PROTESTANT REFORMATION

CH 650: The Protestant Reformation

Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary/Hispanic Program

Spring 2012

PROFESSOR: Dr. Frank A. James III

TIME/PLACE: GCTS Hamilton campus. Monday-Friday: 9 AM – 4 PM. 25 February – 1 March

OFFICE HOURS: For questions regarding the course, please contact Tyler Lenocker: tlenocker@gordonconwell.edu

TEXTBOOKS: Students will be REQUIRED to read ALL of the following books:

Carter Lindberg, European Reformations (Blackwell, 1996)
ISBN 1-55786-575-2

Carter Lindberg, European Reformations Sourcebook (Blackwell, 2000)

RECOMMENDED Reading:

Bradley, J.E. and Muller R.A. Church History: An Introduction to Research, Reference Works and Methods (Eerdmans, 1995)
COURSE DESCRIPTION

This is an advanced Church History course to explore the historical and theological developments, ideas and impact of key figures of the Reformation. The course is designed to provide students with graduate level critical and analytical skills, a broad background in the field of Reformation studies. Special emphasis will be on reading the primary sources.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

This course is designed to help students appreciate and assess the Reformation and to give students the opportunity to utilize their understanding appropriately for ministry (article 2 of the GCTS mission statement).

In keeping with GCTS mission statement, the professor intends that upon completing the course, students will:

- Understand the complex cultural, theological and historical development of the Reformation (article 5 of the GCTS mission statement)
- Develop skills in critical thinking, scholarly judgment, analytical reading, writing and research. (article 2)
- Discern both the global and personal implications of this Christian movement (articles 6 & 4)
- To appreciate other expressions of the Christian faith (article 6)

SPIRITUAL FORMATION

While this course has a focus on the cognitive and intellectual, it is also concerned with the spiritual implications for students. It is hoped that this course will encourage the student to gain spiritual insight and self understanding of one’s own religious heritage. The reflection paper is designed to stimulate intellectual as well as spiritual analysis (see below).
FEEDBACK LOOP

The student is not the only learner in this course. The professor is a learner too in that he/she seeks to learn from the student how to improve the course and be more effective. To that end, the professor will receive feedback from the student as to the learning outcomes. This is done in the following ways: student evaluations of the course, individual student feedback during the course and regular course evaluation by peer faculty.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

1. Final Exam: There will be a comprehensive take home final exam distributed during final class. The final exam is 80% of your final grade. DUE 1 April 2013.

2. Class Discussion: (10% of grade)

Students will be expected to vigorously participate in daily class discussions. Class discussions will be based on the following reading assignments:

- **Racism and the Reformation:** How do you explain Luther’s view of the Jews and what are the lessons for contemporary church? Read this article in preparation for class discussion—**due Monday 25 February**.

  http://www.theologian.org.uk/churchhistory/lutherandthejews.html

  http://archive.org/details/TheJewsandTheirLies

- **Calvin on the role of Women:** What did Calvin think about the role of women in the church and the home? Does he affirm they made in the image of God? What are the lessons for contemporary Christian church? Read this article in preparation for class discussion—**Discussion due Tuesday 26 February**.
Reformers and the Virgin Mary: Did they believe in the perpetual virginity of Mary and if so, how do you explain this? Can one be a protestant and still believe in the perpetual virginity of Mary? What are the lessons for contemporary Christian church? Read this article in preparation for class discussion—Discussion due Thursday 27 February

http://www.catholicapologetics.info/apologetics/general/mar y.htm

Marriage and Divorce in the Reformation. How did Protestants differ from Catholics on divorce? Was divorce a legacy of the Reformation? What are the lessons for contemporary Christian church? Read this article in preparation for class discussion—Discussion due Friday 28 February

http://www.theologicalstudies.org.uk/article_divorce_snuth.ht ml

The Reformation and Intolerance. How did the Reformers deal with those with whom they disagreed theologically? Did they distinguish between minor and major differences? If so, how did they decide the difference? How did the magisterial reformers view Anabaptists and Anti-Trinitarians? What are the lessons for contemporary Christian church? Read this article in preparation for class discussion—Discussion due Saturday 1 March

http://www.libertymagazine.org/index.php?id=1696

http://www.libertymagazine.org/index.php?id=1710
**READING REPORT**: (10% of final grade)

At the end of the course, each student must indicate whether they have completed all the assigned reading.

**GRADING**

Final Exam is 80% of the final grade. Participation in class discussions is 10% of the final grade and completion of all reading assignments is 10% of the final grade.

**ACADEMIC HONESTY:**

Any form of cheating will automatically result in failure of the course.
GENERAL BIBLIOGRAPHY

Protestant Reformation GCTS

I. GENERAL REFERENCE WORKS


*Index to Religious Periodicals*

*New Catholic Encyclopedia*

*The Cambridge Modern History*

*The Encyclopedia of Religious Knowledge*

II. HISTORICAL/DOCTRINAL SURVEYS

Bromiley, G.W. *Historical Theology: An Introduction* (Grand Rapids, 1978).


Seeberg, R. *The History of Doctrines*. 


### III. JOURNALS

Sixteenth Century Journal  
Church History  
Journal of Modern History

### IV. RECOMMENDED READING FOR REFORMATION ENTHUSIASTS

Alister McGrath, *Reformation Thought: An Introduction* (Blackwells, 2000)  


Cameron, Euan, *The European Reformation* (Oxford, 1991)


*The Reformation of the Sixteenth Century* by Roland H. Bainton and Jaroslav Pelikan (Paperback - Sept. 30, 1985)


*The Division of Christendom: Christianity in the Sixteenth Century* by Hans Joachim Hillerbrand (Paperback - Nov. 1, 2007)

Masters of the Reformation: The Emergence of a New Intellectual Climate in Europe by Heiko Augustinus Oberman and Dennis Martin (Paperback - Nov. 27, 2008)


Baptism in the Reformed Tradition: An Historical and Practical Theology (Columbia Series in Reformed Theology) by John W. Riggs (Hardcover - Aug. 2002)

*The Theology of the Reformed Confessions* (Columbia Series in Reformed Theology) by Karl Barth, Darrell L. Guder, and Judith J. Guder (Hardcover - Apr. 2002)

*Getting the Reformation Wrong: Correcting Some Misunderstandings* by James R. Payton (Paperback - July 2, 2010)