become part of the final paper.
 - a. Review and response to Godfrey’s book on the life of John Calvin – This 5 page paper will focus on Calvin’s life and examine how it might be instructive for pastors today. This paper is due at the first class session, June 5. It will be worth 10% of the final grade.
 - b. Review and response to the books by Lawson and Shepherd – This 5 page paper will cover both Calvin’s work as an expositor of Scripture and as a pastor. This paper will be due at the second class session, June 19. It will be worth 10% of the final grade.
 - c. Review and response to Hall’s book on the legacy of John Calvin – This 5 page paper will focus on the influence John Calvin has had on the church since his time. Lessons for the church today and ministry in the church should be identified. This paper is due at the third class session, July 17. It will be worth 20% of the final grade.
3. **A reading log** – In addition to the assigned reading, the student should complete a log of additional research and reading done in both primary (writings of Calvin) and secondary (writings by others about Calvin) sources. This will include the selections from Calvin’s writings found in Elsie McKee’s collection, *Writings on Pastoral Piety*. Besides McKee, 800 pages of additional reading should be accomplished with at least 300 more pages in Calvin. Readings in Calvin should include sections of the Institutes (parts of Book IV), his sermons and commentaries (especially on the Pastoral Epistles), and his other writings. This assignment is due at the last class session, August 7. It will be worth 30% of the final grade
4. **One final paper** - The course culminates in a final paper of 20 to 25 pages presenting lessons on ministry today derived from the life and legacy of John Calvin. This paper may incorporate the previous papers written. It should demonstrate critical reflection on one’s ministry in the light of Scripture and the reading which has been completed, both the assigned reading and the reading from the other resources you have located in your research and recorded in your reading log. The paper should conform to the seminary standards. Appropriate footnotes and bibliography must be included. Scripture should be cited inline rather than in footnotes. This paper will be worth 30-70% of your final grade. No one will receive a grade lower than what is achieved on the final paper, so poor performance on the

earlier papers can be overcome by a good performance on the final paper. The reading log will count for 30% in all situations. Don't cut corners on the research and reading.

IMPORTANT: Before writing a paper, each student should consult the seminary's approved papers ETS Style and Form Standards for Papers, Theses, and Dissertations (<http://www.erskine.edu/library/libinstructionfetcher.htm?igor=229>) and ETS Writing Theological Papers (<http://www.erskine.edu/library/libinstructionfetcher.htm?igor=230>) by Dr. Fairbairn. They can be located online at the home page for McCain Library of Erskine College and Seminary, under Library Research Guides.

GRADING AND EVALUATION

The grading scale published in the seminary catalog will be used to arrive at your final grade. The assignments will be given letter grades. For letter grades, the scale is:

A	4.0	B+	3.3	B-	2.7	C-	1.7
A-	3.7	B	3.0	C	2.0	F	0.0

SCHEDULE OF ASSIGNMENTS

The dates given below are when the assignments are due!

June 5	Response paper on Godfrey is due
June 19	Response paper on Lawson and Shepherd is due
July 17	Response paper on Hall is due
August 7	Reading log is due
August 14	Final paper is due (send hard copy or email)

ERSKINE SEMINARY POLICIES FOR INCLUSION IN COURSE SYLLABI

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 Semester, April 1 for the January Term, August 1 for the Spring Semester, 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 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 (1 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").

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, Times New Roman, Palatino Linotype, or a comparable font, double spaced, one-inch margins) and fully documented, following the standards in Turabian's *A Manual for Writers*, 7th edition. These standards are summarized in the Erskine Seminary document “Style and Form Standards.” In this course, footnotes and a bibliography are required in each paper. 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. As the following statement indicates, plagiarism is a serious offense that undermines both the witness and integrity of the Christian

community:

Plagiarism injures the community by inhibiting the recognition and cultivation of gifts imparted by the Spirit. Clearly unattributed use of the words and/or ideas of others fails to give appreciative recognition of their gifts. But this illegitimate appropriation of the gifts of others also blocks the recognition and cultivation of the actual gifts of the person engaged in plagiarism.

