

## HIS6/740 Reformation History

Richard R. Topping  
St. Andrew's Hall  
Office: 604-822-9720  
Email: [rtopping@standrews.edu](mailto:rtopping@standrews.edu)

### Purpose:

HIS 6/740 will familiarize students with the work of major personalities and movements of the Protestant Reformation as these arise and flourish in the social and historical context of Sixteenth and Seventeenth Century Europe. While students will be exposed to the family resemblance between the various Protestant Reformation trajectories, an appreciation of the range of reforms and reformers and their continuing influence on Protestant and Anglican confession, worship and church polity will be explored.

### Competence Objectives:

HIS 640

In completing this course a student will be able to:

- 1) Identify the major personalities and movements of the Protestant Reformation.
- 2) Describe the social, historical, political and theological factors that gave rise and success to the Protestant Reformation.
- 3) Compare and differentiate between the various strands of the Protestant Reformation in matters of doctrine, liturgy and church polity.
- 4) Relate and assess the continuing influence of the Protestant Reformation in the life of the denominations/traditions to which it gave rise.

HIS 740: Advance Degree Competence Objectives (in addition to the above)

- 1) Identify and critically assess central themes in Reformation thought and reflect on their current usefulness for the life of the church catholic through interaction with primary and secondary resources.
- 2) Demonstrate historical and theological dexterity in conversation with current theological/historical scholarship on the Magisterial Reformers.

### Format:

This class meets once a week for three hours for eleven weeks. The primary format is lecture followed by seminar discussion of questions raised on the basis the student's

reading of primary sources. We will also watch a variety of DVD resources and films on the personalities, movements and influence of the Protestant Reformation.

Expectations/Evaluation:

- 1) Class attendance and preparation of all required reading before class.
- 2) Three prepared questions – for clarification, debate or discussion - which arise from the students' reading of the primary sources each week. Students may be called upon to contribute to class discussion by means of one or more of their questions. These will also be handed in at the end of the class for which they are prepared to be evaluated. The criterion for evaluation is: do the questions give evidence of serious and creative engagement with the readings?
- 3) A major paper (18-20 pages, 4500-5000 words) which compares/contrasts how two major Protestant Reformers deal with a central Reformation doctrine, liturgical practice or matter of church polity and reflects briefly on the relevance of the matter for the life of the church today. The paper will be evaluated on the basis of its use of primary resources, its fidelity of depiction, clarity of contrast and imaginative potential.

HIS740 Expectations/Evaluation

1. Expectations 1-2 above.
2. Expectation 3 (above) will be covered in a longer paper of 25-30 pages. A bibliography which shows serious reading in secondary resources is also expected, as well as a more substantive reflection on the relevance of the matter considered for ecumenical discussion and ecclesiastical life today.
3. Reading of a biography (approved by the instructor) of one of the Major Reformers and a short review of 5 pages. Students should critically review the book in the light of the author's thesis. Evaluation will be based on clarity of understanding, cogency of argument and concise evaluation.

Required Texts/Readings:

Diarmaid MacCulloch, *The Reformation: A History* (Penguin, 2005).

Denis R. Janz, ed. *A Reformation Reader: Primary Texts with Introductions* (Fortress, 2008).

Select Bibliography:

Atkinson, James. *Martin Luther and the Birth of Protestantism*. Baltimore: Penquin, 1968.

- Bainton, Roland. *Here I Stand: A Life of Martin Luther*. New York: Abingdon-Cokesbury Press, 1950.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *The Reformation of the Sixteenth Century*. London: Hodder and Stoughton, 1953.
- Baylor, Michael G. Editor. *The Radical Reformation*. Cambridge; New York: Cambridge University Press, 1991.
- Bouwsma, William J. *John Calvin: A Sixteenth Century Portrait*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1988.
- Calvin, John. *Institutes of the Christian Religion*. Volumes 20 and 21 in the Library of Christian Classics. Translated and edited by Ford Lewis Battles. General Editors John Ballie, John T. McNeill and Henry P. Van Dusen. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1960.
- Chadwick, Owen. *The Reformation*. Reprint edition. Baltimore: Penquin Books, 1968.
- Courvoisier, Jacques. *Zwingli: A Reformed Theologian*. Richmond: John Knox, 1963.
- Dickens, A.G. *The English Reformation*. Reprint edition. London: Collins, 1969.
- Estep, William Roscoe. *The Anabaptist Story: An Introduction to Sixteenth-Century Anabaptism*. 3rd edition. Revised and enlarged. Grand Rapids, Mich.: William B. Eerdmans, 1996.
- Evennett, Outram H. *The Spirit of the Counter-Reformation*. Notre Dame: University of Notre Dame Press, 1970.
- Lindberg, Carter. *The European Reformations*. 2<sup>nd</sup> Paperback edition. Oxford: Blackwell, 2009.
- Luther, Martin. *Luther's Works*, eds. Jaroslav Pelikan and Walter Hansen. St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House.
- MacCulloch, Diarmaid. *Thomas Cranmer: A Life*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1996.
- McGrath, Alister. *Christianity's Dangerous Idea: The Protestant Revolution – A History from the Sixteenth Century to the Twenty-First*. New York: Harper Collins, 2007.

- Oberman, Heiko A. *Luther: Man Between God and the Devil*. New York: Image, 1992.
- Pauck, William. *The Heritage of the Reformation*. Revised and Enlarged. New York: Oxford University Press, 1961.
- Pelikan, Jaroslav J. *The Christian Tradition Vol. 4 : A History of the Development of Doctrine: Reformation of Church and Dogma (1300-1700)*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1985.
- Steinmetz, David C. *Reformers in the Wings*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1971.
- Tracy, James D. *Europe's Reformations: 1450-1650, Doctrine, Politics and Community*. 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition. Lanham MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2006.
- Wendel, Francois. *Calvin: The Origin and Development of his Religious Thought*. In *The Fontana Library of Theology and Philosophy*. Translated by Philip Mairet. New York: Collins, 1963.
- Zachman, Randall C. *Image and Word in the Theology of John Calvin*. Notre Dame: Notre Dame Press, 2007.
- Zwingli and Bullinger. Volume 24 in *The Library of Christian Classics*. Translated and edited by The Rev. G.W. Bromiley. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1953.