

CH/TH 3XR3/6XR6: THE REFORMATION: TRIUMPH AND TRAGEDY

McMaster Divinity College

Fall Semester, 2014

Saturday, 9:00am - 4:00pm

September 27, October 25, November 22, December 6

Instructor: Gordon L. Heath

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Specializations: Church and Culture/Christian Thought and History/Christian Worldview

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course deals with the roots, development, and significance of the sixteenth century reformations in Christianity – Protestant and Catholic – in their social contexts. It also briefly outlines the early developments of some significant subsequent movements such as Puritanism.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Knowing

- to provide students with an understanding of the major events and personalities, as well as the significant theological, political and social issues, that shaped the Reformation Era

Being

- to explore (and ultimately appreciate) the different expressions of reform practiced by the various Protestant reform movements, as well as by the reformers within the Roman Catholic Church
- to create an awareness of the breadth and diversity of the Church, and provide a sense of “place” within the many church traditions

Doing

- to develop in each student an ability to assess documents and situations from an historical perspective

TEXTBOOKS:

- Carter Lindberg. *The European Reformations*. Oxford: Blackwell Publishers Ltd., 1996. (identified as “T” in the reading schedule)
- Carter Lindberg, ed., *The European Reformations Sourcebook*. Oxford: Blackwell Publishers Ltd., 2000. (identified as “S” in the reading schedule)
- Heiko A. Oberman. *Luther: Man Between God and the Devil*. Image Books, 1990.
- Gordon L. Heath. *Doing Church History: A User-friendly Introduction to Researching the History of Christianity*. Toronto: Clements Publishing, 2008.

All required textbooks for this class are available from the College’s book service, READ On Bookstore, Room 145, McMaster Divinity College. Texts may be purchased on the first day of class. For advance purchase, you may contact READ On Bookstore, 304 The East Mall, Suite 100, Etobicoke, ON M9C 5K1: phone 416.620.2934; fax 416.622.2308; email books@readon.ca. Other book services may also carry the texts.

METHOD:

Instructor's Presentations:

Most classes will have a presentation by the professor. This presentation will seek to build upon and further develop the readings of the text and reader, as well as explore other themes not in the two texts.

Readings:

All readings are to be completed before the class begins. These readings will not only be a critical component to understanding the events of the Reformation, but also will be an important part of the class discussions.

Assignments:

- **Research Paper:** Students will have to write a fifteen-page (max.) history paper explaining, illustrating and defending a thesis. The paper must be typed, double-spaced, 12 point font, 1¼ inch margins, and Chicago-style endnotes (endnotes do not count towards the page count). Further details about the paper will be provided in class. The bibliography should include the use of primary sources, as well as at least ten secondary sources. A summary of the paper will be presented in class.
- **Paper Presentation:** On the days designated in the syllabus, students will present their research paper to the class. After each presentation, there will be a time of questions and discussions. Papers **MUST** be completed before this date. The time allotted for the presentations will depend on the number of students in the class.
- **Book Review:** Students will be required to write a review of Oberman's *Luther*. The five-page review must be typed, double-spaced, 12 point font, 1¼ inch margins, and Chicago-style endnotes (endnotes do not count towards the page count). The review must state the author's thesis, and the way in which he goes about arguing it (e.g. outline, sources used, etc.). Comments on the strength of the argument are also an expected part of the paper (but these must be based on something more substantial than "I feel".)
- **Movie Review:** Students will be required to prepare a review of the movie *Luther* (2003). The five-page review must focus on comparing the movie's portrayal of Luther to how the text and Oberman's book portrays Luther.
- **Participation:** Class participation is encouraged and expected. A part of the class participation mark will be granted for the in-class debates and discussions, as well as completion of weekly readings.

All students are expected to complete all assignments based on the instructions provided in the *Doing Church History*, and well as the MDC Style Guide.

Research degree students are expected to fulfill all assignments at an research degree level. They will also be required to prepare an annotated bibliography of ten books and ten articles in the area of their research paper, as well as write an additional 7500 words for the research paper.

GRADING:

Research Paper	40%
Paper Presentation	10%
Book Review	25%
Movie Review	15%
Participation	10%

GENERAL COMMENTS:

- Academic dishonesty is a serious offence that may take any number of forms, including plagiarism, the submission of work that is not one's own or for which previous credit has been obtained, and/or unauthorized collaboration with other students. Academic dishonesty can result in severe consequences, e.g., failure of the assignment, failure of the course, a notation on one's academic transcript, and/or suspension or expulsion from the College. Students are responsible for understanding what constitutes academic dishonesty. Please refer to the Divinity College Statement on Academic Honesty ~ <http://www.mcmasterdivinity.ca/programs/rules-regulations>
- McMaster Divinity College uses inclusive language for human beings in worship services, student written materials, and all of its publications. In reference to biblical texts, the integrity of the original expressions and the names of God should be respected. The NRSV and TNIV are examples of the use of inclusive language for human beings. It is expected that inclusive language will be used in chapel services and all MDC assignments.
- All stylistic considerations (including but not limited to questions of formatting, footnotes, and bibliographic references) must conform to the McMaster Divinity College Style Guidelines for Essays and Theses <http://www.mcmasterdivinity.ca/sites/default/files/documents/MDCStyleGuide.pdf> Failure to observe appropriate form will result in grade reductions.
- Essays must be handed in at the beginning of the class on the day they are due. All other essays will be considered to be late. Students may be exempted from the late penalty of 5% per day (not including weekends) if they attach to their essay a letter explaining the genuine emergency that delayed them. Late assignments (even ones with an extension) will not receive comments and constructive criticism from the professor/s, and may not be returned at the same time as the papers submitted on the due date. Submit an electronic copy on the due date or a hard copy before the due date if you are unable to be in class on the due date because of a foreknown absence.
- Two forms of submission of work are possible: (1) Electronic copies in MS Word. Please send the document with your last name and the paper title in the file name: for example, Studebaker.Wittmer.docx. (2) Hard copies should be stapled and submitted with a cover sheet.
- Unless noted otherwise, all written work must conform to the *McMaster Divinity College Style Guidelines for Essays and Theses*. For the PDF click here: <http://www.macdiv.ca/students/documents/MacStyleGuideApr1508.pdf>.
- Please turn off your cell phone and/or pager before the class begins.
- Please do not attend class if you are ill and contagious (e.g. the flu).

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Please see extensive bibliography in Lindberg's *The European Reformations*.

COURSE OUTLINE:

September 27

Introduction to Class, Reformation Historical Research, Background to the Reformation

Lindberg (T): ch. 1,2

Lindberg (S): ch. 1

Luther and the German Reformation

Lindberg (T): ch. 3,4,5,6,9

Lindberg (S): ch. 2,3,4,5,8

October 25

Zwingli and Calvin and the Reformed Movement

Lindberg (T): ch.7,10,11,12

Lindberg (S): ch.6,9,10,11

Book Review Due

The English Reformation

Lindberg (T): ch.13

Lindberg (S): ch.12

The Radical Reformation

Lindberg (T): ch.8

Lindberg (S): ch.7

November 22

The Catholic Reformation

Lindberg (T): ch.14

Lindberg (S): ch.13

Movie Review Due

Theme: Church-State & the Use of Violence

Theme: Women, Children & Family

December 6

Theme: Is the Reformation Over?

Lindberg (T): ch.15

Lindberg (S): ch.14

Paper Presentations

** Research Paper Due**

This syllabus is the property of the instructor and is prepared with currently available information. The instructor reserves the right to make changes and revisions up to and including the first day of class.