

COURSE OF STUDY
STUDY GUIDE | New England Satellite School
April 21-2 and May 12-13, 2017

COS 322 – Theological Heritage III: Medieval through the Reformation
Dr. Ryan N. Danker
Assistant Professor of the History of Christianity and Methodist Studies,
Wesley Theological Seminary
rdanker@wesleyseminary.edu

Course Description and Objectives

This course focuses on major movements and events beginning with the split between Eastern and Western forms of Christianity and continuing through the Reformation. Using primary sources, students will reflect on individuals, decisive events, and theological developments.

Students will be able to:

1. Understand major theological developments in medieval Christianity leading up to the reformation.
2. Distinguish the theological characteristics of Luther, Zwingli, the Anabaptists, Calvin, the English Reformation, and Puritanism.
3. Understand and articulate reformation era debates around justification, sanctification, the sacraments, and church unity.

Textbooks:

1. Justo Gonzalez, *The Story of Christianity, Volume II: The Reformation to the Present Day, Revised and Updated*
2. Alister E. McGrath, *Reformation Thought: An Introduction, Fourth Edition*

Reading to be completed during the course of the class:

Gonzalez, 1-177, 193-208
McGrath, 1-240

FIRST ASSIGNMENT (*please bring to first session*)

Due date: Friday April 21, 2017

Before the first session, I want each participant to create a detailed listing of the major figures in late Medieval Christianity and the Reformation Period. A list of 12 persons is provided. Each person was a major contributor of the Christian faith. Most of these names and the necessary information can be found in the textbooks, although not all since the textbooks are heavily geared toward the Reformation Era and not the Medieval. However, these figures are easily found in other books or online. When creating your detailed list, include specific information and when possible, be detailed. Also, avoid Protestant bias. Mary Tudor (not listed) made major contributions to England. She was the first queen of England to rule outright, she started the Royal Navy, and she put England on a firm economic footing. We

know her now for her nickname, "Bloody," but that only because of propaganda. So, be critical in your assessment and how you put together your list.

For the following, provide (typed):

Name:

Dates:

Country:

Branch of Christianity:

Major Contribution(s):

Major Writings (if applicable):

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Thomas Aquinas | 7. John Calvin |
| 2. Francis of Assisi | 8. Ulrich Zwingli |
| 3. Julian of Norwich | 9. Philip Melanchthon |
| 4. Ignatius of Loyola | 10. Thomas Cranmer |
| 5. Erasmus | 11. Henry VIII of England |
| 6. Martin Luther | 12. Elizabeth I of England |

SECOND ASSIGNMENT

Due date: May 12, 2017

A 2000 word paper will be due at the second session.

Chose one reform movement within the period covered by the course. Provide (in the first section) a detailed description of the movement, major figures within it, it's geographical and political reach, and its theological emphasize, after which (in a second section) each paper is to attempts to describe ways in which the reform movement is still relevant in the contemporary ministry setting.

The paper can be organized like this:

Introduction (including an obvious thesis statement)

Section on the movement (i.e. Lutheran, Catholic, etc)

Section highlighting key figures

Section highlighting key theological emphases of the movement

Section describing how this particular movement is still relevant in contemporary

pastoral practice/situations

Concluding Paragraph that summarizes your argument

Make certain that you use original source material to back up your claims and secondary materials to give you a general overview of the movements that you have chosen. I insist that all ideas, quotes, etc. (anything that didn't come from you) is cited (either with parenthetical notation in the text or some other way).

All papers should use a minimum of 6 different sources. Thus, if you're using the Lutheran movement, be certain to cite Luther and Melanchthon, and perhaps others, using primary source material.

Some helpful hints for an historical paper:

1. Make sure that your formatting is correct: indented paragraphs, word count, etc.
2. Do not refer to the historical figure by first name unless that is all we have (i.e. Tom did this, Tom did that . . .) Use their whole name at the beginning of the paper and then refer to them by surname throughout the rest of the paper.
3. Avoid what is called “hagiography.” This is the attempt to write as though the person was a saint in whom there was never an ill thought, word, or action. Let them be human, in other words.
4. Try to be objective. One should never use the term “I” in an academic paper. You shouldn’t be in the paper at all, except your name at the top. Treat the subject with the necessary distance to remain critical, even if informed.
5. Avoid pious language. It’s not the historian’s duty to determine if the Lord called this person or not (or whether or not He did anything). What the historian is concerned with is whether the person made such a claim (or other claims). Base your assertions in fact.
6. Cite anything that came from another source, unless it’s basic information about the person/context, etc.
7. Include basic information, i.e. a biographical paragraph should include information such as the date of the person’s birth and death, the place where they were born, lived, died, etc.
8. Use primary and secondary source material to augment your argument, not to create a litany of sources with little to no narrative (i.e. do not use long quotes to fill in your paper when it should be a crafted argument based on those sources.)
9. If you have a longer quotation (more than four lines) it should be single-spaced, and indented. It will require no quotation marks if it is indented properly and thus set apart from the body of the text.
10. Keep in mind that the person(s) you are working with actually believed in something. Don’t leave out his/her beliefs (and footnote your sources). He/She was propelled by his/her beliefs.