

<b>Course Syllabus for Our Theological Heritage: The Reformation Summer 2013</b>
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*Course Description:* This course will involve critical reflection upon theological developments during the period of the European Reformation (and on individuals and decisive events insofar as they serve understanding the theology of the Reformation). Using the changes in understanding of time and space wrought by European colonialism as focusing lenses, the student understands the splintering of western Christianity, appropriates the Reformation heritage, and enters into the church's ongoing task of interpreting and enacting the gospel for contemporary life. Attention will be given to selected primary sources.

*Course Objectives:*

1. Reflection upon intellectual/ecclesial movements and events in the period prior to the beginning of the Protestant reformation.
2. Reflection upon the meaning of the colonial "encounter" with the Americas for the development of theological concepts in the Protestant and Catholic Reformations.
3. Examination of the Reformation on the European continent with due attention given to the theologies of Luther, Calvin, and the Anabaptists.
4. Engagement with pivotal theological concerns in their historical context, including the relationship of faith and reason, justification by grace through faith, sacramental theology, ecclesiology, and Christology.
5. Analysis of the Catholic Reformation as reflected in the Council of Trent.
6. Understanding and appreciation of the historical development and context of Christian theology.
7. Continued growth and development of the pastor's identity as theologian.

*Course Texts:*

**Prereading:** The following texts are required reading. I expect you to have read them carefully by the first day of class. You will want to keep these texts close at hand in preparing your assignments and in studying for the final exam, but you need not bring them to class with you.

Carlos Eire. *A Very Brief History of Eternity*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2009.

This engagingly written text by a well-respected reformation scholar examines questions of eternity and the afterlife in early, medieval, reformation, and post-reformation Christianity. Enjoy the entire volume, but especially pp. 28-220 (I'm mostly interested in Eire's historical account). Pay attention to the broad trends Eire traces, and pay special attention to what happens immediately preceding, during, and in the aftermath of the Reformation.

**Textbooks:** You will not have prereading from this, but you will be responsible for the assigned chapters throughout the course. Anticipate about 20 pages of reading a day.

Lee Palmer Wandel. *The Reformation: Towards a New History*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2011.

This book brings together the colonial encounter with the "discovery" of new worlds in 1492 with the fragmentation of European Christianity in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. It attends to the way in which massive changes in understanding of "time," "space," and "text" made a difference for the way European Christians understood what it means to be a "Christian." This will be our primary course textbook.

*Cambridge Companion to Reformation Theology*.

These more pointed essays will help you develop an appreciation for the theology of the reformation. Some of them have a lot of technical jargon. Don't get caught up in it. For each chapter, see if you can write a short, 100 word summary of the chapter. Also write down any specific questions that come up for you while you're reading. Write them down and bring them up during discussion. I will make the select chapters available to you in pdf format.

**Source Texts:** You will not have any prereading from this, however there will be short readings assigned on a daily basis from it throughout the course. There will also be handouts. Bring this text to class with you every day.

Hans J. Hillerbrand, ed. *The Protestant Reformation*. New York: Harper, 2009.

*Evaluation/Grading:*

- **Prewrite Assignment (10%):** Based upon your reading of Eire's *Very Brief History of Eternity*, write a short essay (2 pages, double-spaced *max*) answering the following question: what difference does Eire think that the Reformation made for the way Europeans understood time? I expect this essay to be exegetical, that is, an explanation of how you understand Eire's book, not on what your own personal opinion of the matter is. This essay will be due during the first week of class.
- **Theology Presentation (20%):** Part of your grade will involve presenting in class on one of the class readings. You will be responsible for a short (no more than 10 minute presentation) about one of the assigned readings. I expect this presentation to be formal, polished, and attentive to the assigned readings. You will be graded on the accuracy of the content, the poignancy, cohesiveness, clarity, and concision of the presentation. Use of handouts, white board, power point, or other teaching supplements is acceptable but not required.
- **Theology Paper (20%)** A 5 page (double spaced, 12 pt. Times New Roman font) paper that explains in greater depth one of the theological issues raised by your presentation is due **on the day of your presentation** unless you do your presentation in the first week of class, in which case it is due the Monday following your presentation. If you feel it is necessary, you may consult me about extra resources to draw on for the paper. I advise you to look at the reading you choose in advance and to determine what you would like to explore in greater depth and then to talk to me about what you plan to study. The paper should be related both to the topic of your presentation and to the stated objectives of the course (see the first page of the syllabus).
- **In-class Final Exam (35%):** The exam will cover important aspects of the material treated in the lectures and texts. The exam will ask two synthetic essay questions. What I will be testing with this exam is your ability to articulate some of the key concepts of the Reformation and your ability to integrate them in line with the course objectives.
- **Class Participation (15%):** Come prepared to discuss the reading each day. Each member of the class is expected to contribute meaningfully to the discussion based on the readings. This does not mean you have to have it all figured out. Often, a good question is exactly what the class needs to learn.

## Course Outline and Assignments

Have the assigned readings completed **before** you come to class each day. There may be unannounced quizzes on the content of the readings. Note that some days, the assignments are heavier than others. Plan and use your weekends accordingly.

PR: *The Protestant Reformation* by Hans Hillerbrand (Second Edition)

CC: *Cambridge Companion to Reformation Theology*

### July 1

Topic: Introductions, Overview of Course

### July 2

Topic: Christianity in 1500

Reading: Wandel, 1-38

In class: Come ready to discuss Wandel's main points. What struck you most about her description?

