

# Syllabus

## COS 322 Theological Heritage: Reformation to Present

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May 21–25, 2018

### Course Description

This course presents the major developments in the history and theology of the Protestant Reformation through the development of Protestantism in its historical settings into the modern era. Using primary sources, students will reflect on individuals, decisive events and theological developments, in relation to their application in the United Methodist ministry today.

### I. General Goals

- To understand and appreciate the Christian Tradition, so as to see that our generation lives on the growing edge of a vast Christian heritage.
- To grasp the historical expressions of the church that defined its community and mission
- To comprehend the issues that motivated the Church to develop its beliefs, practices, and structures and to see why, from time to time, the Church modified them.
- To understand the evolution of Christian thought and to learn to distinguish between form and content.
- To gain insight into the nature and practice of Christian ministry and to evaluate one's Christian vocation in the light of the main theological currents of our Christian heritage.

### Texts

1. González, Justo L., *The Reformation to the Present Day*, REVISED AND UPDATED, San Francisco: Harper One, 2010.
2. James Tracy, *Europe's Reformation, 1450-1650*; read this book before class begins and bring notes to class: how might your ministry be different if you took this book seriously?
3. Primary sourcebook [supplemental]: Kerr, Hugh T., ed., *Readings in Christian Thought*, second edition, Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1966. (This book will also be used in COS 333.)
4. Primary sourcebook: Bettenson, Henry, and Maunder, Chris, eds, *Documents of the Christian Church* (Oxford paperback, fourth ed.). ISBN 0192836713 \$24.26

**Free Online Texts of Gerhard Tersteegen, True Godliness, William Otterbein, *The Salvation-bringing Incarnation***

### Suggested Additional Reading

*The Baker Atlas of Christian History*, ed. Tim Dowley. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1996.  
Optional: Irwin, Dale and Sunquist, Scott, *History of the World Christian Movement* (volume one), Orbis, 2001.(abbreviated HWCM)

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**Before the class begins, prepare two papers, double-spaced, about six pages in length**

**First Paper:** With focus on primary sources, explain Martin Luther’s understanding of authority and salvation, in distinction from the Roman Catholic position in his day, as well as in comparison with the understanding found in the radical reformers, John Calvin, and Thomas Cranmer. Apply the theology produced by these figures to the needs, challenges, and opportunities for ministry in the United Methodist Church.

**Second paper:** Discuss the theological, spiritual, and practical developments which characterized Protestantism in the eras of Protestant orthodoxy, Pietism, and through the impact of the Enlightenment. Consider how these factors apply to twenty-first century ministry in the United Methodist Church.

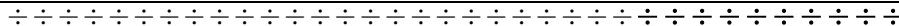
### Submitting your work

- It is essential to observe the deadlines for submitting your papers, because ALPS standards require the instructors to lower a grade by one letter for late work.
- Send all written work in one packet.
- Avoid plagiarism, as it can be detected.

### Guidelines for writing and formatting your paper

- Title each paper.
- Use the opening paragraph to state the purpose of the paper.
- Add section headings as needed.
- Type your papers and use double spacing, with twelve-point type and one-inch margins (this leaves space for the reader’s comments).
- Number all pages.
- Proof read and re-read your work—checking your punctuation, spelling, and sentence structure. Check errors of syntax (incomplete sentences, misplaced modifiers, too many or too few new paragraphs, agreement of noun and verb, unclear antecedents. If in doubt about style, consult the *Chicago Manual of Style*.
- •Use gender inclusive language.
- •Add footnotes for quoted material.

