

COS 322 Theological Heritage III: Medieval through European Reformations

Winter Session 2024: 15 January - 4 March
Mondays 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Central Time
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Objectives:

This course focuses on major movements and events beginning with the split between Eastern and Western Christian traditions and continuing through the European Reformations. Using primary sources, students will reflect on how the individuals, decisive events, and theological developments of these periods shaped world history.

When we have finished, you will be able to:

1. Understand major theological developments in medieval Christian traditions leading up to the European Reformations.
2. Distinguish the theological characteristics of Luther, Calvin, Zwingli, the Anabaptists, the English Reformation, Puritanism, and the Catholic Reformation.
3. Understand and articulate Reformation Era debates around justification, sanctification, the sacraments, and church unity.

Required Texts:

1. Justo Gonzalez, *The Story of Christianity (Revised and Updated, 2010)*, Vol. I (Chapters 27-38), Vol. 2 (Chapters 1-24)
2. James D. Tracy, *Europe's Reformations, 1450-1650: Doctrine, Politics, and Community, 2nd Edition, 2006* (pp. Chapters 1-15)
3. Henry Bettenson and Chris Maunder, eds., *Documents of the Christian Church (Fourth Edition, 2011)*
 - The Breach Between East and West, Part II, Section II.II
 - Rules of St. Benedict and St. Francis, Part II, Section III
 - Aquinas on the Eucharist, Part II, Section VI, III.D
 - Wycliffe and the Lollards, Part II, Section VII, XI
 - The Lutheran Reformation, Part II, Section VIII
 - Calvinism, Part II, Section VIII, II
 - The Council of Trent and Arminianism, Part II, Section X, II and IV

Assessment and Assignments:

Your performance in this class will be assessed in four ways: 1) online participation (25%), 2) a short analysis paper (20%), 3) a virtual presentation (15%), and 4) a capstone paper (40%).

Online Participation (25%): Your active participation in both synchronous and asynchronous online work will be important for the success of the course. Students are expected to attend conscientiously and prepare thoroughly for every week's lessons. Ask questions, offer your perspective, listen to others, take notes, and share your group's work with others. In these ways, we will become a classroom community.

We will have 4 contact hours of asynchronous activities (e.g. virtual discussion groups, online activities, etc.) that will be assigned throughout the course. In addition we will have 16 contact hours of synchronous work consisting of 2 hour synchronous video meetings per week on Mondays from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Central time running for the 8 week duration of the course. Details for the video links will be uploaded to the Millsaps College Course Connect LMS.

In addition to your preliminary comments, your grasp of the material is assessed every session through an online performance grade. Again, this is not a 'soft' grade. Getting an 'A' here means that you participate actively and are prepared to answer questions with a strong command of the reading. A 'B' means that you participate solidly and can answer questions, but perhaps only with a passing recollection of the material. If you participate infrequently and show insufficient knowledge or duck questions when they are directed to you, we are entering 'C' territory. A 'D' indicates that you only participate when you are put on the spot and then not well. An 'F' indicates that you do not appear to have done the reading at all.

Short Paper (20%): In 1,500 words (approximately 6 pages), make an argument about how power, truth, and/or justice is partially at stake in the reformations of Europe. To do so, offer a close interpretation and analysis of a primary text.

Virtual Presentation (15%): In 10 minutes, lead the class in presenting one of the major thinkers or movements within the European Reformations. Use a visual tool like PowerPoint or Prezi and interact with your audience. Thereafter, lead the class in discussion for 10 minutes by offering questions for consideration.

Capstone Paper (40%): In 3,000 words (approximately 12 pages), make an argument about the benefits and burdens of difference within a community, especially with respect to the theological topics of justification, sanctification, the sacraments, and church unity. Link your argument to your own practice of ministry, and use course texts as evidence to substantiate your arguments. The capstone paper is worth 40% of the final grade. Please note that failure to pass the final paper will result in failure of the class, regardless of your numeric grade average.

Course Schedule:

Week One (15 January 2024): Synchronous meeting

Gonzalez: Vol. 1, Chapters 27-31

Tracy: Chapters 1-3

Bettenson: The Breach Between East and West, Part II, Section II.II

Week Two (22 January 2024): Synchronous meeting

Gonzalez: Vol. 1, Chapters 32-38

Tracy: Chapters 4-5

Bettenson: Rules of St. Benedict and St. Francis, Part II, Section III

Week Three (29 January 2024): Synchronous meeting

Gonzalez: Vol. 2, Chapters 1-5

Tracy: Chapters 6-8

Bettenson: Aquinas on the Eucharist, Part II, Section VI, III.D

Week Four (5 February 2024): Synchronous meeting

Gonzalez: Vol. 2, Chapters 6-10

Tracy: Chapters 9-10

Bettenson: Wycliffe and the Lollards, Part II, Section VII, XI

Week Five (12 February 2024): Synchronous sessions

Gonzalez: Vol. 2, Chapters 11-15

Tracy: Chapters 11-12

Bettenson: The Lutheran Reformation, Part II, Section VIII

Short Papers Due: 16 February

Week Six (19 February 2024): Synchronous sessions

Gonzalez: Vol. 2, Chapters 16-20

Tracy: Chapters 13-14

Bettenson: Calvinism, Part II, Section VIII, II

Week Seven (26 February 2024): Asynchronous work on Course Connect

Gonzalez: Vol. 2, Chapters 21-24

Tracy: Chapter 15

Bettenson: The Council of Trent and Arminianism, Part II, Section X, II and IV

Week Eight (4 March 2024): Synchronous sessions

Virtual Presentations

Capstone Paper due: 8 March 2024

Important guidelines:

1. Your work should be typewritten and **double-spaced: font size 12** and Times New Roman or Arial font and please use one inch margins. (Margins are the same as on this page.) All written assignments must include your name, the course name and must be electronically signed by your mentor.
2. It is important to include a few words about plagiarism here since so much of the grade for the course depends on writing. Some students come close to copying from the textbook by changing a word or two in passages from the text, or splicing sentence fragments together. It's very obvious when this has been done. If there's something you don't understand, say so, and give it your best effort. Brief quotations from the text are fine, but such material should be indicated using quotation marks and the source noted. Papers must reflect your own thoughts, words, sentence structure, and ideas. Any use made of another author's material must be acknowledged in the form of a citation with or without a direct quotation. This applies most particularly to online sources like Wikipedia which can seem as though they exist in the public domain and so belong to everyone and no one at the same time. Importing online material without acknowledgement is plagiarism. Err on the side of caution, cite anything and everything you use to complete your assignments.
3. **Neatness, proper grammar, and spelling** will be factored into determining your final grade. If you know you have problems with grammar or spelling use the spell checker on your computer and/or get someone to check your work before turning it in.