

Saint Paul School of Theology
Course of Study 322
Theological Heritage III: Medieval Period through the Reformation
Summer 2022

Instructor: Dr. Kyle Butler
Email: theokyle@gmail.com

Course Description

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.

Course Objectives

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.

Required Texts for COS 322

1. Justo L. Gonzalez. *The Story of Christianity, Volume 1: The Early Church to the Dawn of the Reformation*. Revised and Updated. New York, NY: HarperOne, 2010. ISBN 978-0-06-185588-7
2. Justo L. Gonzalez. *The Story of Christianity, Volume 2: The Reformation to Present Day*. Revised and Updated. New York, NY: HarperOne, 2010. ISBN 978-0-06-185589-4

Assignments

Moodle Forums (7/11 - 7/22)

FORUMS - 2 forums per week (a total of 4 forums)

❖ Online Engagement weeks of July 11-July 23

In these two weeks I will post 2 forums per week. Each of the 2 forums will reflect on the readings for one of the four topics for the class and will ask you to share the following:

1. 2 discoveries I made in these readings:
2. Things I found confusing in these readings:
3. Things I'm curious about or want to discuss from these readings:

Week 1: Medieval 7/11-7/15

Topic 1: Monasticism and Mysticism

- a. **Textbooks:** Gonzalez, *Story of Christianity* Vol. 1, Ch. 27 and 30
- b. **Moodle:** Richard Rohr, "Eager to Love: The Alternative Way of Francis of Assisi", Ch. 1

Topic 2: Scholasticism and Atonement

- c. **Textbooks:** Gonzalez, *Story of Christianity* Vol. 1, Ch. 32, 35
- d. **Moodle:** Thomas Aquinas, *Summa Theologica*, Part 3, Question 1

Week 2: Reformation 7/18-7/22

Topic 3: Road to Reformation and Luther

- e. **Textbooks:** Gonzalez, *Story of Christianity* Vol. 2, Ch. 1, 2, 4
- f. **Moodle:** Luther, 95 Theses

Topic 4: Calvin, England, and Radical Reformation

- g. **Textbooks:** Gonzalez, *Story of Christianity* Vol. 2, Ch. 5-8
- h. **Moodle:** John Calvin, "God's Providence Governs All"

- ❖ Students engage these forums by making initial posts (250 – 300) in response to the forum topics. You may wish to reference course texts, narrated PowerPoints, videos, or other material.
- ❖ Students will then respond to initial posts by two other students in each of the two forums each week (50 – 100 words)
- ❖ Initial forum posts by students must be done by Wednesday by 11:59 pm of each week to allow students to write at least two responses to their classmates by Friday 11:59 pm.
- ❖ Forum postings of adequate length and posted on time will receive full credit for the Moodle portion of your grade, which is 25% of your total grade.

Assignment 1 – Reading Reflection – DUE AUGUST 2

For each of the 4 modules listed above, write a brief reflection describing both what you have learned from this reading as well as what you found challenging or difficult. Each Reading Comprehension Post should be 2 pages and briefly address these 3 things in order:

- a. 2 discoveries I made in these readings:
- b. Things I found confusing in these readings:
- c. Things I'm curious about or want to learn more about from these readings:

Note: These are the same questions we will be reflecting on in the Moodle portion of the course. This assignment invites you to collect, edit, and/or add to your initial posting based on the Moodle conversation.

Complete 4 Reading Reflections

4 complete reflections = A 2 complete reflections = C 0 reflections = F
3 complete reflections = B 1 complete reflection = D

Due date: Tuesday, August 2, 2022

Assignment 2 – Personal Reflection – DUE AUGUST 2

For this assignment choose one of the two questions listed for each time period (Medieval and Reformation) and respond to each question with a 2-3 page paper (for a total of 4-6 pages for both questions).

Time Period 1: Medieval

1. Question #1: Mystics and Monasticism
 - a. Reflection Question: In the Medieval period, monastics lived under a set *rule* which gave structure to their physical and spiritual lives. This could include patterns of performing liturgy, a vow of poverty, and many other things. Today, do you find rules more helpful or harmful to a life of faith? Why?

2. Question #2: Scholasticism
 - a. Reflection Question: The Scholastics, like Thomas Aquinas, sought to use reason as a tool to discern the mysteries of faith. Theology was a process of *fides quaerens intellectum* or “faith seeking understanding”. Likewise, in the Wesleyan tradition reason is emphasized as one of the four parts of the “Wesleyan Quadrilateral”. In what way can the use of reason help us to grow in our faith? How might it become a hindrance?

Time Period 2: Reformation

1. Question #3: Martin Luther
 - a. Reflection Question: Gonzales describes Luther’s thought as a “theology of the cross”. “Such a theology,” Gonzalez describes, “seeks God, not where we choose, nor as we would like God to be, but in the divine revelation of the cross. There God is seen in weakness, in suffering, as a stumbling block. This means God that God acts in a radically different way than we would expect” (p. 50). Would you describe either your own personal theology or the theology of your church as a “theology of the cross”? What would change in

your ministry if you gave more attention to the weakness and suffering of those in your community?