Plagiarism creates an atmosphere of falsehood in the community's discernment and cultivation of gifts, both within the Christian community and in God's larger creation. Since freedom comes only by way of truth (Jn. 8:32), such falsehood can only result in captivity, and therefore has no place in the Christian community.

On this basis, the Seminary adheres to the following general requirements for the acknowledgement of sources of academic work. These requirements apply to both print and electronic media.

1. Quotations. Any sentence or phrase that a student uses from another source must be placed in quotation marks or, in the case of longer quotations, clearly indented beyond the regular margin. Any quotation must be accompanied (either within the text or in a note) by a precise indication of the source.

2. Paraphrasing. Any material that is paraphrased or summarized must also be specifically acknowledged in a note or in the text.

3. Ideas. Specific ideas that are borrowed should be acknowledged in a note or in the text, even if the idea has been further elaborated by the student.

4. Bibliography. All the sources consulted in the preparation of an essay or report should be listed in a bibliography.

In addition to plagiarism, the following related practices are also unacceptable compromises of the truth requisite to a free community:

1. Multiple submission. Failure to obtain prior written permission of the relevant instructors to submit work which has been submitted in identical or similar form in fulfillment of any other academic requirement at any institution.

2. False citation. The deliberate attribution to, or citation of, a source from which the material in question was not, in fact, obtained.

3. Submission of work done by someone else, either with or without that person's knowledge. Neither ignorance of the regulations concerning academic violations nor personal extenuating circumstances are an adequate defense against charges of plagiarism. The Seminary's provisions for "due process" apply in cases of alleged plagiarism.

[The italicized statement above is used by permission of The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia and Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey, based upon a document adapted by LTSP, with permission, from "Princeton University Rights, Rules and Responsibilities," 1990 Edition. Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey.]

Occurrences of plagiarism shall be considered 'documented' when the instructor is able to produce documentary evidence that plagiarism has occurred, and when the instructor has reason to believe that the plagiarism was motivated by a deliberate attempt to receive credit for ideas or work not the student's own. Where such plagiarism involves the theft of the academic work of another student, whether at Erskine or any other institution, it shall be designated 'documented

theft of another student's work.'

The instructor involved, in consultation with the Dean, may recommend measures deemed appropriate. In cases of documented plagiarism or documented theft of another student's work, the offending student will automatically receive the following penalties:

- Failure of the course(s) in which plagiarized or stolen work is submitted
- Dismissal from the Seminary for a minimum of one semester
- Forfeiture of the right to tuition refunds during the semester(s) affected

Before such penalties are imposed, a committee of at least three faculty members must agree that they are appropriate to the case. Appeals in such cases may only be addressed, in writing, to the President of Erskine College and Theological Seminary.

Office Hours

My normal office hours are printed in this syllabus. 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 to schedule an appointment.

Official Seminary Class Attendance Policy

Class participation is considered an important part of the total educational experience at Erskine Seminary. Students are expected to attend classes on a regular basis and are responsible for the mastery of all materials required in the course. Each professor will indicate in writing the specific class attendance policy at the beginning of each course. In general, students are allowed up to three hours of unexcused absence without penalty. Students wishing to take a course which meets four times over the semester **must** attend the first meeting of the course.

Policy Regarding Absences

Students are required to attend all class sessions. Students wishing to take a course which meets four times over the semester must attend the first meeting of the course. Students who cannot attend the first course meeting should not register for the course or, if already registered, should drop the course and complete the drop/add form. (If the drop/add form is not completed and turned in to the Registrar, the student will still be charged for the course and will receive an "F" grade.) If students have to be absent for part or all of another class meeting day, they are still responsible for all work missed and all work due. A student who misses as much as one full class day or its equivalent in late arrival or early departure should consult with the professor to see whether it is still possible to pass the course.