

HIS6/740 Reformation History
Spring 2017
Tuesdays 9 a.m.-12 noon

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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 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 (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.

The G. Peter Kaye Lecture and Seminar (February 24-25) will be by Randall Zachmann, an international Calvin Scholar from Notre Dame University. This includes a Friday night public lecture (24th) and a Saturday morning workshop (25th). The lecture will be held at Regent College at 7 p.m. with respondents from all the theological colleges on the topic of images and the reformation. Saturday morning at VST, Epiphany, will focus on Calvin and science – “Every Christian Should be an Astronomer: John Calvin and the Importance of True and Genuine Science for the Life of Faith.” **Students are expected to attend!** Recordings of these events will be posted to Moodle for online students. **This weekend will be instead of class on February 21.**

Online students will participate in a forum online by sharing their prepared questions and responding to each other. An email will be sent to online students directly to describe the structure and timetable for these interactions.

HIS640: 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. **Deadline: End of the last week of classes, April 7, 2017.**

HIS 740 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 (15-20 entries beyond course texts), as well as a more substantive reflection on the relevance of the matter considered for ecumenical discussion and ecclesiastical life today. **Deadline: Friday, April 21, 2017.**
3. Reading of a biography or short work (approved by the instructor) of an important Reformer 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. **Due Week 8, March 7, 2017.**

Deadlines:

Submission of assignments on time is a part of academic, professional and pastoral competence and a part of every course at VST. All assignments in courses are due on the dates specified in the syllabus for each course. Failure to submit an assignment on time will be noted in the narrative evaluation of an assignment. Repeated failure to submit assignments on time may affect the final grade for the course. Particular faculty members will specify the extent to which repeated late submission of assignments will affect a student's final grade.

Required Texts/Readings:

Diarmaid MacCulloch, *The Reformation: A History* (Penguin, 2003).

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

*Please note: In both the MacCulloch and Janz texts there are very current and useful bibliographies for further reading and research. In the MacCulloch book they are found at the end of the book (pp. 745-750); in Janz at the conclusion of each chapter (e.g, p. 74ff.).

Short reading of parts of Creeds, Confessions and Catechisms (week 10), John Knox, *The First Trumpet Blast* (1558) (week 11) and Argula von Grumbach, "The Account of a Christian Women of the Bavarian Nobility," in Peter Matheson, *Argula von Grumbach*, 56-95 (week 11), will be posted to Moodle.

Course Schedule/Lecture Topics and Readings:

Week 1, January 17: A "United Christendom"

Seeing Salvation in Church

Twin Pillars of Medieval Catholicism

The Mass and Purgatory - Prayer and Piety

Papal Primacy –Unity, Monarchy, Internationalism

Church and Commonwealth/Pope and Emperor

Guilds and Orders

Reading: RH, MacCulloch, pp. xvii-xxiv, 3-34

Reading: RR, Janz, pp. 1-14, 43-56, 59-63

Week 2, January 24: Signs of Discontent

Erasmus and Christian Humanism, *Ad fonts*

Scholasticism and Theological Method

Politics and the Papacy, Princes and Power

The Last Days, Islam and Joachim of Fiore

Reading: RH, MacCulloch, pp. 35-105

Reading: RR, Janz, pp. 28-31, 63-74

Week 3, January 31: Luther's "Accidental Revolution"

95 Theses and Debate on Indulgences

Writings on German Princes, Babylonian Captivity, Freedom

Solas and Authority

Augustine and Origen

Christian Freedom and Erasmus

Catechesis

Reading: RH, MacCulloch, 106-137, 139-144, ("Perhaps this was inevitable") 150-157,

Reading: RR, Janz, pp. 56-59, 75-93, 98-146

Week 4, February 7: Urban Reformation: Zwingli at Zurich

Reformed Protestantism

Church and State - Gradual Reform/Anabaptist Protest

Sacraments and Authority, Music and Liturgy

Reading: RH, MacCulloch, pp. 137-139 ("Wittenburg Reformer"), 144-150 (. . . more dour), ("Similar possibilities") 171-179, 584-591

Reading: RR: Janz, pp. 183-199

Week 5, February 14: Theological and Political Radicalization of Reformation Insight

Luther's: Carlstadt, Zwickau, Thomas Müntzer and Peasant Revolt

Zwingli's: Anabaptists, Spiritualists and Anti-trinitarians (rationalists)

Reading: RH, MacCulloch, pp. 158-171, 179-189, 204-212

Reading: RR, Janz, pp. 163-181, 200-243

*DVD Presentation: The Protestant Revolution, BBC: The Politics of Belief

Week 6, February 21: The Reformation of Church and Society: Calvin at Geneva

***This class will be cancelled for this year in lieu of the February 24-25 event with Randall Zachmann**

French Humanist and Refugee

Presbyterian Church order, Godly discipline (Bucer's influence)

Exile and Recall

Pastor, Teacher, Theologian

Reading: RH, MacCulloch, pp. 237-253

Reading: RR, Janz, pp. 245-254, 262-265, 270-325

*DVD Presentation: John Calvin, His Life and Legacy, Witherspoon Press

Week 7: Reading Week

Week 8, March 7: The Reformation in England

Henry VIII – political and ecclesiastical break with Rome

Thomas Cranmer's English Theology/Prayer Book and 42 Articles

Marian Reversal

Elizabethan Settlement – Act of Uniformity, Injunctions and 39 articles, a middle way?