2. Question #4: John Calvin

- a. Reflection Question: “Everything happens for a reason,” is a phrase that has often been said to those experiencing tragedy, loss, or other challenges. Do you think Calvin would agree with this statement? How would you respond to this statement? If you do not agree with it, what might you suggest as an alternative?

Due date: Tuesday, August 2, 2022

Assignment 3 – Sermon – DUE AUGUST 16

In Assignment 2 you choose two questions to reflect on in a 2-3 page paper. For this assignment, choose ONE of these questions and write a 5 page sermon reflecting on this topic. The purpose of this assignment is to take the ideas you developed in the previous assignment and explore how you would communicate those ideas to your congregation.

Your sermon does need to be based on a particular passage of scripture (you can choose what passage) and needs to connect to this scripture. In this sermon you will not be evaluated based on your homiletical ability, but instead your ability to articulate your response clearly.

A good sermon will include a clear “point” or idea you are trying to get across, will relate to a scripture chosen, and will reference the time period chosen (ie. Mystics, Scholastics, Luther, or Calvin).

Due date: Tuesday, August 16, 2022

Final Grade

1. Assignment 1: Reading Reflection - 25%
2. Assignment 2: Personal Reflection – 25%
3. Assignment 3: Sermon – 25%
4. Moodle Postings – 25%

Two special notes:

1. Late papers receive a grade no higher than C (unless by special accommodation) and may receive no credit.
2. Missing one class session or 20% of a class work results in no credit for the course. [See the COS policy below.

CLASS SCHEDULE

ZOOM ORIENTATION—Meet from 6-8 pm CST, Tuesday, July 5th for an introduction to the class. Attendance is required for all students

ONLINE FORUMS – July 11-July 22, 2022

ONLINE CLASS MEETING—Tuesday, July 26th, 2022 from 8-12, 1-5 pm CST

Classes will be held via Zoom for 10 hours (combination of orientation and class day) to meet GBHEM policies and educational best practices.

A zoom link will be e-mailed to the class and posted on the Moodle page for the course. A computer or tablet with a camera are preferred – and please plan to have your camera on during class to facilitate discussion.

Course Policies

In this course, we have multiple accountabilities. First, we are accountable to the Triune God and the Christian life and work to which we are called. Second, we are accountable to the Church and to the believers who make up the COS community. Third, we (instructor and students) are accountable to the Course of Study Policies and Guidelines, which help us to be faithful to our calls, the Church, and each other. I refer you to the COS policies but will highlight a few important expectations in this course.

Class Attendance

“A student is expected to attend every class session. Unexcused absences may be cause for loss of credit or dismissal from the school. A student missing twenty percent (20%) or more of the class room work shall not receive credit for those classes. Online work shall be included in the attendance policy.” [COS Policies and Guidelines, page 5]

Academic Integrity Statement/Plagiarism

All students are expected to document the sources they use in their written work properly. All words from the source should be quoted and cited even if only one unique word, a phrase, or model and typology headings. The use of a concept, idea, or fact must also be given recognition.

Any violation of COS’s policy on may result in a zero for the assignment, course, and disciplinary action against the student may be taken, including, but not limited to, dismissal.

Note from the instructor: To avoid plagiarism, which is taking someone else’s ideas or words/phrases/sentences and representing them as your own. In this course, **be sure** to use quotation marks to indicate when you’re quoting an author. Use footnotes to cite the places where anyone can find the quoted material or ideas. I recommend using Kate L. Turabian’s *A Manual for Writers*. See the folder posted in Moodle to learn the style expected. A quick reference guide is found at:

<https://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/turabian/turabian-notes-and-bibliography-citation-quick-guide.html>

See/contact the instructor whenever you need writing support or advice.

Sexual Harassment and Racial Harassment

Note from the instructor: The two policies are too lengthy to quote here, but I refer you to the texts in the COS Policies and Guidelines, pages 19-23. Needless to say, the expected practice in our classroom will be to encourage, respect, and support each other in our work. The classroom is not a competitive or contentious place, but a collaborative and mutually responsible setting.

Learning Accommodation

As part of its commitment to equal opportunity, the Seminary is committed to providing qualified individuals with disabilities with reasonable accommodation. Students seeking accommodation should contact Margaretta Narcisse, the Associate Dean of Student Affairs at margaretta.narcisse@spst.edu.

This office maintains the forms necessary for medical documentation of disabilities required before any accommodation can be considered. Following receipt of medical documentation from the student, the Associate Dean of Student Affairs will determine reasonable accommodations for specified needs, including identifying persons to whom this information will be released.