

CH504 Church History II

Dr. Josh Bruce
Spring 2020

Course Description

This is the second of two courses in church history in which we will examine some of the most significant moments in the church during the Reformation and its aftermath up to the present. Beginning with the culmination of factors that provoked the Reformation, we will examine the historical and theological shifts and developments that remain visible to this day. This course will explore these chronological advances in the church through the lens of major figures, events, and various hermeneutical strategies that led to a range of theological and denominational developments.

Course Objectives

The students will grow in their ability to:

1. articulate and justify an informed historiographical method of approaching the Reformation and its aftermath;
2. provide an informed and thoughtful analysis of major Reformation and Post-Reformation figures, their context(s), and their role(s) within the past five centuries of Christianity;
3. cite specific examples of doctrinal differences between different denominations and their historical/theological roots;
4. summarize key non-western Christian missional developments since the Reformation;
5. compare and contrast post-Reformation theological views with those of key church figures from the early and medieval church;
6. articulate the relationship between Science and Theology in the post-Reformation period, especially with respect to developments in Astronomy, Physics, and Biology and how those developments related to and interacted with various theological formulations and beliefs.

The ultimate goal of this course is to deepen our love and devotion to the triune God.

Contact Information

Dr. Josh Bruce

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I am available to students whenever they have questions or want to discuss any aspect of this course. My preferred method of contact is by email but I also welcome students to come by my office.

Textbooks

The following books are required for this course. *NB*: throughout this course we will be engaging with texts, ancient and modern, with which we will take exception; however, all of them are valuable to understanding the literary and theological history of the development of the Christian Church.

1. Payton Jr., James R. *Getting the Reformation Wrong: Correcting Some Misunderstandings*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2010. ISBN: 978-0830838806
2. Woodbridge, John D. and Frank A. James III. *Church History, Volume Two: From Pre-Reformation to the Present Day*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2013. ISBN: 978-0310257431
3. Primary source readings, including but not limited to primary source texts posted on Moodle regarding the Galileo controversy, the Newtonian revolution, and the Fundamentalist-Modernist controversies including the “Scopes Monkey Trial.”

Biographies

(Students will **choose one** of the following for their book summary and presentation; see Course Requirement 3 below).

1. Bainton, Roland H. *Here I Stand: A Life of Martin Luther*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1978.
2. Dallimore, Arnold. *George Whitefield: God’s Anointed Servant In the Great Revival of the Eighteenth Century*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2010.
3. Dugard, Martin. *Into Africa: The Epic Adventures of Stanley and Livingstone*. New York: Broadway Books, 2004. (Reprint)
4. Godfrey, W. Robert. *John Calvin: Pilgrim and Pastor*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2009.
5. Kazin, Michael. *A Godly Hero: The Life of William Jennings Bryan*. New York: Anchor Books, 2007.
6. Lloyd-Jones, D.M. and Iain Murray. *John Knox and the Reformation*. Banner of Truth, 2011.
7. Metaxas, Eric. *Bonhoeffer Abridged: Pastor, Martyr, Spy, Prophet*. Nashville: Nelson Books, 2014.
8. Murray, Iaian. *The Forgotten Spurgeon*. Banner of Truth, 2009.
9. Whalin, W. Terry. *Billy Graham: A Biography of America’s Greatest Evangelist*. New York: Morgan James, 2015.

Course Requirements

1. Readings (Corresponds to objectives 2-4)

This course is reading intensive. It is expected that students will have read *all* the required portions of the required textbooks prior to the class beginning. Students will also be prepared to discuss the course readings in class.

Required Readings:

Church History (Vol. 2)

Getting the Reformation Wrong

One of the biographies listed above

Various primary texts posted on Moodle by the professors throughout the course

2. Participation (Corresponds to objectives 1-5)

Students are expected to attend all classes and actively participate in discussions. As discussions will focus on the assigned readings, students are also expected to have completed all the readings.

3. Biographical Book Summary and Presentation (Corresponds to Objectives 1-3)

Each student will prepare a 1-2-page summary on one of the books noted above (under *Textbooks > Biographies*). The student will also give a 10 minute presentation on the book, its central figure, and his/her theological *and* historical influence. While the *format* may vary (bullet points, narrative, timeline, etc. – feel free to be creative), both the summary and the presentation should be *structured* in a way that addresses the following four categories:

- a) Personal Biographical Sketch (what was his/her life like?)
- b) Historical and Theological Context
- c) Historical and Theological Contribution
- d) Legacy (why does this person matter for Christianity today?)

4. Midterm Essay (Corresponds to objectives 1-5)

There will be one midterm essay on the course readings and lectures which will be administered in class approximately midway through the course. The midterm essay will ask the student to write an essay that articulates the relationship of the Gospel to sanctification in the life of the believer.

