

The Reformation Era, CH 7225

Trinity Evangelical Divinity School
Akron Extension Site; Spring 2010

Scott M. Manetsch

smanetsc@tiu.edu

847-317-8033

Course Description:

This course will provide an historical and theological overview of the changes in the history of Western Christendom through Luther's rediscovery of the gospel. Topics covered include the following: condition of the late medieval church; the Lutheran, Zwinglian, and Calvinist Reformations; the rise of Anglicanism; the Anabaptists and left-wing movements; and the Catholic/Counter Reformation.

Learning Objectives:

The professor has four learning objectives for this course: First, that students gain a broad understanding of the religious Reformations of the sixteenth century, with an appreciation for recent developments in Reformation research. Second, that students mature in their ability to analyze and interpret theological and historical texts. Third, that students acquire competence in historical research and writing. Finally, that students allow God to use insights from this-story to sharpen their theological understanding, enrich their ministries, and increase their love for Jesus Christ and his Church.

Method of Instruction:

This course will be taught over four weekends, on January 8-9, January 22-23, February 26-27, March 12-13. Class sessions will include lecture, text analysis, and group discussion. Students are asked to bring their Dillenberger text and the Janz reader to class each weekend.

Contacting the Professor:

In addition to interaction during our weekend sessions, students are invited to contact the professor by e-mail to discuss questions or concerns related to the course.

Course Texts:

There are five required texts for this course:

Dillenberger, John, ed. *Martin Luther, Selections from his Writings*. New York: Anchor Books, 1962.

George, Timothy. *Theology of the Reformers*. Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman, 1988.

Janz, Denis, ed. *A Reformation Reader. Primary Texts with Introductions*. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 1999.

Lindberg, Carter. *The European Reformations*. Cambridge, Mass.: Blackwell, 1996.

AND EITHER

Ngien, Dennis. *Luther as Spiritual Advisor*. Waynesboro, GA: Paternoster Press, 2007.

OR

Selderhuis, Herman. *John Calvin, A Pilgrim's Life*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2009.

Course Requirements and Grading:

The student's final grade will be based on the following criteria:

- Class Presentation (15%): To facilitate classroom discussion, each student will be assigned a primary text that s/he is responsible to introduce to the class. The presentation should be no more than 15 minutes in length, and include a 2 page handout for each member of the class, briefly describing the historical context for the writing as well as the main themes and significance of the work.
- Quizzes (20%): Students will take a brief objective quiz (15 questions) at the beginning of the class sessions on January 8, January 22, February 26, and March 12. This quiz will cover assigned reading material and lecture content from the previous weeks. The quiz for January 8 will cover reading material assigned for this first class session. NB: Students can make up the quiz only with the prior consent of the instructor.
- Reflection Paper (20%): Students will write a 5-6 page reflection paper (typed, 1-inch margins, 12 cpi) on either Dennis Ngien's *Luther as Spiritual Adviser* or Herman Selderhuis's *John Calvin, A Pilgrim's Life*. This reflection paper should (1) briefly summarize in 3-4 pages the content and central arguments of the book, and (2) interact with themes presented in the book regarding pastoral theology and Christian ministry in the remaining 1-2 pages. Hence, in part (2), the student is invited to reflect on lessons learned from the reformer's theology and practice of Christian ministry, whether in the domain of preaching, discipleship, prayer, or biblical interpretation. This paper is due in class on February 26th and is worth 20% of student's semester grade.
- Research Paper (35%): Each student will write a major research paper of 12-15 pages (typed, 1-inch margins, 12 cpi) on a subject related to the Reformation period. The professor will provide a handout describing the elements that make up a good paper during the first week of class. The completed paper must be received by the professor (whether sent by post or e-mail) no later than April 9th. Students should provide their mailing address so that the professor can return the paper to them.
- Reading Report & Class Participation (10%): At the time of submitting their research paper on April 9, students must report the percentage of required course material that they have read (*not skimmed!*) during the semester. Students will receive a numerical grade, based on the percentage read and class participation.

The grading scale for this course will be 93-100 (A), 90-92.99 (A-), 88-89.99 (B+), 83-87.99 (B), 80-82.99 (B-), etc.

Schedule of Topics and Reading Assignments:

WEEK ONE (January 8-9): Introduction; the Medieval Tradition; the Growing Protest.

Quiz #1

Please read the following materials *before* the class period:

George, 13-50.
Janz, 5-14, 26-54.
Lindberg, 1-55.

WEEK TWO (January 22-23): Martin Luther and the Lutheran Reformation

Quiz #2

Please read the following materials *before* the class period:

Dillenberger 3-12, 42-85, 240-248.
George, 51-107.
Janz, 57-90, 106-138, 327-333.
Lindberg, 56-168.

Class Presentations:

Erasmus's *In Praise of Folly* _____
Luther's *Ninety-Five Theses* _____
Luther's *The Freedom of a Christian* _____

WEEK THREE (February 26-27): The Protest Spreads; Zwingli; the Anabaptists

Quiz #3

Reflection Paper Due

Please read the following materials *before* the class period:

Dillenberger, 249-359.

George, 108-162, 252-307.
Janz, 151-201.
Lindberg, 169-248.

Class Presentations:

Luther's *Pagan Servitude of the Church* _____
Zwingli's *Sixty-seven Theses* _____
The *Schleitheim Confession* _____

WEEK FOUR (March 12-13): Calvin; the Catholic Reformation; Final Assessment

Quiz #4

Please read the following materials *before* class period:

George, 163-251, 308-323.
Janz, 203-214, 218-219, 222-282, 332-380.
Lindberg, 249-381.

Calvin's *Institutes of the Christian Religion* _____
Decrees of Council of Trent _____

RESEARCH PAPER: Due in hands of the professor no later than April 9th. Please save a personal copy of paper in the event that the original is not received when sent.

Please send an electronic copy to smanetsc@tiu.edu. Or, mail the copy to

Dr. Scott Manetsch
Trinity Evangelical Divinity School
2065 Half Day Road
Deerfield, IL 60015