Introduction:
“The Reformation is Luther and Luther is the Reformation,” so says, James Atkinson. If that is the case, or even somewhat near to the truth, then a study of Martin Luther and his work as biblical expositor, preacher, confessor of the faith, polemicist and author of children’s catechisms is well worth the effort. This course is designed to give the student opportunity to explore through lecture and readings in primary texts, the fundamental concerns of Luther, the pioneer of the Reformation.

Course Objectives:
The course is organized around three basic goals:
1) To acquaint students with the basic “shape” and issues of Luther’s theology through class presentations and lecture.
2) To enable students to assess and “wrestle” with a selection of Luther’s most important writings through the reading of primary texts.
3) To allow students the opportunity to integrate their thinking on these subjects through supervised class discussion.

Course Requirements:
There are four requirements in the course:
1) Students are responsible for daily readings and are expected to attend lectures and participate through question and discussion.
2) Each student will write a 3 - 4 page response paper responding to Luther’s *Freedom of a Christian* (Lull 385ff.), *Personal Prayer Book, 1522* (LW 43: 3 – 45), or *A Simple Way to Pray* (LW 43: 187 – 211). Due: Oct. 17th
3) Each student will write a 3 - 4 page interaction paper on Luther’s Galatians commentary or the Robert Kolb piece. Due: Nov. 21st
4) Each student will write a term paper of 15 pages on a topic approved by the professor. Due: Last Day of written work.

Reading Response:
The reading response must be a response to the text, rather than merely a summary or explication of the text. Students should seek to analyze the text as a whole, reflecting especially on key themes, arguments, issues, criticisms, and/or points that are of particular personal interest. The following examples of general critical questions may help guide your engagement with the text and the formulation of your response:

- What stands out to me? (Reflecting on interest)
- What surprises me? (Reflecting on distance)
- What puzzles me? (Reflecting on learning opportunities)
• What connections do I make? (Reflecting on integration)
• What implications are there? (Reflecting on application)

Grading Guidelines:

Your final grade for the course will be computed on the following basis:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grading Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Response Paper</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interaction Paper</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term Paper</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grading Scale:

“A” means conspicuous excellence; “B” means exceeding the minimum; “C” means satisfactory work; “D” means passing but unsatisfactory; and “F” means course has been failed.

Class Textbooks:


Schedule of Classes: (subject to change*)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Class Topic</th>
<th>Textbook(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 12</td>
<td>Syllabus distributed. About Reading Luther Luther’s entire theology in one hour.</td>
<td>Kittelson, 1-100. Kolb 1-41.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 26</td>
<td>His Life and Times. Kittelson, 101-300; 95 Theses, Lull, 33-46. Luther’s Theology of the Cross. Lull, 47-74.</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Reading Week Oct. 10 - 14 (be reading LW 26: 1-185)
Luther and proper theology: *Oratio, Meditatio, Tentatio*. Luther at Prayer: Praying the Lord’s Prayer, Praying the Psalms, Praying the Ten Commandments, Praying the Catechism, Prayer and the Spirit. Luther the Catechist: The Small Catechism, Preaching and Confessing the Faith. Lull, 12-17; 281-384.


Luther’s View of Justification: The righteousness of faith and the righteousness of the law, the conscience as the battleground of faith. Christ Present in Faith: the ontological assertions of Luther as Reformer. Lull, 133-46; LW 26: 1-185.


**Reading Week Nov. 7 - 11 (Be reading LW 26: 276 - 401)**


Dec. 5 Faith active in love: Christian Living on the Foundation of God’s Calling and Command. Kolb 172-199

12 Luther for Evangelicals. A discussion of how Luther challenges present day Evangelicalism and how his theology might energize the Church once again.

**A Short Selected Bibliography: (Useful in researching your paper topic)**


Articles


Possett, Franz. “‘Deification’ in the German Spirituality of the Late Middle Ages and in Luther: An Ecumenical Historical Perspective.” *Archiv For Reformation History*, 83/84 (1992-3): 103-25.


Tranvik, Mark D. “Luther on Baptism.” *Lutheran Quarterly* 13 (Spring 1999): 75-90.


**Internet Resources:**

[www.iclnet.org](http://www.iclnet.org)  Project Wittenberg is home to works by and about Martin Luther and other Lutherans

[www.wittenberg.de](http://www.wittenberg.de)  Lutherstadt Wittenberg with a virtual tour of the city, Castle church, museum, and brief biographies of Reformation characters.

[www.luthersem.edu/library/homerbr.htm](http://www.luthersem.edu/library/homerbr.htm)  The Homepage for the Lutheran Brotherhood Foundation Reformation Library. Other links will connect you to libraries, etc…

[www.st-and.ac.uk](http://www.st-and.ac.uk)  The Reformation Studies Institute Homepage at St. Andrews University, Scotland.

John Huss and Martin Luther . . . . barred from heaven?