

# Front Range Bible Institute

## CH602 Reformation History & Theology Course Syllabus

Spring 2018

Instructor Jason Parker

### 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
  - *Theology of the Reformers* by Timothy George, Revised edition, Broadman & Holman Publishers (350 pages, omitting chapter 6) – **Required reading**
  - *Heidelberg Catechism* (counts for 50 pages) – **Required reading**
  - *Westminster Confession of Faith* (counts for 100 pages) – **Required reading**
  - *A Reformation Reader*, edited by Denis R. Janz, 2nd ed., Fortress Press (recommended resource)
  - *The Creeds of Christendom*, 3 vols., ed. Philip Schaff, reprint edition by Baker (recommended resource)
  - *Reformed Confessions Harmonized* by Joel Beeke and Sinclair Ferguson, Baker (recommended resource, 245 pages)
  - *Institutes of the Christian Religion* by John Calvin, translated by Ford Lewis Battles, Westminster John Knox Press (recommended resource, 1521 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 12**
  - 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 one mid-term exam and one final exam.
- Research paper – **Due June 5**
  - 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 3	Introduction to course Medieval Background to the Reformation Luther Leads the Charge: <i>Theologia Crucis, Sola Fide, Sola Scriptura</i>
Apr 10	Zwingli and the Swiss Reformation Martin Bucer: Pastoral Theologian and Unifier
Apr 17	John Calvin: The Man John Calvin: The Double Knowledge of God
Apr 24	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 1 Mid-term exam  
Reformation in France: Huguenots, Gallic Confession, and Persecution  
Reformation in England: Tyndale, Cranmer, and the Thirty-Nine Articles
- May 8 Reformation in Scotland: Knox and the Scots Confession  
Reformed Theology Confessed in the Netherlands: the Belgic Confession
- May 15 Reformed Theology Catechized in Germany: the Heidelberg Catechism  
Roots of Covenant Theology: Calvin, Bullinger, Ursinus, and Olevianus
- May 22 Counter-Reformation Council: the Canons of the Council of Trent
- May 29 Arminian 5 Points and Calvinist Response: Canons of the Synod of Dort
- Jun 5 Papers due  
The Westminster Confession
- Jun 12 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.

Arminius, James. *The Works of James Arminius, D.D.* 3 volumes. Translated by James Nichols and W. R. Bagnall. Buffalo, NY: Derby, Orton, and Mulligan, 1853.

Bromiley, G. W., ed. *Zwingli and Bullinger*. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1953.

Bucer, Martin. *Concerning the True Care of Souls*. Translated by Peter Beale. Carlisle, PA: Banner of Truth Trust, 2009.

Calvin, John. *Institutes of the Christian Religion*. 2 vols. Translated by Ford Lewis Battles. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 1960.

\_\_\_\_\_. Calvin's Commentaries. 22 volumes. Edited by Henry Beveridge. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1979.

\_\_\_\_\_. *John Calvin's Tracts and Treatises*. 3 vols. Translated by Henry Beveridge. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1958.

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

Daniell, David, ed. *Tyndale's New Testament*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1989.

Janz, Denis R. *A Reformation Reader: Primary Texts with Introductions*. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2008.

Lull, Timothy F. and William R. Russell, eds. *Martin Luther's Basic Theological Writings*. 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2012.

Luther, Martin. *Luther's Works*. American Edition. 55 volumes. Edited by Jaroslav Pelikan and Helmut T. Lehmann. Philadelphia: Muehlenberg and Fortress, and St. Louis: Concordia, 1955-86.

Pauk, Wilhelm, ed. *Melanchthon and Bucer*. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1969.

Reid, J. K. S., ed. *Calvin: Theological Treatises*. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1954.

Schaff, Philip, editor. *The Creeds of Christendom*. 3 vols. Reprint edition. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1998.

Tyndale, William. *The Work of William Tyndale*. Edited by G. E. Duffield. Courtenay Library of Reformation Classics, Volume 1. Appleford: Sutton Courtenay Press, 1964.

Ursinus, Zacharius. *The Commentary of Dr. Zacharius Ursinus on the Heidelberg Catechism*. Translated by G. W. Willard. Columbus: Scott and Bascom, 1852.