5. Final Paper (Corresponds to objectives 1-5)

The body of this paper will be no more than 8 pages (do *not* go over) and will reflect your understanding of one of two topics:

1) The impact of the Reformation that continues today

(Specific examples include [but are not limited to] major theological shift(s) of the Reformation continue to bear influence today; relationship of believer and scripture; relationship of believer and church; understanding the role and rule of the church; etc.)

2) Modern Christianity and the need for continued reform

(Specific examples include [but are not limited to] how principles of the Reformation might benefit the church today; similar perils in church governance, praxis, theology, etc.; retrieving the 5 *solas* of the Reformation and reapplying them today; etc.)

The final paper will be informed by the primary sources and modern historical surveys. Please note that this is not strictly a research paper, nor is it simply a reflection paper; it is a combination of the two. Thus, your paper should demonstrate a balance between the information learned in the course, your own analysis, and reflections on why it matters.

The following guidelines should be followed closely:

- * Do not exceed the word count
- * Check and double-check your paper for proper spelling, grammar, and formatting (Footnotes and citations will conform to Kate L. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*. 7th ed. (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2007). Primary guidelines may be found online via the Online Turabian Quick Guide (http://www.press.uchicago.edu/books/turabian/turabian_citationguide.html)
- * Papers will be composed in MS Word (.doc or .docx) format only (NO PDF's) and **emailed directly to jbruce@knoxseminary.edu**.
- * Papers will be double-spaced

Evaluation

Assignment

Percentage of Final Grade

Class Participation

10%

Biographical Book Summary

20%

Biographical Presentation

20%

Midterm Essay

25%

Final Paper

25%

Proposed Course Schedule and Reading Schedule (Subject to Change)

Section I: The Reformation on the Continent

Week 1 (January 23): The Lead Up to the Reformation

Relevant Readings:

Payton, Chapters 1-2

NO CLASS JANUARY 30 - CONFLICT WITH SCIENCE SYMPOSIUM

Week 2 (February 6): The Reformation on the Continent Part I: Martin Luther

Relevant Readings:

Woodbridge & James, Chapter 3

Payton, Chapter 3

[Martin Luther's 95 Theses \(CLICK\)](#)

Week 3 (February 13): The Reformation on the Continent Part II: Swiss Reformers (Calvin & Zwingli)

Relevant Readings:

Woodbridge & James, Chapter 4

Payton, Chapters 4-6

Selected readings from Calvin's *Commentary on Genesis* regarding the "greater and lesser lights" and from Calvin's *Institutes* on the Lord's Supper will be emailed to the students.

NO CLASS FEBRUARY 20 - KNOX DAY OF PRAYER

Week 4 (February 27): The Reformation on the Continent Part III: Radicals and Roman Counter-Reformation

Relevant Readings:

Woodbridge & James, Chapter 5

Payton, Chapters 7-9

Section II: The Reformation in England and Its Aftermath

Week 5 (March 5): The Reformation in England: Monarchs, Marriage, and Movement Away from Rome

Relevant Readings:

Woodbridge & James, Chapter 6

Week 6 (March 12): 17th Century Christianity: Post-Reformation Setting

Relevant Readings:

Woodbridge & James, Chapters 7-8

Other primary source readings on the Galileo controversy will be emailed to students

MIDTERM ESSAY IN CLASS ON MARCH 12, 2020

MARCH 19: SPRING BREAK. NO CLASS!

Week 7 (March 26): 18th Century Christianity: The Age of Scientific Revolutions and Discoveries

Relevant Readings:

Woodbridge & James, Chapter 10

Other primary source readings on the Newtonian revolution in physics will be emailed to students

Section III: 19th - 21st Century Christianity

Week 8 (April 2): 19th Century Christianity: Revolutions and Modernization

Relevant Readings:

Woodbridge & James, Chapters 14-16

Week 9 (April 9): 20th Century Christianity: Fundamentalism and Modernism

Relevant Readings:

Woodbridge & James, Chapters 17 and 18

Payton, Chapters 10-12

Other primary source readings on the Fundamentalist-Modernist controversies including selections from *The Fundamentals* and records of the “Scopes Monkey Trial” will be emailed to students

Week 10 (April 16): The Evangelical Movement: Contemporary American Evangelicalism

Relevant Readings:

Woodbridge & James, Chapter 21

Other primary source readings will be emailed to students

Week 11 (April 23): Christianity and Islam: The Challenge of the Future

Relevant Readings:

Woodbridge & James, Chapter 22

Other primary source readings will be emailed to students

Week 12 (April 30): Christianity Today: Faithful Presence in a Secular Culture

Relevant Readings: TBD

In-class presentations

Week 13 (May 7): Final Thoughts on Course and Review for Final Paper

Relevant Readings: No assigned readings