Course Description

The course “Reformation History and Theology” is a study of the Reformation as it developed in Germany, Switzerland, England, France, and the Low Countries up to the time of the Westminster Confession. The leading men and issues are examined. The class will focus primarily on the Reformed wing of the Reformation, as opposed to the Lutheran and Anabaptist developments, and special attention will be given to the doctrinal beliefs which drove the Reformation.

The course will have classroom lectures that are primarily based upon the professor’s notes. Students are encouraged to participate by asking and answering questions and taking notes. Notes will be provided, but the student is encouraged to make additions based upon classroom discussions.

The course will include outside reading, quizzes and exams from the classroom lectures, and a research paper. The paper is a very important tool for the student to gain first-hand acquaintance with and evaluation of Reformation theology. The paper will be aimed at taking the classroom learning and transferring it into a useable student tool for practical ministry purposes.

Course Objectives:

- To give the student a working knowledge of the major figures and the theology of the Reformation
- To equip the student to better understand the current theological landscape of the West by understanding its roots in the time of the Reformation
- To sharpen the student’s biblical and theological skills by studying the theological debates and confessions of the Reformation era
- To inspire the student to be committed to Reformation principles: sola scriptura, sola fide, sola gratia, solus Christus, soli deo gloria.
- To challenge the student to preserve and pass on the pure gospel which so many in the Reformation and post-Reformation era struggled to reclaim
- To deepen the student’s delight in the sovereign goodness of our saving Lord.

Required Course Materials

- Reading materials
  - Professor’s notes
  - *Heidelberg Catechism* (counts for 50 pages) – **Required reading**
  - *Westminster Confession of Faith* (counts for 100 pages) – **Required reading**
Reformation Thought: An Introduction by Alister McGrath, 4th ed. (recommended resource)


Reformed Confessions Harmonized by Joel Beeke and Sinclair Ferguson, Baker (recommended resource, 245 pages)

- Computer
  - All work submitted electronically should be in Microsoft Word documents (.doc).

Course Requirements
- Attendance at all classes
  - Take notes and participate in class discussion.
  - If you know in advance that you will miss a class, please notify the professor ahead of time to obtain an excused absence.
  - It may be possible to listen to missed lectures via mp3 or video recordings.

- Reading – Due June 13
  - Certificate level – 500 pages from reading materials list
  - B.B.S. – 600 pages from reading materials list
  - M.B.S. – 900 pages from reading materials list
  - M.Div. – 900 pages from reading materials list

- Quizzes/Examinations
  - All students will take periodic quizzes over the material covered in class. These will be unannounced and at the discretion of the professor.
  - There will be one mid-term exam and one final exam.

- Research paper – Due June 6
  - All bachelors or masters level students will complete a paper of original historical research on a topic of the student’s choosing.
  - The professor must approve the topic.
  - Paper requirements
    - Certificate level – no paper required
    - B.B.S. – 10 page (double spaced)
    - M.B.S. – 20 page (double spaced)
    - M.Div. – 20 page (double spaced)

Course Grading Criteria
- 10% Attendance and participation
- 30% Reading
- 30% Quizzes/Examinations
- 30% Paper

Course Schedule
Date: Requirements and Lecture Topic:
Apr 4    Introduction to course
Medieval Background to the Reformation
Luther Leads the Charge: *Theologia Crucis, Sola Fide, Sola Scriptura*

Apr 11   Zwingli and the Swiss Reformation
Martin Bucer: Pastoral Theologian and Unifier

Apr 18   John Calvin: The Man
John Calvin: The Double Knowledge of God

Apr 25   Deadline for paper topic selected and approved
John Calvin: Union with Christ and the Double Grace
John Calvin: The Glory of God in Salvation

May 2    Mid-term exam
Reformation in France: Huguenots, Gallic Confession, and Persecution
Reformation in England: Tyndale, Cranmer, and the Thirty-Nine Articles

May 9    Reformation in Scotland: Knox and the Scots Confession
Reformed Theology Confessed in the Netherlands: the Belgic Confession

May 16   Reformed Theology Catechized in Germany: the Heidelberg Catechism
Roots of Covenant Theology: Calvin, Bullinger, Ursinus, and Olevianus

May 23   Counter-Reformation Council: the Canons of the Council of Trent

May 30   Arminian 5 Points and Calvinist Response: Canons of the Synod of Dort

Jun 6    Papers due
The Westminster Confession

Jun 13   The Westminster Confession
Final Examination
Reading Reports Due

**SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY**

*Primary Sources* – Original sources are essential for accurate historical research. The student is highly encouraged to become familiar with these documents, particularly the confessions, which are consensus documents representing more than one individual’s theological ideas.

Augsburg Confession
Canons and Decrees of the Council of Trent

Gallic Confession.

Belgic Confession.

Scots Confession.

The Thirty-Nine Articles.

Heidelberg Catechism.

Second Helvetic Confession.

Canons of the Synod of Dort.

Westminster Confession.


(See a list of Calvin’s works at http://www.calvin500.com/john-calvin/works-by-calvin/)


Many original sources can be found online at the Post-Reformation Digital Library: www.prdl.org, or at the Christian Classics Ethereal Library: www.ccel.org.

**General Studies or Introductions**


**Biographies**


**Theology of the Reformation**


Kadai, Heino O. “Luther’s Theology of the Cross,” *Concordia Theological Quarterly* 63:3 (July 1999).


At the “500th Anniversary of the Reformation,” there is an avalanche of material on these topics, so in order to help you sort through all the material, here are the recommendations of some leading historians.

Some recommended books from Thomas Kidd:

A bibliography from Carl Trueman:
https://blogs.thegospelcoalition.org/evangelical-history/2017/02/16/a-reformation-bibliography/

See also Trueman’s entire course of lectures at the Master’s Seminary: