Lutheranism in North America
Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary—Charlotte
Spring 2015

Instructor: Dr. Mary B. Havens

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Schedule of Class Meetings: January 26- April 27, Monday, 9:00 am-11:45 am.

Office Hours: Monday afternoons and by appointment

Catalog Course Description: A survey of the theological movement of Lutheranism as it took shape in the North American context. Primary focus will be on major Lutheran personalities, organizational alliances and mergers, theological formulations, doctrinal controversies, liturgies and spiritualties.

Relation to Curriculum: This is an elective course that can satisfy the requirement for a CT elective in the M.Div. and M.A.C.T. programs. This course is a required course for the concentration in Lutheran studies program. It has no formal prerequisites.

Course Objectives: This course is designed to offer foundational exposure to the developments in the institution, doctrine, and piety of the Lutheran Church in the context of North America and engage students in reflection upon that history. In keeping with Gordon-Conwell’s mission statement and the stated learning outcomes that grow out of each article, I intend that upon completing this course, students will:

1. Understand the way in which key Lutheran theologians and teachers were shaped by God’s Word in Holy Scripture and how their influence shaped the establishment of the Lutheran tradition in North America. (Article 1)

2. Understand the importance of the historical and cultural context for the development, articulation and institutional-manifestation of Lutheran theology in North America from the colonial period to the contemporary church. (Articles 2, 6)

3. Acquire knowledge of the breadth, depth, and variety of expressions of Lutheranism in North America and how these were reflected in theological statements, practice of ministry and spirituality. (Article 3)

4. Gain experience in appreciation, critique and application of various expressions of Lutheranism in North America. (article 1)
5. Critique, refine, and augment their own understanding of the history and development of Lutheranism as an “American denomination” and its significance for the theology and mission of the church today, in particular within the Lutheran church, but also in the broader framework of the Christian church in all its expressions. (Articles 3, 5, 6).

Course Requirements: Achievement of the course objectives will be measured through a variety of assignments. The successful completion of these assignments will require each student to spend at least 140 hours devoted to coursework, both in class and outside of class. The following chart indicates how these hours are distributed across the various course assignments. More specific descriptions of the assignments are given later in this syllabus.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Assignment</th>
<th>Expected Time Commitment</th>
<th>Student’s Actual Time</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading the documents for class discussions</td>
<td>50 hours</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class lecture/discussion</td>
<td>30 hours</td>
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<tr>
<td>Presentation of major Lutheran Personality/Issue</td>
<td>10 hours</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exams</td>
<td>30 hours</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Project/Paper</td>
<td>20 hours</td>
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Required Textbooks and Materials:

Arand, Charles. Testing the Boundaries: Windows to Lutheran Identity
Lischer, Richard. Open Secrets: a Memoir of Faith and Discovery
Muhlenberg, Heinrich. Diary of a Colonial Clergyman
Nelson, Clifford E. (ed.) Lutherans in North America
Rolvaag, Ole. Giants in the Earth: A Saga of the Prairie
Schmucker, Simon S. Definite Synodical Platform
(http://palni.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/ref/collection/copebooks/id/845)
Walther, C.F.W. The Proper Distinction of Law and Gospel
(http://lutherantheology.com/uploads works/walther/LG/)

Course Assignments:

1. **Reading (10 points, approximately 50 hours):** You must complete the assigned readings according to the schedule at the end of this syllabus. Before coming to class, you must have read the material and be prepared to engage in dialogue about the reading.

2. **Presentation of an Assigned Personality (20 points, approximately 10 hours):** Each student has been given a name of a person important in the history of Lutheranism in North America. Each student will present a 30 minute presentation in which they 1) provide basic biographical information 2) provide overview of this person’s theological stance 3) provide insight
into the individuals contribution to Lutheranism, and 4) stimulate class discussion on the enduring import of this individual to the contemporary church.

3. Final Written Exam (20 points, approximately 15 hours)

4. Final Oral Exam (20 points, approximately 15 hours)

5. Final Paper (30 points, approximately 25 hours): Each student will prepare a 5 week course on “Lutheranism in North America” for an adult class. This class will include all outlines, lectures, hand-outs, PowerPoints, activities that will be used to actually teach the class.

Grading Scale: The point values listed above mean that the total number of points available for the course is 100. Final letter grades will be applied with cutoffs as follows: A 95, A- 90, B+ 87, B 83, B- 80, C+ 77, C 73, C- 70, D+ 67, D 63, D- 60, F below 60. A grade of A+ will be given very rarely, when the student’s work is truly exceptional. (At Gordon-Conwell, a grade of A+ and a grade of A are both counted the same way in calculating the student’s GPA. Thus, a GPA above 4.0 is not possible.)

Late work: All late work will be penalized the equivalent of one letter grade per week beyond the due date, unless arrangements are made ahead of time. Extenuating circumstances will be considered as appropriate. Work turned in later than May 27 (one month after the last class meeting) will normally require that an extension be approved by the Seminary. If you anticipate a problem, contact me as soon as possible.