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

#### General Studies or Introductions

Bagchi, David V. N., and David C. Steinmetz, ed. *The Cambridge Companion to Reformation Theology*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2004.

Bainton, Roland H. *The Reformation of the Sixteenth Century*. Enlarged edition. Boston: Beacon Press, 1985.

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- Collinson, Patrick. *The Reformation: A History*. New York: Modern Library, 2004.
- Hillerbrand, Hans J. *The Reformation: A Narrative History Related by Contemporary Observers and Participants*. Reprint of 1964 edition. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1978.
- Hoffecker, W. Andrew. *Revolutions in Worldview*. Phillipsburg, NJ: Presbyterian & Reformed, 2007.
- Lindberg, Carter. *The European Reformations*. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. Malden, MA: Blackwell, 2010.
- MacCulloch, Diarmaid. *The Reformation*. New York: Viking, 2004.
- McGrath, Allister E. *Reformation Thought: An Introduction*. 4th edition. Malden, MA: Blackwell, 2012.
- McNeil, John T. *The History and Character of Calvinism*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1954.
- Lane, A. N. S. *A Concise History of Christian Thought*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2006.
- Ozment, Steven E. *Protestants: The Birth of a Revolution*. New York: Doubleday, 1992.
- Pelikan, Jaroslav. *Reformation of Church and Doctrine (1300-1700)*. Volume 4 of *The Christian Tradition*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1984.
- Schaff, Philip. *History of the Christian Church*, vols. 7 & 8. Reprint edition. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 2002.

### Biographies

- Bainton, Roland H. *Here I Stand: A Life of Martin Luther*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1950.
- Daniell, David. *William Tyndale: A Biography*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1994.
- Gordon, Bruce. *Calvin*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2009.
- Marty, Martin. *Martin Luther*. New York: Viking, 2004.
- Parker, T. H. L. *Portrait of Calvin*. Reprint of 1954 edition. Minneapolis: Desiring God Ministries, 2009.
- Steinmetz, David C. *Reformers in the Wings*. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. New York: Oxford University Press, 2001.

### Theology of the Reformation

- Althaus, Paul. *The Theology of Martin Luther*. Translated by R. C. Schultz. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1966.
- Beeke, Joel R., and Sinclair B. Ferguson, ed. *Reformed Confessions Harmonized*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1999.
- Bierma, Lyle D., ed. *An Introduction to the Heidelberg Catechism: Sources, History, and Theology*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2005.

- Chung, Sung Wook, ed. *John Calvin and Evangelical Theology: Legacy and Prospect*. Colorado Springs: Paternoster, 2009.
- Clark, R. Scott. *Caspar Olevian and the Substance of the Covenant*. Rutherford Studies in Historical Theology. Edinburgh: Rutherford House, 2005.
- Crawford, Matthew R. "On Faith, Signs, and Fruits: Martin Luther's Theology of the Lord's Supper" in *The Lord's Supper: Remembering and Proclaiming Christ until He Comes*. Ed. Thomas R. Schreiner and Matthew R. Crawford. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 2010.
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- Daniel, Curt. "The History and Theology of Calvinism." Unpublished manuscript.
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- Hall, David W., and Peter Lillback, ed. *A Theological Guide to Calvin's Institutes: Essays and Analysis*. Phillipsburg, NJ: Presbyterian & Reformed, 2008.
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- \_\_\_\_\_. *Calvin at the Center*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2010.
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- Kolb, Robert and Charles P. Arand. *The Genius of Luther's Theology: A Wittenberg Way of Thinking for the Contemporary Church*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2008.
- Letham, Robert. *The Westminster Assembly: Reading Its Theology in Historical Context*. Phillipsburg, NJ: Presbyterian & Reformed, 2009.
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At the “500<sup>th</sup> 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: <https://blogs.thegospelcoalition.org/evangelical-history/2017/01/24/the-best-books-to-read-for-reformation-2017/>

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:

<https://blogs.thegospelcoalition.org/justintaylor/2017/02/17/take-an-entirely-free-video-course-with-carl-trueman-on-the-reformation/>