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 three 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 5 – 6 page response paper describing and 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: March 5th
3) Each student will write a term paper of 15 pages on a topic approved by the professor. Due: Last Day of written work.

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

  Response Paper: 40%
  Term Paper: 60%
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*)


Feb. 5 His Life and Times. Kittelson, 101-300; 95 Theses, Lull, 33-46. Luther’s Theology of the Cross. Lull, 47-74.


Reading Week Feb. 15-19

26 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.

March 5 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.

12 God Hidden and Revealed: deus absconditus (the hidden God) and


Reading Week March 22-26

April 5 Meditation on the text. Luther’s Approach to Scripture. Luther’s View of Death. Lull, 418-28; 479-91.


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A Short Selected Bibliography:


**Articles**

Apel, Dean. “Luther as Missiologist to the Jews.” *Dialog*, 35 (1996):


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 Project Wittenberg is home to works by and about Martin Luther and other Lutherans

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 The Homepage for the Lutheran Brotherhood Foundation Reformation Library. Other links will connect you to libraries, etc…

www.st-and.ac.uk The Reformation Studies Institute Homepage at St. Andrews University, Scotland.

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

www.luther.de/e/legenden.html Legends About Martin Luther

www.antiquarian.com/ancientpage/luther.html Martin Luther Bible