Attendance Policy: Class attendance and participation are a central part of this course. Students who must miss a class period should notify me in advance to justify their absence. If a student has more than one unexcused absence from class, he/she will receive a penalty of three points per additional unexcused absence on his/her final grade.

Document Formatting and Citation Style Requirements: All written assignments should be submitted as MS-Word or PDF files. (If you use a word processor other than MS-Word, convert the file to a PDF before submitting it.) Assignments should be double spaced with 1” margins on all sides of each page, and should be printed in Times New Roman 12 point type or another font of similar size and appearance. Citations should preferably follow Turabian style, although APA style is also acceptable. Assignments must be submitted electronically by posting on the Sakai site. Hard-copies will not be accepted.

Syllabus Addendum: For other Seminary policies, refer to the attached Syllabus Addendum.

Class Schedule and Assignment Due Dates:

1/26 Overview of Course and Historical Background
To be read before class meeting:
Rolvaag, *Giants in the Earth* (begin reading)

2/2  **The Church’s Infancy, 1650-1790**  
To be read before class meeting:  
Chapter 1 in Nelson, pages 3-80  
Finish, Rolvaag, *Giants in the Earth*

2/9  **Heinrich Melchior Muhlenberg**  
To be read before class meeting:  
Muhlenberg, *Notebook of a Colonial Clergyman*

2/16  **The Early National Period, 1790-1840**  
To be read before class meeting  
Chapter 2 in Nelson, pages 81-146

2/23  **Following the Frontier, 1840-1875**  
To be read before class meeting  
Chapter 3 in Nelson, pages 147-254  
Schmucker, *Definite Platform*  
(https://palni.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/ref/collection/copebooks/id/845)

3/2  **Coming of Age, 1875-1900**  
To be read before class meeting:  
Chapter 4 in Nelson, pages 255-358  
Walther, *Law and Gospel*  
(https://lutherantheology.com/uploads/works/walther/LG/)

3/9  **Facing the Twentieth Century, 1900-1930**  
To be read before class meeting:  
Chapter 5 in Nelson, pages 358-452

3/16  **The New Shape of Lutheranism, 1930-1980**  
To be read before class meeting:  
Chapter 6 in Nelson, pages 453-542

3/23  **Formation/Deformation/Reformation, 1988-2014**
To be read before class meeting:
Arand, *Testing the Boundaries*

3/30: No Class

4/6: Review and Conclusions
To be read before class meeting:
Lisher, *Open Secrets*

4/13: In-class written exam; Continuing Reflections

4/20: Final Oral Exam/Meetings about Final Paper

4/27: Final Oral Exam/Meetings about Final Paper

5/16: Final paper due

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**Syllabus Addendum**

**Academic Standards:**
Cheating and plagiarism are considered serious breaches of personal and academic integrity. Cheating involves, but is not necessarily limited to, the use of unauthorized sources of information during an examination or the submission of the same (or substantially same) work for credit in two or more courses without the knowledge and consent of the instructors. Plagiarism involves the use of another person’s distinctive ideas or words, whether published or unpublished, and representing them as one’s own instead of giving proper credit to the source. Plagiarism can also involve over dependence on other source material for the scope and substance of one’s writing. Such breaches in academic standards often result in a failing grade as well as other corrective measures. For more information, please consult the Student Handbook.

**ADA Policy:**
The seminary complies with the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act. A student with a qualifying and authenticated disability who is in need of accommodations, should petition the seminary in accordance with the stated guidelines in the Student Handbook.

**Cancellation of Class:**
In the event the seminary has to cancel a class meeting (impending storm, professor illness, etc.), the Registration Office will send out an email (via the GCTS email account) notification to all students registered in the respective course. If the cancellation occurs the day of the scheduled
meeting, the Registration Office will also attempt to contact students via their primary phone contact on record. The professor will contact the students (via GCTS account) regarding make-up. If a weekend class is cancelled, the class will be made up during the scheduled Make-Up weekend (see the academic calendar for the designated dates). For more info, consult your Student Handbook.

Extension Policy:
Arrangements for submission of late work at a date on or before the “last day to submit written work”, as noted on the seminary’s Academic Calendar, are made between the student and professor. Formal petition to the Registration Office is not required at this time. This includes arrangements for the rescheduling of final exams.

However, course work (reading and written) to be submitted after the publicized calendar due date, must be approved by the Registration Office. An extension form, available online, must be submitted to the Registration Office prior to the “last day to submit written work.” Requests received after this date will either be denied or incur additional penalty. For a full discussion of this policy, please consult the Student Handbook.

Grades:
Grades are posted on line within twenty-four hours of receipt from the professor. Students are expected to check their CAMS student portal in order to access posted grades. Those individuals who need an official grade report issued to a third party, should put their request in writing to the Registration Office. Faculty have six weeks from the course work due date to submit a final grade.

Returned Work:
Submitted course work will be returned to the student provided s/he provides a self addressed and postage paid envelope with his/her final work. Work submitted without the appropriate envelope will be destroyed once the grade has been assessed and issued.