Francis Bacon (1551-1626) said,  
*“Reading makes a full man, conversation a ready man, and writing an exact man.”*



## **Outline of the Class Sessions**

**5/21**

### **1. Introduction**

Martin Luther (1483-1546)

Background to the Protestant Reformation

Luther and His Message

Major Themes of Luther's Theology

The Lutheran Movement in Germany

Luther readings: LGonzalez, chapters 2-4, Kerr selection 20, Bettenson, 194-214, 233-236, 238-240; Zwingli and Radicals: Gonzalez 5-6, Kerr 26

Focal issue presentation one on idea of the church in the Reformation

[discussion: The Babylonian Captivity of the Church, 1520]

**5/22**

### **2. Ulrich Zwingli and the Radical Reformation**

John Calvin: the Reformation in Geneva; his

Institutes of the Christian Religion

The English Reformation and Thomas Cranmer

Calvin and the Anglicans: Gonzalez 7-8, Kerr 22-24, Bettenson: Submission of the clergy: 232-237, Elizabethan Settlement: 242-3, also 250-5, 261-71

Focal issue one on idea of the church in the Reformation...

Focal issue two on the sacraments in the Reformation

Focal issue three on Christian life and ministry in the Reformation

**5/23**

### **3. The Later Struggles of Protestantism:**

Germany

Holland (the Netherlands)

France

The Catholic Reformation and the Council of Trent (1545-1563)

The Puritans in England (1562-1650)

## The Enlightenment (1650-1800)

Gonzalez, 9-12, 16-17, Kerr 23, 25; and Bettenson 228-231 (peace accords)  
Protestant Orthodoxy: Lutheran and Reformed (1550-1650)); Puritans: Gonzalez, 18-22,  
Kerr 21, 27; and Bettenson 306-317 (Westminster Confession to Congregationalists)

Focal issue four on the Catholic Reformation

Focal issue five on the Puritans

5/24

### 4 The birth of movements of renewal and awakening in Modern Protestantism: Evangelical Pietism (1600; 1675-1750+)

Key figures: John Arndt and *The True Christianity* (1605)

Philip Jacob Spener and the *Pia Desideria* (1675)

*Product: the "collegia pietatis"* (small  
fellowship groups: the first of a kind)

Friedrich Adolf Francke and the Halle project (1700-  
29)

Count Zinzendorf and the Moravians

F.A. Lampe (German Reformed)

Gerhard Tersteegen ; the most influential Pietist

Otterbein and the United Brethren (alias) United  
Methodists (1760)

John Wesley's and the Methodist Response to Pietism

Gonzalez, 23, 24; Kerr 28, 31 Bettenson 323-327, 330-33; digital resource: Otterbein  
sermon: "*The Salvation-bringing Incarnation*" (1760)

Focal Issue six on Pietism and Methodism.

Class discussion of Tersteegen, "True Godliness," Christianity in Colonial and  
Nineteenth Century America and England

Gonzalez 25-28, Kerr 29-30

The Great Awakenings: Charles Finney and Jonathan Edwards

Phoebe Palmer and the Methodist Holiness Movement

Descendants: The Pentecostals

Latin America and Protestant Liberal Theology in the Nineteenth  
Century: Friedrich Schleiermacher (1800)

Gonzalez 29-31, Kerr 32, 34, 41-44

Focal issue seven on Edwards and Finney

Focal issue eight on Schleiermacher

5/25

5. Contrasting Nineteenth Century Thinkers: Rauschenbusch and  
Kierkegaard

Focal issue nine on Rauschenbusch and Kierkegaard

6. Catholicism, and the Rise of World Missions in the Nineteenth  
Century

Gonzalez 32-34, Bettenson: Catholicism to Vatican II: 276-286, Kerr 36.

7. Twentieth century Renewal of the Reformation Heritage: Karl Barth  
and his colleagues in the Age of Crisis (1886-1968)

8. Dietrich Bonhoeffer (1906-1939) American Theological Voices in  
the 20<sup>th</sup> century: the Niebuhrs

9. American Theological Voices in the 20<sup>th</sup> century: the Niebuhrs

Gonzalez 35-38; Kerr 47, 50-52, and 55; Bettenson: Ecumensm and the WCC: 408-16, (iv-

vi), 421-8 (recent issues)

10. Clarifying terminology derived from Protestant theology and praxis

11. Christian Revitalization in the Global South: the 21<sup>st</sup> century....

Resource: J. S. O'Malley, *Interpretive Trends in Christian Revitalization in the Early Twenty-first Century* (2010)