Church History 502
The Church Since the Reformation

Professor: Dr. Ryan Reeves
Office Hours: During class weekends (or by appointment)
Class Day: February 20-21, March 20-21, May 1-2
Textbooks: Students will be required to read the following books:


Bruce Gordon, *Calvin*, Yale (ISBN: 978-0-3001-20769) **Read all**

Kittleson, James M. *Luther the Reformer: The story of the Man and his Career.* (ISBN: 978-0-8006-3597-8) **Read all**


Objectives: This is a survey course to introduce the student to the history of the Christian church in the early modern and modern periods (1500-present). The course objective is to acquaint the student with the historical and theological development of key figures, movements, and doctrines. Special emphasis will be on reading primary sources.

Course Requirements:

Exams: There will be a mid-term exam **the week of March 16\textsuperscript{th}-20\textsuperscript{th}**. The exam will be taken in class (30% of your grade)

There will be a final exam due three weeks after the final class by that Friday May 22\textsuperscript{nd}. (30% of your grade). If you do not
have plans to take the test on campus, please contact my T.A., Jason Mackey, for requests to have your test proctored elsewhere. Her e-mail is: jmackey@gcts.edu

Paper: The paper is worth 30% of your final grade. It will be 14+ pages (see below for details). It is due May 27th by midnight. It can be emailed to me: rreeves@gordonconwell.edu

Reading: The reading report will make up 10% of your final grade. Whether or not you have completed the reading in full will need to be reported to Jason via e-mail by midnight on May 19th.

Paper

Format: Times New Roman, 12pt font, double-spaced, 1-inch margins. The paper must also be in Word format. The file should also be named after you (e.g. RyanReeves.docx) in order to make it easier for me to organize the documents for grading and returning.

Goal: The goal of this paper is for students to immerse themselves in the writings of one theologian or major church figure from the lectures. The essay assignment that goes along with this reading is a reflective, critical examination of the spiritual and theological substance of your reading. To be clear: I want you to graze through the writings of just one of these great Christian thinkers: I do not want this to be superficial reading assignment or an exercise in abstract thinking.

Your assignment is to engage with one figure – perhaps a reformer you always wanted to learn more about – and really pour over his devotional, biblical, and theological works. Take notes on things that inspire you, ponder things that challenge you, and question things that trouble you. Christian pastors and
missionaries have read these works for centuries as part of their devotional and spiritual diet. If I can get you hooked on just one, I will have done my job!

**Method:**

Throughout the semester, choose one figure (e.g. Jonathan Edwards). Use the resources in the library to find modern translations of his works. You may choose his sermons or several of his theological texts. You may also choose to read portions of each of these areas. I am always available to discuss this with students (particularly if you are uncertain who to read).

You should be sure to begin with some biographical work on your source. The assigned texts for this course have short biographies of every major figure, but you may also consult other reference works that sketch historical biographies.

It is preferred that you read these works regularly throughout the semester rather than in one or several sittings. By the end of the semester, you must have read an equivalent of 325 pages in a modern edition—this amounts to 25 pages of reading a week.

**Essay:**

The essay will be graded 1/3 for your writing style/execution and 2/3 on the substance of your reflections. Students are to be reflective, engaging their readings in the light of scripture and the modern world.

The penalty for late papers is **one letter grade per day** that it is late, if you have not received permission from the professor to submit it late. If it is turned it at 12:01pm, then I’m afraid it will count as the “next day”, and so will only receive a B or lower. Given that this paper is cumulative for the entire semester, permission for late papers will be given for only serious issues. Common colds and fatigue, I’m afraid, will not suffice!

**Grading:**

The essay will be graded on:
1/3 on writing style and clarity. You must write clearly and succinctly with strong usage and grammar. When in doubt, go with a simple style of writing rather than attempt to write ‘academically’ and instead muddle the paper. Also, in the 21st century there should be no reason to have misspelled words, since Word will flag all of them. Major flaws in writing, grammar, spelling, etc. will be viewed as lack of care in editing and so marked down.

2/3 on execution of the assignment. As we will discuss in class, the assignment is not a book report or a personal journal of your experience of the book(s) you read. The assignment is focused on your analysis and engagement with the author, and so you will be graded on how successful you engaged the primary source.

Keep in mind that both are necessary to get a full score on the project. Good analysis and good writing is required.