

## SYLLABUS

### THE EUROPEAN REFORMATIONS

**Instructor:**

**Time:**

**Place:**

#### **COURSE GOALS**

Provide class members with an overview of the **theology** and **history** of the sixteenth-century Reformation. This necessarily includes an understanding of the **landscape** of this era, which means we will also pay attention to cities, nations, and geographical areas affected by reform. As a result, the *Atlas of the European Reformations* will be a crucial supplement to the course.

We will begin with an examination of the late Middle Ages (1300–1500) and look at the theological, political, and technological movements of that era. Next we will focus on the life and theology of Martin Luther, taking care to read his theology against the backdrop of the controversies stirred by his writings. We will then move south to the Swiss Reformation and especially the life and thought of John Calvin. Following our study of the Reformed tradition, we will examine the English Reformation and the Catholic Reformation. The course concludes with a brief overview of developments in the seventeenth century that can be traced to the Reformation.

#### **BOOKS**

Tim Dowley. *Atlas of the European Reformations*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2015  
(Cited as Atlas)

*Calvin's Institutes: A New Compend*. Edited by Hugh T. Kerr. Louisville: Westminster/John Know, 1989. (Cited as Kerr)

**Luther's Works**. American Edition, 55 vols. Edited by Jaroslav Pelikan and Helmut T. Lehmann. Philadelphia: Fortress and St. Louis: Concordia, 1955-88. (Cited as LW)

Martin Luther. *The Freedom of a Christian*. Translated and introduced by Mark D. Tranvik. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2008.

*Martin Luther's Basic Theological Writings*. 3<sup>rd</sup> edition. Edited by Timothy F. Lull and William R. Russell. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2012. (Cited as Lull)

*Martin Luther: Selections From His Writings*. Edited by John Dillenberger. Garden City, NY: Doubleday, 1961. (Cited as Dillenberger)

***The Book of Concord.*** Edited by Robert Kolb and Timothy Wengert. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2000. (Cited as BC)

***The Protestant Reformation: 1517–1559.*** Edited by Lewis W. Spitz. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice Hall, 1966. (Cited as Spitz)

## **COURSE SCHEDULE**

### **WEEK ONE**

Introduction to Christianity in the Middle Ages and the importance of Augustine for understanding the Reformation.

Readings: **Atlas**, 12-19

***The Confessions of Augustine***, Books 1-2, 8 at  
<http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/3296>

### **WEEK TWO**

The Late Middle Ages. Students will understand how the Reformation was shaped by a variety of forces in the two centuries preceding it.

Topic: Theology and Dissent

Readings: **Atlas**, 24-29, 32-35

Thomas à Kempis, ***The Imitation of Christ*** at  
<http://www.ccel.org/ccel/kempis/imitation.i.html>

Topic: The State of the Church

Readings: **Atlas**, 30-31, 42-43

Desiderius Erasmus, ***The Praise of Folly*** (Spitz, 14-22)

Topic: Innovation and Discovery

Readings: **Atlas**, 36-49

### **WEEKS THREE TO SIX**

Martin Luther. Students will read about Luther's theological revolution in its sixteenth-century context, paying close attention to the controversies by which it was molded.

Topic: The Young Luther

Readings: **Atlas**, 52-57

**95 Theses** (LW 31:25-33)

**The Heidelberg Disputation** (LW 31:39-58)

**The Freedom of a Christian** (Tranvik translation)

Topic: Luther the Theologian (needs two weeks)

Readings: **Lectures on Galatians** (LW 26 and 27)

**The Bondage of the Will** (Lull 138-170)

**Confession Concerning Christ's Supper** (Lull, 262-79)

**The Small Catechism** (Lull, 322-339)

Topic: Luther in Controversy

Readings: **Atlas**, 58-63

**Concerning Rebaptism** (Lull, 240-61)

**Secular Authority** (Dillenberger, 363-402)

**Schleitheim Confession** (Spitz, 89-101)

## WEEK SEVEN

The Emergence of Lutheranism. The Reformation did not begin and end with Martin Luther. Luther was surrounded by a talented group of theologians, including Philip Melancthon. Students will study how, after Luther's death, the Lutheran movement became embroiled in a number of internal controversies that would take some forty years to sort out.

Topic: Lutheranism

Readings: **Atlas**, 64-69

**The Augsburg Confession** (BC: 27-105)

**The Formula of Concord** (BC: 481-660)

## WEEKS EIGHT TO ELEVEN

Reform in the South. The Reformation was not only not confined to Martin Luther, it was not even confined to Germany. A significant protest took place in Switzerland, led by Ulrich Zwingli. A generation after Zwingli, the talented French jurist, John Calvin, led the reform of Geneva—a movement that had far-reaching consequences.

Topic: Zwingli and Zurich

Readings: **Atlas**, 70-71

**The First Zurich Disputation** (Spitz, 77-88)

Topic: Calvin and Geneva (needs two weeks)

Readings: **Atlas**, 74-77

*The Institutes* (Kerr, 17-119)

Topic: Calvinism

Readings: **Atlas**, 78-81

*A Brief Declaration of the Table of Predestination* by Theodore Beza.

[http://www.covenanter.org/Beza/bezas\\_table.html](http://www.covenanter.org/Beza/bezas_table.html)

## WEEK TWELVE

Reform in England. While there was agitation for change from the people, the Reformation in England proceeded primarily from the monarchy and the chaotic reign of Henry VIII in particular. Consolidation of the Protestant movement happened during the reign of Elizabeth I.

Topic: The English Reformation

Readings: **Atlas**, 84-91

*A Supplication of Beggars* (Spitz, 148-50)

*The Six Articles* (Spitz, 162-63)

*Cranmer's Preface to the Bible* (Spitz, 164-68)

*Act of Uniformity, 1559* (Spitz, 174-76)

## WEEK THIRTEEN

Catholic Reform. While the Catholic Church recognized the need to change, the major impetus to reform was the success of the Protestants. Of particular importance was the Society of Jesus (Jesuits) and the Council of Trent (1545-63). Catholic missions to Asia and America were also an important development.

Topic: The Catholic or Counter-Reformation

Readings: **Atlas**, 96-119

*The Spiritual Exercises* found at  
<http://www.sacred-texts.com/chr/seil/>

**The Council of Trent** found at  
<http://www.thecounciloftrent.com/>

## WEEK FOURTEEN

Largely as a result of the Reformation, the face of Europe and the world was profoundly changed. The entire area was now divided religiously. Dissenters left and formed new communities in America. Wars convulsed Germany and England. The Jesuits founded churches in Japan.

Topics: In the Wake of the Reformation and Early Modern Europe  
Readings: **Atlas**, 122–47.