CH 645 Martin Luther and the Reformation
Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary—Charlotte
Fall 2013

Instructor: Dr. Mary B. Havens

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Schedule of Class Meetings: Tuesdays, 9:00 am-12:00 pm, September 3-November 19

Office Hours: Tuesdays, 12:00 pm-4:00 pm; Wednesday 8:00-9:15 am; upon request

Catalog Course Description: An introduction to the life, theology, ministry, and spirituality of Martin Luther. After a study of Luther’s life and ministry, primary focus will be upon the thematic reading, discussion, and evaluation of selected writings of Luther. Students are encouraged not only to develop an historical appreciation for Luther’s theology, but also to consider the ways in which his thought is of enduring import for faithful ministry in the church today.

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. It has no formal prerequisites.

Course Objectives: This course is designed to offer foundational exposure to the life and theology of Martin Luther. Through focused reading, discussion and critique of his writings, students will be afforded the opportunity to reflect upon both Luther’s historical significance, as a 16th century reformer of the church, and upon the enduring import of Luther for the Christian church today. 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 Martin Luther understood God’s Word in Holy Scripture to be catalyst for church reform and transformation. (Article 1)
2. Understand the importance of the historical and cultural context for Luther’s theology and for the application of Luther’s theology to the contemporary church. (Articles 2, 6).
3. Acquire knowledge of the breadth and depth of Luther’s theology, practice of ministry, and spirituality. (Article 3)
4. Gain experience in evaluating and applying Luther’s theology. (Article 1)
5. Critique, refine, and augment their own understanding of the Lutheran Reformation 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 135 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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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading the documents for class discussions</td>
<td>65 hours</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Class lecture/discussion</td>
<td>30 hours</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reformation sermon and newsletter article</td>
<td>15 hours</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class Presentation</td>
<td>5 hours</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Paper</td>
<td>20 hours</td>
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Required Textbooks and Materials:


—. "Formula of the Mass." http://www.holycrossdakotadunes.org/resources.html.


—. "Sermon on the Magnificat." http://www.holycrossdakotadunes.org/resources.html.

Course Assignments:

1. **Reading (20 points, approximately 65 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. The total amount of required reading is 2000 pages (1400 pages of assigned reading and 600 pages of additional research for final paper.)

2. **Reformation Sermon and Newsletter Article (20 points for the sermon, 10 points for the Newsletter article, approximately 10 hours):** You must write a sermon based upon class lectures, discussions and readings about the Lutheran Reformation of the 16th century. The lectionary texts for Reformation Sunday are always the same (Jeremiah 31:31-34, Psalm 46, Romans 3:19-28, John 8:31-36) and need to inform your sermon. You will hand in a full manuscript of the sermon. In addition, you will write a newsletter article about the church’s Reformation Celebration. The article should be no more than 800 words long. You may include public domain graphics if you wish.

3. **Class Presentation (10 points, approximately 5 hours):** You will be assigned to assume leadership of a class discussion on a specific writing of Luther. It is your responsibility to come prepared with focused questions and/or activities to facilitate discussion on that day.

4. **Final Paper (40 points, approximately 20 hours):** You will write a final paper of 15-20 pages on a topic relative to the course. This is a research paper which demands additional reading and research beyond our class assignments. Possible paper topics might be: Luther’s Pastoral Care; The Development of Luther’s Eucharistic Theology; Luther and the Anabaptists; Luther’s Easter Sermons; etc. The topic needs to be selected by the assigned date in consultation with the professor.

   A. **Selection of topic:** You are free to select research and present whatever topic you wish to explore, provided that the topic deals with some aspect of Luther’s life, theology and ministry. The topic needs to be selected by Tuesday, November 12 after prior consultation with the professor. The paper should be primarily historical-theological in nature, but it should conclude with reflection upon important lessons that we can learn from your chosen topic for Christian life and ministry today.
B. The task of research: You should consult the document “Writing Theological Papers” available on the Sakai site in order to understand the professor’s expectations regarding research papers. If you need additional help on your paper, you may want to consult personnel at the Charlotte writing center. Remember, however, that an important part of writing a research paper is the sometimes difficult task of locating and selecting the sources you want to use. This will probably involve several hours of hard work in an archive or library.

C. Completed papers should be typed and in correct form (as indicated below), footnoted where appropriate, with a bibliography of all sources used for the study. If you have not had much experience in writing research papers, you should consult Kate L. Turabian, A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations, 8th edition (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2013).

D. Grading the papers: Your research paper will be evaluated on the basis of four primary criteria:

1) The depth of the research in both primary and secondary materials (10 points)
2) The quality of the analysis/argument you present, including the way you draw lessons for our own time from your chosen topic (20 points)
3) The organization and clarity of your writing (5 points)
4) The mechanical correctness and elegance of your writing (5 points)

Attention to these matters will not only help you on this paper assignment but it will also aid you in developing the analytical and communication skills you need for the ministry to which God has called you.

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 Tuesday December 17 (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. (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:**

9/3  Overview of Course and Reformation Period

9/10 Luther’s Biography I  
**To be read before class meeting:**  
Parts 1-3 in Kittelson, 2003, pp. 1-194

9/17 Luther’s Biography II  
**To be read before class meeting:**  
“Disputation against Scholastic Theology” “The Ninety-five Theses,”  
“Heidelberg Disputation,” “Letter to George Spalatin,” “Letter to Hans Luther,”  
in (Lull and Russell, 2012, pp. 3-25, 491-494.)

9/24 Luther’s “Blueprint for Reform”  
**To be read before class meeting**  
“On Good Works,” “To the Christian Nobility of the German Nation.” (Internet sites)

10/1 Luther on Scripture  
**To be read before class meeting**  
“Concerning the Letter and the Spirit,” “A Brief Instruction on What to Look for and Expect in the Gospels,” “Preface to the Epistle of St. Paul to the Romans,”  
10/7 Luther on the Gospel
To be read before class meeting:

10/15 No class meeting (CMD Fall Convocation)
Assignment: Work on Reformation Sermon and Newsletter Article

10/22 Luther on Sacraments
To be read before class meeting:
“A Discussion of Confession,” (Vol. 1. Internet site)
“A Treatise on the Ban,” (Vol. 2. Internet site)
Review “The Babylonian Captivity of the Church,” (Internet site)

10/29 Luther on Ministry
To be read before class meeting:
“Sermon on the Magnificat,” (Vol. 3. Internet site)
“Latin Mass” (Vol. 6. Internet site)
“The German Mass,” (Vol. 6. Internet site)
Review: “To the Christian Nobility of the German Nation.” (Internet site)

DUE by class time: Reformation Sermon and Newsletter Article

10/31 Reformation Lectures at GCTS and Worship at Christ Lutheran Church, Charlotte

11/5 Luther on Ethics
To be read before class meeting:
“A Sermon on the Estate of Marriage,” “A Sermon on Preparing to Die,” “Temporal Authority: To What Extent It Should be Obeyed,” “To the Councilmen of all cities in Germany That Theft Establish and Maintain Christian
Schools,” “Whether One May Flee From a Deadly Plague.” (Lull and Russell, pp. 387-490.)
“Whether Soldier too can be Saved,” (Vol. 5 Internet site)
“An Ordinance of a Common Chest,” (Vol. 4, Internet site)
Review: “On the Freedom of a Christian” (Internet site)

Assignment: Topic for paper due

11/12 Luther and the Jews
To be read before class meeting:
“On the Jews and their Lies,” (Internet site)

11/19 Luther and the Reformation: An Evaluation

12/17 Final paper is due

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 cancelation 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.