

GORDON CONWELL

THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

CH-637: THE SWISS REFORMATION

May 12- June 1, 2020

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will take you through Switzerland and parts of France to explore the unique aspects of the Swiss Reformation, including the development of Calvinism, the rise of Radical Reformers, the persecution of Anabaptists, and Geneva's significance to Protestant reform around the world. Students will gain insight into important Swiss reformers, Calvinist and Reformed theology, and the social, cultural, and political landscape that influenced and shaped the Swiss Reformation, giving it its distinct and far reaching form. Visits to numerous churches, monasteries, castles, and museums will allow students to see one-of-a-kind artifacts of the Reformation, and travel throughout the region will provide important geographical insight and an eyewitness glimpse into the history of the Protestant Church.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- Trace the major historical developments in Reformed tradition from the Late Middle Ages through the Reformation, Confessional Era, and into the present
- Discuss and process important political, social, and religious events and movements that converged to stimulate the Swiss Reformation
- Analyze the contributions of some of the major figures of the Swiss Reformation
- Explore the far-reaching tendrils of Calvin's theology, and the significance of Geneva as the "Protestant Vatican"

- Consider the significant roles played in the development of Reformed traditions by historically marginalized groups including, but not limited to, women, radical reformers, and the Huguenots
- Gain a broader perspective on the contemporary Christian tradition through the lens of its historical development, with particular emphasis on enduring challenges to Christian belief and practice
- Understand the use of art and music during the Swiss Reformation, with a particular look into iconoclasm and its enduring social and cultural influences
- Walk in the steps of Swiss Reformers and experience the world of the Swiss Reformation
- Experience firsthand the work and ministry of the modern Swiss Church and the World Council of Churches
- Develop research and writing skills in the field of Religious Studies

REQUIRED TEXTS

- D'Aubigne, Jean Henri Merle. *For God and His People: Ulrich Zwingli and the Swiss Reformation*. (Greensville: BJU Press 2011). (ISBN 978-1579243999) (\$10-15)
- Gordon, Bruce. *The Swiss Reformation*. 1st Ed. (Manchester: Manchester University Press, 2002). (ISBN 978-0719051180) (\$28-35)
- Janz, Denis. *A Reformation Reader: Primary Texts With Introductions*. 2nd Ed. (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2008). (ISBN: 978-0800663100) (\$30-50)
- McGrath, Alister E. *Reformation Thought: An Introduction* 4th Ed. (Hoboken: Wiley-Blackwell, 2012). (ISBN 978-0470672815) (\$20-25)
- Selderhuis, Herman J. *John Calvin: A Pilgrim's Life*. 1st Ed. (Westmont: IVP Academic, 2009). (ISBN 978-0830829217) (\$10-15)
- Selected articles and essays (available on the course website or on library reserve)

ASSIGNMENTS

Participation

Total: 25 pts

Dialogue and reflection are key to helping you digest and wrestle with information and materials during the course and in lecture. Remember that meaningful contribution is not just about *how much* you say but also the kinds of questions you raise, the intelligence and reasonableness of the insights you provide, the meaningfulness of the contributions you provoke in others, and the manner in which you handle disagreement. Having the "right" answers is less important than demonstrating that you are thinking and wrestling with the material. Regular attendance is key.

Reading Reflection Assignments

Total: 25 pts

The professor will provide questions pertaining to specific reading assignments. Students should respond with detailed answers in writing to each question. Due prior to travel day one.

Research Paper and Presentation

Total: 50 pts

Each student will complete an 12-15 page research paper on an event or person significant to the history of the Swiss Reformation. The professor must approve the topic. The paper should engage at least one primary source (sermon, letter, publication, etc.) and three secondary sources. The best papers will avoid a pedantic retelling of chronological facts, and will instead make firm claims about the important contributions of the person or event to the shaping of evangelical theology and practice, which are argued with the support of strong and credible source work. Be sure to avoid first person references (“I” statements) and to properly cite footnotes. The paper must conform to the *Standards for Writing* included in this syllabus. Students will present their paper ideas to the class while at L’Abri.