Reading: RH, MacCulloch, p. 135 (from the line, "Other European") just the paragraph, 198 ("In the Atlantic Isles") -204, 255 ("This was by no means")-259 ("Adriatic Coast"), 280-291 ("of cathedrals"), 332-("Militant North Protestants, 1569-72)-335 ("Church of England"), 382-394; Advanced Degree also pp. 502-545

Reading: RR, Janz, pp. 329-359, 362-376

*DVD Presentation: The Protestant Revolution, BBC, A Reformation of the Mind

***Advanced Degree Book Review on biography of Major Reformer due**

Week 9, March 14: Catholic Reformation/Counter-Reformation

Constance (1414-1418) and the Fifth Lateran Council (1512-1517)

Early Reactions Luther and Calvin: Leo X, Adrian VI, Cajetan, de Jussie

Enforcing Orthodoxy: The Council of Trent (1545-1563)

Spanish Catholicism: Loyola, Teresa of Avila and John of the Cross

Establishment and Renewal of Religious Orders

Continued Debates: Aquinas, Molina, Jansen and Pascal

Reading: RH, MacCulloch, pp. 218-226, 234-237, 275 (“Against the background”-276, 303-306, 322-332, 400-441, 474-484

Reading: RR, Janz, pp. 377-400, 402-442

Week 10, March 21: Failed Attempts at Unity: “Confessionalization”

Catholic and Protestant: Marburg (1529); Augsburg (1530);
Regensburg (1541)

Evangelical: Augsburg (1530); Formula of Concord (1577) and Book of
Concord (1580)

Reformed: Consensus Tigurinus (1549); Heidelberg Catechism (1563),
Harmony of Confessions (1570s) – collection of Reformed
Confessions

Confessions and Catechisms

Reading: RH, MacCulloch, pp. 171-179, 226-233, 251 (“The Consensus”)-253, 347-358

Reading: Luther’s Small Catechism (1529); Augsburg Confession (1530), Part 1, Chief
Articles of Faith, X, “The Holy Supper of our Lord;” The Formula of Concord (1577),
Epitome, Article VII, “The Holy Supper of Christ,” The Chief Question at Issue between
our Doctrine and The Sacramentarian Doctrine in this Article; Consensus Tigurinus
(1549, 1551), the entire document; Heidelberg Catechism (1563), Qs. 75-79; 39 Articles
(1563), see Janz, p. 372-373, articles 28-30“of the Lord’s Supper;” Second Helvetic
Confession (1563, 64), chapter XXI “Of the Holy Supper of the Lord.” (All online)
Advanced Degree Reading: John Calvin, “Short Treatise on the Lord’s Supper” (1541).
(Online). http://www.the-highway.com/supper1_Calvin.html

Week 11, March 28: Reformation in France, Scotland and the Netherlands

The Growth of Calvinism outside Geneva: Why?

Calvinism and Monarchs/Persecution and the Nicodemites

Plurality in Theology and Polity

Reading: RH, MacCulloch: On France, pp. (In France) 193- 198 (“under his successors),
267-269, 306-309 (“in the Catholic Ligue”), 337-340, 464-484; On Scotland p. 204, 291
 (“England’s renewed reformation”)-295 (“both England and Scotland”), 378-382; On the
Netherlands, p. 134 (last paragraph), pp. 309-(from “The crisis that broke . . .”)-313, 336
 (“The fate of the Netherlands”)-337, 367-378, 590 – middle paragraph.

Reading: John Knox, *The First Blast of the Trumpet* (1558) online

(<http://www.swrb.ab.ca/newslett/actualNLs/firblast.htm>); Argula von Grumbach, “The
Account of a Christian Women of the Bavarian Nobility,” in Peter Matheson, *Argula von
Grumbach*, 56-95.

*DVD Presentation: The Protestant Revolution, BBC, No Rest for the Wicked

Week 12, April 4: Reformation Legacies

Conservative and Revolutionary Tendencies
Issues of Authority/Interpretation/Role of Bible
Irenic and Prophetic
16th Century and 21st Century Ecumenism
Catechesis/Confessions
Christendom then and now
The Enlightenment and Beyond
 faith and science and reason
 consciousness of choice
 pluralism

Reading: RH, MacCulloch, pp. 584-607, 630-667, 668-708

*DVD Presentation: The Protestant Revolution, BBC, The Godly Family

Select Bibliography:

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