### July 3

Topic: The New World I

Reading: Wandel, 39-62

In class: *Lecture on Julius II*

### July 4

Topic: Sacraments and Salvation I

Reading: CC, ch. 1, 16

In class: *Lecture on Scholasticism, Augustinianism, and Nominalism*

### July 5

Topic: Two Early Reformation Critiques: Luther and Erasmus

Reading: Luther's 95 Theses <http://www.luther.de/en/95thesen.html>  
PR 14-24

Erasmus' *Julius Exclusus* (pp. 1-8 only):

<http://www.history.ucsb.edu/faculty/lansing/classes/hist4b/materials/Week7.pdf>

Recommended: CC ch. 4

In class: Come ready to discuss Luther and Erasmus. What are Luther's 5 main critiques in his 95 theses? What are Erasmus's main concerns? How are they similar? How are they different?

### July 8

Topic: Scripture

Reading: Wandel, 63-86

PR 28-30, 66-72

In class: Come ready to discuss the Luther readings. How does Luther read the bible? What is its importance? According to Wandel, what are

the different meanings of “the Word”? How did different groups in the 16<sup>th</sup> century understand the word and its function?

### **July 9**

Topic: Word of God and Ordering of the World: Anabaptist  
Reading: Wandel, 89-97  
PR 172-181, 195-205  
Recommended: CC, ch. 15  
In Class: Come ready to discuss the distinctives of Anabaptist thought. When the Anabaptists read the bible, what difference did they think it would make in the world? In their lives?

### **July 10**

Topic: Themes in Lutheran Theology: Theology of the Cross  
Reading: CC ch. 5  
PR 31-58  
In class: Come ready to discuss Luther’s seminal text *Freedom of a Christian*. Be able to summarize the two main points in his argument. What images does Luther use to describe justification? According to Hendrix, what is the relationship of the doctrine of justification to the rest of Luther’s theology?

### **July 11**

Topic: Lutheran Politics  
Reading: Wandel, 97-102  
PR 73-92  
In class: What is the theology of the two kingdoms? How does this relate to the rest of Luther’s theology? What are its potential drawbacks?

### **July 12**

Topic: Outline of Calvin’s Theology  
Reading: Wandel, 102-108  
CC ch. 10  
Handout on Calvin on God  
In class: Lecture on Calvin’s understanding of God. Come ready to discuss the distinctives of Calvin’s understanding of God and human knowledge of God.

### **July 15**

Topic: Calvin on Christian Life  
Reading: Handout on Calvin on the Christian life  
In class: Lecture on Calvin’s understanding of salvation. Would Calvin say, “Salvation is by faith alone”? Why or why not?

### **July 16**

Topic: Calvin on Predestination

Reading: PR 212-254  
In class: Be able to offer a defense of Calvin's doctrine of predestination. What is the doctrine? Why did he think it was necessary to articulate it the way he did?

### July 17

Topic: The meaning of "Christian" I  
Reading: Wandel, 117-146  
In class: This class will be mostly discussion. How did Wandel think that the meaning of "Christian" changed? What are the different ways one could be a Christian?

### July 18

Topic: The Meaning of Christian II  
Reading: Wandel, 147-172  
Augsburg Confession  
<http://bookofconcord.org/augsburgconfession.php>  
In class: Drawing on Wandel, be prepared to answer: How is the Augsburg Confession a political document?

### July 19

Topic: The meaning of Christian III  
Reading: Wandel, 108-116, 173-200  
The *Spiritual Exercises of Ignatius Loyola* (pp. 21-70, 79-129)  
<http://www.ccel.org/ccel/ignatius/exercises.pdf>  
Recommended: CC ch. 17  
In Class: How did the Roman Church reform? What are the Jesuits? What are the *Spiritual Exercises* supposed to do?

### July 22

Topic: The New World II  
Reading: Wandel, 201-224  
In class: How did the Reformation change how people thought about space?

### July 23

Topic: Sacraments and Salvation II: Baptism  
Reading: Luther's Small Catechism, "The Sacrament of Holy Baptism"  
<http://www.pdmz.com/smallcatechism.pdf>  
Luther's Large Catechism, "Holy Baptism" <http://bocl.org?LC+IV>  
Heidelberg Catechism Q&A 65-74  
<http://www.crcna.org/welcome/beliefs/confessions/heidelberg-catechism>  
Council of Trent, Session VII, "On the Sacraments: First Decree and Canons" <http://www.thecounciloftrent.com/ch7.htm>  
Review: Schleithem Confession section on baptism PR 172ff

In class: Did the Reformers and Catholics disagree on infant baptism? What did they agree about? What did they disagree about? Why? What are the differences in emphasis in theologies of baptism?

**July 24:**

Topic: Sacraments and Salvation III: Eucharist

Reading: Wandel, 225-254

Heidelberg Catechism Q&A 75-85

<http://www.crcna.org/welcome/beliefs/confessions/heidelberg-catechism>

Luther's Small Catechism: The Sacrament of the Altar

<http://www.pdmz.com/smallcatechism.pdf>

Luther's Large Catechism: The Sacrament of the Altar

<http://bocl.org?LC+V>

Decrees and Canons "On the Most Holy Sacrament of the Eucharist" <http://www.thecounciloftrent.com/ch14.htm>

In class: Come ready to discuss the similarities and differences of the Lutheran, Reformed, and Catholic understandings of the Eucharist.

**July 25**

Final Exam

**Possible Presentation Topics:**

1. Luther's 95 Theses and Erasmus's *Julius Exclusus*
2. Luther on Scripture
3. Anabaptist theology and practice
4. Luther's "Freedom of a Christian"
5. Luther's "Concerning Governmental Authority"
6. Calvin on God
7. Calvin on Salvation and Christian Life
8. Calvin on Predestination
9. The Augsburg Confession in its political context
10. The "Spiritual Exercises" of Ignatius Loyola
11. Baptism
12. Eucharist