GRADING

500 pts = 100%	A	93-100	C	73-76.9
475 pts = 95%	A-	90-92.9	C-	70-72.9
450 pts = 90%	B+	87-89.9	D+	67-69.9
425 pts = 85%	B	83-86.9	D	63-66.9
400 pts = 80%	B-	80-82.9	D-	60-62.9
etc.	C+	77-79.9	F	< 59.9

STANDARDS FOR WRITING

All research papers must conform to Chicago (Turabian) style, as found in *The Chicago Manual of Style* (16th ed) or Kate Turabian's *Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations: Chicago Style for Students and Researchers*. Papers should *adhere to the following*: Times New Roman, 12-point font, double-spaced, one-inch margin on all sides, and *stapled* prior to submission. Include your student ID on all written work.

ACADEMIC CONDUCT

The Seminary considers all breaches of personal and academic integrity to be serious offenses. As such, the seminary has a zero tolerance for such behaviors. Cheating involves, but is not necessarily limited to, the use of unauthorized sources of information during an examination. Duplication of course requirements involves the submission of the same (or substantially the 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.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Tues., May 12 **Depart Boston for Zurich, Switzerland**

Wed., May 13: **Kappel Monastery: Bullinger, Zwingli, and the Swiss Reformation**

- Kappel Monastery & Grounds
- Lectures: *The Swiss Confederation: Politics and Religion at the time of the Reformation; Zwingli's Life and Theology; Radical Reformers*

Thurs., May 14: **Zurich: Zwingli and the Anabaptists**

- Grossmünster Church, Neustadtgasse, Neumark Strasse, Niederdorfstrasse, Limmat River, and Central Library Archives
- Lecture: *Humanism and the Late Middle Ages*

Fri., May 15: **Basel: Humanism and the Reformation**

- Basel Münster Cathedral & Tomb of Erasmus, Basel Paper Mill Museum, Museum of History

Sat., May 16: **St. Gallen: Zwingli and Luther: Disputes of Doctrine**

- Vadian Monument, Church of St. Laurence, and Abbey of St. Gall & Library
- Lectures: *German/Swiss exchange during the Reformation; the Reformation in St. Gallen and Appenzell region*

Sun., May 17: **Kappel and Zurich**

- Fraumünster Reformed Church

Mon., May 18: **Zurich to Geneva**

- Lecture: *Calvin: Scholar, Refugee, and Pastor*

Tues., May 19: **Geneva: Calvin and Farel: The Genevan Reformation**

- Geneva's Old Town, Geneva Cathedral, Calvin's Auditoire, International Reformation Museum
- Lecture: *Genevan Reform; Calvin and His Theology*

Wed., May 20: **Geneva**

- Geneva Museum of Art and History
- Lecture: *Calvin and His Theology*

Thurs., May 21: **Annecy, France: Papal Schism and the Counter-Reformation**

- Musée-Chateau d'Annecy, Palais De l'Isle, and Lake Annecy
- Lecture: *The Huguenots*

Fri., May 22: **Geneva: The Confessional Era and Beyond**

- Ecumenical Centre, World Council of Churches
- Lecture: *The Confessional Era and Education*

- Sat., May 23: **Laussane:** Theodore de Bezé: Reformation and the Academy
- Lausanne Cathedral, St. François Church, Disputation Window, Old Academy
- Sun., May 24: **Geneva to Neuchâtel**
- Neuchâtel English Church
- Mon., May 25: **Neuchâtel:** Guillome Farel and the Reformation
- Collegiate Church, Rue de la Collégiale, Maison de la Prévôté, Fontaine du Banneret (William Farel), Temple du Bas (Huguenots), Pierre de Vingle Printing House, Hôtel DuPeyrou (Pierre-Alexandre DuPeyrou), Tour des Prisons; Château de Neuchâtel (Swiss Heritage Sites)
 - Lecture: *The Ministry of Guillome Farel and the Intentions of Iconoclasm*
- Tues., May 26: **Bern:** Iconoclasm and Art
- Bernese Münster Cathedral, Choral Court, and Town Hall
- Wed., May 27: **L'Abri**
- L'Abri Fellowship
- Thurs., May 28: **L'Abri**
- Lecture: *Music and the Swiss Reformation*
- Fri., May 29: **L'Abri to Kappel**
- Sat., May 30: **Kappel and Zurich**
- Swiss National Museum
- Sun., May 31: **Zurich**
- Fraumünster Reformed Church
- Mon. June 1: **Depart Zurich for Boston, MA**