CH641: Luther and Calvin
Summer 2015
June 26-27, July 31-August 1, August 28-29
6:30 to 9:30pm on Fridays; 8:30am to 4:30pm on Saturdays

Instructor: Dr. Ryan Reeves

Contact Information: rreeves@gordonconwell.edu

Office Hours: During class weekends or by appointment.

Course Description:
The writings of Luther and Calvin shaped the earliest years of the Protestant
Reformation and continue to inform and influence Protestantism to this day. Their
writings continue to be sources of inspiration and deep thinking and a number of
denominations draw direct influence from one or both of these men. The purpose of this
course is to engage the writings and thinking in the writings of Martin Luther and John
Calvin to gain a better understanding of their theology. The course will focus on the
primary readings of both authors and will train the students in how to compare and
contrast competing ideas between two thinkers who seem to have similar ideas.

Gordon-Conwell Mission:
This course satisfies the following institutional learning objectives:

To maintain academic excellence in the highest tradition of Christian scholarship in the
teaching of the biblical, historical and theological disciplines. (Article 2)

Course Learning Objectives:
The primary goal of the course is to use the writings of Luther and Calvin to formulate
and standardize the skills needed to do historical theology. The method applied in this
course will be to explore the theological writings of both Luther and Calvin and then use
them as case studies for engaging crucially with the past. This class will achieve these
goals through six key foci in the lectures:

- Describe and defend various approaches to historical theology, especially in light
  of engaging historic works of theology.
- Familiarize yourself with a representative sample of Luther’s and Calvin’s
  theological writing.
- Apply the tools of historical-theological analysis to the theological writings of
  Luther and Calvin.
- Identify the key dialogue partners of Luther and Calvin respectively and illustrate
  their influence on each theologian’s thinking.
- Differentiate between Luther’s and Calvin’s own thinking and the theological
  traditions which bear their names.
- Compare and contrast Luther and Calvin on doctrines central to the Protestant
  Reformation.
Required Materials:
- Luther: *Martin Luther: Selections from his Writings*, ed. John Dillenberger

*Note you will not be required to read book IV of the *Institutes*. However, if your paper deals with a topic from Book IV you may skip II in the *Institutes* and replace it with Book IV instead.

Course Requirements:
Achievement of the course objectives will be measured through a variety of assignments and activities as described below. The following chart indicates how various course elements proportionately relate to the overall course grade. Students will be required to watch all the lectures and read each of the assigned books. There will also be a major comparative paper. The grade breakdown is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Assignment</th>
<th>% of grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Journal Analysis</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comparative Paper</td>
<td>50%</td>
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</tbody>
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Learning Activities:

Reading
To receive credit for the reading it is mandatory that students read all of the assigned books for the course. The grade will be assessed on an ‘all or nothing’ basis: to get credit, students must complete the reading entirely.

*A reading report must be sent to me by September 11 via email 11:55 pm EST.*

Journal Analyses
Students will complete each section of the reading (outlined below) and then write 400 - 800 words (about 1 - 2 pages double spaced in MS Word) summarizing, in prose, not outline form, the major themes, figures, and narrative developments in the book.

For example, after reading Book I and the *Institutes*, the student will write 1-2 pages on the major ideas presented in the book (e.g. God, providence) and how Calvin presents the material in narrative form. For Luther, the journal analysis will be on a collection of texts assigned, and in the third module you will write a combined analysis of sections of Luther and Calvin. There will, therefore, be one journal analysis for each section I outline below.

**KEY:** the journal, then, will form the backbone to your analysis for the paper (see below). The analysis must be substantive and focused on the theological dimensions of
the books. Since the journal feeds directly into the paper, students are encouraged to explore themes extensively, and though only 400-800 words are required, students may choose to write more, if they feel the need to produce more thoughts.

**PLEASE BE AWARE THAT YOU MAY NOT LIFT PORTIONS OF THE JOURNAL ANALYSIS AND PUT THEM DIRECTLY INTO THE FINAL PAPER. THE JOURNAL IS THE THOUGHTFUL NOTETAKING YOU ARE DO FOR THE PAPER. YOU MAY EXPLORE SIMILAR THEMES IN A SIMILAR WAY BUT THE JOURNAL ANALYSIS MUST BE INDEPENDENT WRITING FROM THE PAPER.**

**Comparative Paper**

The paper will be a comparative paper in which students will explore a theme (or themes) in the writings of Luther and Calvin. The paper will be 17+ pages (not including title page, works cited or other nonessential elements of the paper). The paper will be required to be a fair analysis of both authors and a careful comparison of their ideas with supporting evidence from the primary source reading.

*The paper must be emailed to me by September 11 at 11:55 pm EST.*

**Grading Scale**

Grading Scale (point values and definitions of letter grades can be found in the "Grading Scale" section of the Gordon-Conwell Student Handbook):

- A=4.0; A-=3.7; B+=3.3; B=3.0; B-=2.7; C+=2.3; C=2.0; C-=1.7; D+=1.3; D=1.0; D-=0.7; F=0.0

"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."

**Course Policies:**

**Instructor Feedback**

I will attempt to respond to questions or messages within 24-48 hours, excluding Sundays. I will also do my best to provide feedback on assignments within one week of submission and post grades on Sakai within 1 week of submission. The exception to this will be the paper, which I will provide more extensive feedback on, and which may take up to 6 weeks to grade entirely for the course.

**Document Formatting and Submission**

Assignments must be submitted electronically by email. Hard-copies will not be accepted.

The Journal Analysis and Final Paper must be in MS-Word format (.doc or .docx). 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. Citations must be in Turabian format. Any failure to use these formatting or citation rules will result in grade reduction of half a letter grade for minor errors (e.g. wrong margins) or a full grade for major errors (e.g. wrong citations).
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 September 11, will normally
require that an extension be approved by the Seminary. If you anticipate a problem,
contact me as soon as possible.

Additional Seminary Policies

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.

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. Note that the final grade
posted in Sakai is not official; the official final grade will be posted in the CAMS student
portal.