

**Birmingham Theological Seminary
2200 Briarwood Way
Birmingham, AL 35243
205-776-5650**

HT 4721 Reformation & Modern Church History

**Spring 2012
Class Hours: 2**

**Professor: Rev. Jim Maples
256-531-6529 pgpres@att.net**

Course Purpose

This course presents a survey of the events leading up to the Reformation focusing on the leaders and effects. The Counter-Reformation and the growth of the Protestant Church to the present will also be surveyed.

Course Objectives

1. The student will be able to name major events and leaders of the Reformation and the events that led to the Reformation.
2. The student will be able to discuss in detail the lives of the key reformers.
3. The student will be able to articulate the impact of the Reformation on the Church in the years that followed the reformation.
4. The student will be able to describe Rome's response to the reformation.
5. The student will be able to trace the development of and the growth of the Protestant Church from the Reformation to the present day.

Course Texts

Bainton, Roland H. *Here I Stand, A Life of Martin Luther*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1978.

George, Timothy. *Theology of the Reformers*. Nashville: Broadman and Holman Publishers, 1988.

Gonzalez, Justo L. *The Story of Christianity, Volume 2: The Reformation to the Present Day*. San Francisco: Harper, 1985 (pp. 1-140).

Heron, Alasdair I. C. *A Century of Protestant Theology*. Philadelphia: The Westminster Press, 1980.

Course Requirements

1. Class attendance
2. Completion of all assigned reading
3. Write a theological paper of at least 10 pages and not more than 15 pages exclusive of footnotes, bibliography, title page, and table of contents on any of the topics listed below. You may write on another subject with the professor's prior approval. All papers must be 12 point Times New Roman font and formatted in accordance with Turabian standards.

Luther and Erasmus on Free Will and Salvation
The Political Thought of the Reformation
The Impact of Reformation Thought on History
Karl Barth on the Knowledge of God
How Bill Graham was a Catalyst for Change in Evangelicalism
Compare Warfield and Barth on Scripture
John Owen's View of Indwelling Sin in the Believer
Is the Church Growth Movement Biblical?

4. A mid-term exam made up of short answer, multiple choice, and short essay questions.
5. A final exam which will lean more to short answer and essay questions.

Grading

1. Completion of assigned reading 10%
2. Theological paper 30%
3. Mid-term exam 25%
4. Final exam 30%
5. Class attendance and participation 5%

All course materials must be submitted to the professor at the end of the semester (last day of class). Thereafter, course materials may be submitted for up to six weeks after the end of the semester directly to the office of the registrar with the permission of the professor. If a student submits course materials after the end of the semester but within the six week grace period, the student's grade will be lowered by one letter grade. The course materials will not be accepted after the six week grace period and a failing grade will be posted to the student's transcript.

Course Outline

- Jan. 26th – Introduction
Events leading up to the Reformation
- Feb. 2nd – Scholasticism and Humanism
- Feb. 9th – Martin Luther
- Feb. 16th – Luther's 95 Theses and his battle with the Roman Catholic Church
- Feb. 23rd – The Roman church's response, Luther and Melancthon
- Mar. 1st – John Calvin
- Mar. 8th – Mid-term Exam
- Mar. 15th – Spring Break
- Mar. 22nd – John Calvin, Zwingli, and Anabaptists
- Mar. 29th – The Counter Reformation to the Enlightenment
- Apr. 5th – No class – Maundy Thursday
- Apr. 12th – The great century and modernity
- Apr. 19th – Paper Due
Challenges to Christianity
- Apr. 26th – Final Exam

Further Reading

- Ahlstrom, Sydney E. *A Religious History of the American People*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1972.
- Bainton, Roland H. *Christendom: A Short History of Christianity and Its Impact on Western Civilization*. 2 vols. New York: Harper Torchbooks, Cloister Library, 1970.
- Barth, Karl. *Church Dogmatics: A selection with introduction by Helmut Gollwitzer*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 1994.

- _____. *The Humanity of God*. Translated by John Newton Thomas and Thomas Wieser. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 1960.
- Cavert, Samuel. *The American Churches and the Ecumenical Movement, 1900-1968*. New York: Associated Press, 1968.
- Clements, Keith W., ed. *Friedrich Schleiermacher Pioneer of Modern Theology*. Minneapolis: Fortress press, 1991.
- Deane, William Ferm. *Contemporary American Theologies*. New York: Seabury Press, 1981.
- Gonzalez, Justo L. *A History of Christian Thought*. vol. 3. Nashville: Abingdon, 1975.
- Gutierrez, Gustavo. *A Theology of Liberation*. Maryknoll, N.Y.: Orbis Books, 1988.
- Johnson, Douglas. *Contending for the Faith: A History of the Evangelical Movement in the Universities and Colleges*. London: Intervarsity Press, 1979.
- Latourette, Kenneth Scott. *A History of Christianity*. vol. 2. *Reformation to the Present*. Peabody, MA: Prince Press, 1997.
- Luther, Martin. *The Bondage of the Will*. Translated by J. I. Packer and O. R. Johnston. Grand Rapids: Fleming H. Revell, 2002.
- McGrath, Alister E. *Reformation Thought: An Introduction*. Third edition. Malden: Blackwell Publishing, 1999.
- Marsden, G.M. *Fundamentalism and American Culture: The Shaping of Twentieth Century Evangelism 1870 – 1925*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2006.
- Murray, Iain H. *Evangelicalism Divided: A Record of Crucial Change in the Years 1950 to 2000*. Edinburgh: The Banner of Truth Trust, 2001.
- Placher, William C. *Readings in the History of Christian Theology, Vol. 2, From the Reformation to the Present*. Philadelphia: The Westminster Press, 1988.
- Rupp, Gordon E. and Philip S. Watson, trans. and eds. *Luther and Erasmus: Free Will and Salvation*. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1969.