

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

**McMaster Divinity College**  
Winter Semester, 2022

Modified Hybrid  
Online and Virtual Face-to-Face  
Monday, 4:00-5:30pm

Instructor: Gordon L. Heath  
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**Specializations: CC/CW/PS**

## **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.

This modified hybrid will meet on Mondays, 4:00-5:50pm – either face-to-face in a classroom at the MDC building or through synchronous/asynchronous online. The designated times are below in the schedule.

## **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. Please try to support local book sellers such as READ ON Bookstore. 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](mailto:books@readon.ca). Other book services may also carry the texts.

**RECOMMENDED TEXTS (not required for purchasing):**

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

**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 as a Word document or PDF must be submitted 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 3% 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. 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.

- 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.

### COMMENTS ON ASSIGNMENTS (MDiv/MTS):

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.

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 (40%)

Students 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. 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. The time allotted for the presentations will depend on the number of students in the class.

#### ○ *Church and Culture (CC)*

The primary focus of this research should be on a theological analysis of sixteenth century (or early seventeenth) culture in regard 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.

#### ○ *Pastoral Studies (PS)*

Research for this specialization can go in a number of directions. It can focus on a construction of one's theological position in regard to an issue related to the Reformation and pastoral ministry. It can draw on a reformer's ministry to develop a strategy for dealing with issues related to pastoral life today. It can deal with Reformation resources for pastoral ministry. And so on.

#### ○ *Christian History Worldview (CW)*

Research for this specialization should focus on either (1) a construction of one's theological position in regard to an aspect of Reformation issues, with a particular concern for the development of theology in the sixteenth century; or (2) a historical issue related to the Reformation.

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

- Traditional academic research paper (5 pages)
- Non-traditional formats (5 pages)

- Popular article for a church or denominational publication (2-3 pages)
- Popular article for a public audience, and to be posted on a blog or Facebook (2-3 pages)
- Book Review (25%)

Students will be required to write a five-page review of Oberman's *Luther*. 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".)

- Primary Source Review (25%)

This three-page assignment is an analysis of one of the primary source readings in the source book. This research will be presented by students in class (either pre-recorded or face-to-face – that will be determined in the fall when numbers and Covid are clearer)

- Participation (10%)

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.

### **COMMENTS ON ASSIGNMENTS (DPT):**

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.

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.

- Literature Review and Commentary (25% & 25%)

The student will develop an annotated bibliography of approximately 15-20 resources (4000 pages) related to the topic of the course and write a 100 word annotation for each one. The required and recommended texts for the course can be included as part of the book list. The literature review will be approximately 2,000 words. This assignment is due October 6 and will constitute 25% of the course grade.

A commentary paper will also be prepared that summarizes the key learnings from the annotated bibliography and provides a cogent foundation for a theology and practice of the topic of the course. The paper will be approximately 3,000 words. It is due November 3 and will constitute 25% of the course grade.

- Major Research Paper (40%)

The paper should include four key sections. First a brief, but clear explanation of how the paper is rooted in a Practice Led-research approach, second an exploration of the challenges and problems that provoke this study (i.e. why does this ministry practice need to be addressed? What are the problems that you want to identify?) Third, a consideration of a foundational theology of the practice of ministry under consideration in this course and a deep consideration of how new approaches to this practice can be employed in helping to address and improve ministry practice in this area. Fourth some reflection on the application of these ideas to the students own ministry context (both in terms of the local church and also their ministry beyond the local church). The paper should be approximately 8,000 words. It is due December 1 and will constitute 40% of the course grade.

- Class Participation (10%)

### **COMMENTS ON ASSIGNMENTS (MA/PhD):**

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.

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.

- Literature Review and Commentary (25% & 25%)

The student will develop an annotated bibliography of approximately 15-20 resources (6000 pages) related to the topic of the course and write a 100 word annotation for each one. The required and recommended texts for the course can be included as part of the book list. The literature review will be approximately 2,000 words. This assignment is due October 6 and will constitute 25% of the course grade.

A commentary paper will also be prepared that summarizes the key learnings from the annotated bibliography and provides a cogent foundation for a theology and practice of the topic of the course. The paper will be approximately 3,000-4,000 words. It is due November 3 and will constitute 25% of the course grade.

- Major Research Paper (40%)

This paper is a major research paper. Ideally the student aims to prepare something for publication such as a journal article. Regardless, the work must be on a subject mutually agreed upon between professor and student. The paper should be approximately 8,000-10,000 words. It is due December 1 and will constitute 40% of the course grade.

- Class Participation (10%)

**COURSE OUTLINE:****January 10: Monday in Class (4:00-5:50pm)**

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

Lindberg (T): ch. 1,2

Lindberg (S): ch. 1

**January 17: Monday Online (4:00-5:50pm): <https://mcmaster.zoom.us/j/6185125107>**

Luther and the German Reformation

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

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

**January 24: Monday in Class (4:00-5:50pm)**

Luther and the German Reformation (cont.)

**January 31: Monday Online (4:00-5:50pm): <https://mcmaster.zoom.us/j/6185125107>**

Zwingli and Calvin and the Reformed Movement *\*Book Review Due\**

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

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

**February 7: Monday in Class (4:00-5:50pm)**

The English Reformation

Lindberg (T): ch.13

Lindberg (S): ch.12

**February 14: Monday Online (4:00-5:50pm): <https://mcmaster.zoom.us/j/6185125107>**

The Radical Reformation

Lindberg (T): ch.8

Lindberg (S): ch.7

**February 21: *Family Day - No Class*****February 28: Monday in Class (4:00-5:50pm)**

The Catholic Reformation

Lindberg (T): ch.14

Lindberg (S): ch.13

**March 7: Monday Online (4:00-5:50pm): <https://mcmaster.zoom.us/j/6185125107>**

Theme: TBD

**March 14: Monday in Class (4:00-5:50pm)**

Theme: TBD

**March 21: Monday Online (4:00-5:50pm): <https://mcmaster.zoom.us/j/6185125107>**

Paper Presentations *\*Research Paper Due\**

**March 28: Monday in Class (4:00-5:50pm)**

Paper Presentations (or topic TBD)

**April 4: Monday Online (4:00-5:50pm): <https://mcmaster.zoom.us/j/6185125107>**

Theme: Is the Reformation Over?

Lindberg (T): ch.15

Lindberg (S): ch.14

**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.**