

CH/TH 3XR3/5XR5/6XR6: THE REFORMATION: TRIUMPH AND TRAGEDY

McMaster Divinity College

Winter Semester, 2020

Monday, 11:00am - 12:50

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, 5 International Blvd, Etobicoke, Ontario M9W 6H3: 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: Each student will write a ten-page research paper on a topic related to their specialization. The topic of this paper will be determined by the student's specialization, and developed in consultation with the professor.
 - *Church and Culture Specialization*
The primary focus of this research should be on a theological analysis of sixteenth century (or early seventeenth) culture in regards to the Reformation. The focus should be relatively specific, rather than scattered. The interplay between Christian theology and culture should be a critical part of this analysis.
 - *Christian Thought and History Specialization*
The research for this specialization should focus on developing critical knowledge of a key movement or event in Christian history or a deeper awareness of an aspect of Reformation theology.
 - *Christian Worldview Specialization*
Research for this specialization should focus on a construction of one's theological position in regards to an aspect of Reformation issues, with a particular concern for the development of theology in the sixteenth century.

There are a number of ways in which this research is to be completed:

- Traditional academic research paper (6 pages)
- Non-traditional formats (6 pages)
 - Popular article for a church or denominational publication (3 pages)
 - Popular article for a public audience, and to be posted on a blog or Facebook (3 pages)
- 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.

PhD/MA students are expected to fulfill all assignments at an advanced degree level (additional 7500 words). They will also lead class discussions.

DPT students will follow their own PDT syllabus.

GRADING:

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| 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 (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:

January 6

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

Lindberg (T): ch. 1,2

Lindberg (S): ch. 1

January 13

Luther and the German Reformation

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

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

January 20

Luther and the German Reformation (cont.)

January 27 *Book Review Due*

Zwingli and Calvin and the Reformed Movement

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

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

February 3

The English Reformation

Lindberg (T): ch.13

Lindberg (S): ch.12

February 10

The Radical Reformation

Lindberg (T): ch.8

Lindberg (S): ch.7

February 17

Reading Week - No Classes

February 24 **Movie Review Due**

The Catholic Reformation

Lindberg (T): ch.14

Lindberg (S): ch.13

March 2

Theme: TBD

March 9

Theme: TBD

March 16

Theme: Is the Reformation Over?

Lindberg (T): ch.15

Lindberg (S): ch.14

March 23 **Research Paper Due**

Paper Presentations (or topic TBD)

March 30

Paper Presentations

April 6

Paper Presentations

Concluding Remarks

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.