

Syllabus for COS 322, Theological Heritage III: Medieval and Reformation
September 14-15 and October 12-13, 2018
Martin Methodist College, Pulaski, Tennessee
Instructor: Robert A. Ratcliff
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Course Goals:

- To provide students with an overview of the theology of medieval Christianity, especially as it relates to contemporary theological issues and pastoral practice.
- To give students a deeper understanding of such central Protestant doctrines as salvation by faith alone, the authority of Scripture, the priesthood of all believers, and the call to accountable discipleship.
- To introduce the major ideas, movements, and leaders related to the Protestant movement
- To prepare students to preach, teach, and lead more effectively by examining issues and questions that have confronted Christian leaders throughout the ages.

Course web site:

Lecture outlines for the course can be found by [clicking here for the course web site](#). **I strongly recommend that you read through the lecture outlines before coming to class, as this will help familiarize you with key names and terms.** Students often find it helpful to print out these outlines and bring them to class.

Required Reading:

1. [*The Story of Christianity, Vol. 2: The Reformation to the Present Day*, By Justo L. González](#) (ISBN: 978-0061855894)
2. [*Martin Luther: Selections from His Writings*, edited by John Dillenberger](#) (ISBN: 9780385098762)
3. [*A Reformation Debate*, by John Calvin and Jacopo Sadoletto; Edited by John C. Colin](#) (ISBN: 9780801023903)

Note Regarding Assignments: Failure to submit the pre-course assignment, the mid-course assignment, or the final examination will result, not simply in a "0" for that assignment, but *for the class as a whole*.

Pre-Course Assignment

1. Read the following from the textbooks:

The Story of Christianity, pp. 1-76.

Martin Luther, pp. xi-xxiii, 14-165, 489-504.

2. Using your reading of Luther, write a sermon of not less than 1200 and not more than 1500 words on the theme of grace and responsibility/the law. Base your sermon on at least one major passage from the Old Testament, and one from Paul's letters. Make certain that your sermon does two things: First, it reflects Luther's understanding of these theological themes. And second, it takes into account a Wesleyan perspective on the themes. **This assignment is due by Friday, September 7, 2018. Please submit the assignment as a Microsoft Word document, and send it to the e-mail address listed at the top of this syllabus.**

Mid-Course Assignment:

1. Read the following from the textbooks:

The Story of Christianity, pp. 77-99, 135-150, 173-236

A Reformation Debate, pp. 7-136

2. From your reading of *A Reformation Debate*, in a paper of not less than 1200 and not more than 1500 words mount an argument for who is closer to the Wesleyan theological tradition: Calvin or Sadoletto. Be sure to provide evidence from both writers for your position. Use no direct quotations of more than 50 words. **This assignment is due by Friday, October 5, 2017. Please submit the assignment as a Microsoft Word document, and send it to the e-mail address listed at the top of this syllabus.**

Honor Code:

The honor code of the Memphis/Tennessee/Holston Course of Study [can be found here](#). Please be certain to print, fill out, sign, and attach the cover sheet to each assignment. When turning in an assignment via e-mail attachment, you can fulfill this requirement by including the following statement in the body of the e-mail: "I have read the plagiarism definition on the Memphis/Tennessee/Holston Course of Study Honor Code, and I affirm that the attached assignment represents my own work, except where credit is given. I have also made copies of this assignment, and I will bring them with me to class in the event that any of my work is misplaced."

Plagiarism is theft of another person's work and lying by claiming to have written something that you didn't write. If I suspect that a student has plagiarized, I will use the following procedure:

- I will offer the student an opportunity to rewrite the paper.
- The student may then either rewrite the paper, or request that I re-examine the paper.
- If I re-examine the paper and discover no evidence of plagiarism (in other words, can find no other document from which sections of the paper have been copied or adapted), I will then assign a grade to the paper as normal.
- If I re-examine the paper and find proof that plagiarism has taken place (in other words,

can find other documents from which sections of the paper have been copied or adapted), then I will assign the paper a failing grade. **At this point, the student will have no opportunity to rewrite the paper, nor to appeal my decision.**

- For a good explanation of plagiarism and examples, see the following web pages
<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/589/02/>
<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/619/1/>

Final Examination:

The final will be handed out at the end of class on Saturday, October 3, 2018. It will be open book, and due by 9:00 p.m. CDT on Friday, October 19, 2018.

Grading:

Pre-course assignment:	30%
Mid-course assignment:	30%
Final Examination	20%
Class participation:	20%

Additional Resources:

[R. Ward Holder, *The Westminster Handbook to Theologies of the Reformation* \(ISBN 9780664223984\).](#)

[Glenn S. Sunshine, *The Reformation for Armchair Theologians* \(ISBN 9780664228156\).](#)

Class Schedule

Friday, September 14, 2018

6:00-7:30 p.m.: What's all this history stuff have to do with my ministry? Anselm; Medieval theologies of the Atonement

7:30-7:40 p.m.: Break

7:40-9:00 p.m.: Thomas Aquinas; The breakdown of the medieval synthesis;

Saturday, September 15, 2018

8:00-9:00 a.m.: Erasmus and the humanist tradition; Martin Luther's biography.

9:00-9:05 a.m.: Break

9:05-10:00 a.m.: Luther's biography (cont.); Luther's theology: salvation, Scripture.

10:00-10:10 a.m.: Break

10:10-11:00 a.m.: Luther's theology: ecclesiology, church and society

11:00-11:05: Break

11:05 a.m.-12:00 p.m.: Luther's theology: conclusions, discussion of student papers

12:00-12:45 p.m.: Lunch

12:45-2:30: Zwingli and the Reformation in Switzerland; Protestant understandings of the Lord's Supper

2:30-2:40 p.m. Break

2:40-4:00 p.m.: The Anabaptists

Friday, October 12, 2018

6:00-7:30 p.m.: Calvin's biography

7:30-7:40 p.m.: Break

7:40-9:00 p.m.: Calvin's theology: Salvation, election

Saturday, October 13, 2018

8:00-9:00 a.m.: Calvin's theology: Scripture, church order

9:00-9:05 a.m.: Break

9:05-10:00 a.m.: The Catholic Reformation; the Council of Trent; Ignatius of Loyola

10:00-10:10 a.m.: Break

10:10-11:00 a.m.: Discussion of Calvin-Sadoletto papers

11:00-11:05 a.m.: Break

11:05-12:00 a.m.: The English Reformation

12:00-1:00 p.m.: Lunch

1:00-1:30 p.m.: Communion service

1:30-2:30 p.m.: Puritanism

2:30-2:35 p.m.: Break

2:35-3:30 p.m.: Protestant orthodoxy; Pietism

3:30-4:15 p.m.: The Protestant future