

HIST-608: The Reformation of Christian Practices
Fall 2024
DRAFT SYLLABUS - SUBJECT TO TWEAKING

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Class schedule

Online: mixed asynchronous/synchronous
Synchronous time: Thursdays, 2 - 3 pm via Teams

Course description

This course explores the ways that Christian practices changed during the Reformation, creating the basis for much of modern Christian life and spirituality. We will examine how each practice was understood and lived out in the context of late medieval Christianity, then how various reformers adapted that practice to their particular theology. The practices we will study include Christian education and catechesis, baptism, the veneration of saints, confession, worship, preaching, the Eucharist, prayer, care for the poor, and dying in the faith.

Learning Outcomes

At the end of this course, students will be able to:

- understand the events of the Reformation via the changes it promoted in the practice of Christian faith.
- understand the historical roots of key Protestant practices and the theological and practical reasons why specific changes were promoted.
- consider the effects of the Reformation in the lives of lay and non-elite Christians and identify the effects of social location on the experiences of various Christians.
- draw upon the theologies and practices of the Reformation critically and judiciously to enrich and strengthen our own practices and beliefs.
- exercise skills in critical reading, discussion, research, and writing.

Required Texts

Carter Lindberg, *Beyond Charity: Reformation Initiatives for the Poor*. ISBN: 978-0800625696, \$17.93 on Amazon.com.

John Van Engen, ed., *Educating People of Faith: Exploring the History of Jewish and Christian Communities*. ISBN: 978-0802849366, \$29.01 on Amazon.com.

Lee Palmer Wandel, *The Eucharist in the Reformation*. ISBN: 978-0521673129. \$29.99 on Amazon.com.

*Additional texts and materials will be scanned and available on Moodle.

Assignments & Grading

Participation: 30%

This class will be discussion-based, and the participation grade will cover the following activities: the Discussion Sheets, the personal practice statements, and discussion participation during synchronous portion of class.

Mid-term Paper or Project: 30%

A mid-term essay (5 – 7 pages) on a choice of topics provided by the instructor is due on October 12 by 5 p.m. The topics will be given two weeks before the paper is due.

Presentation of Final Paper/Project: 10%

Our last class meeting, on December 9, will be dedicated to presentations of plans for students' final papers or projects. Each student will present on their project's purpose, thesis, sources, and major questions.

Final Paper/Project: 30%

A final research paper (10 – 15 pages) or other project on a subject of the student's choosing is due on December 15. Students who want to do a project instead of a paper should consult with the professor to discuss how the project fulfills the course objectives and evidences their learning from the class.

Final grades for the course are determined by the following scale:

A: 100-93%	C: 73-77%
A-: 90-92%	C-: 70-72%
B+: 88-89%	D+: 68-69%
B: 83-87%	D: 63-67%
B-: 80-82%	D-: 60-62%
C+: 78-79%	F: 59% and below

Policies and Procedures

Garrett-wide Academic Policies:

All students are required to abide by the academic policies detailed in the [Academic Handbook](#) for the current academic year. The following policies are of particular importance to the successful completion of one's coursework:

1. Writing

- Academic integrity and [plagiarism](#): (See 19 – 20 Handbook, 12, 78-83) All professors are required to respond to all suspected incidents of academic dishonesty, especially plagiarism. Repeated incidents of plagiarism or academic dishonesty may result in dismissal from the school.
- Writing and citations: The Turabian Manual for Writers and the Chicago Manual of Style footnote/bibliography format provide the standard formats for all introductory courses. Basic information on these formats is available online [here](#). In advanced courses an instructor may require another style guide appropriate to the discipline (such as APA). (19 – 20 Handbook, 84)
- Writing Support: The Writing Center at Garrett-Evangelical offers programs to support all students' theological research and writing. See <https://www.garrett.edu/studentlife/student-services> then "Writing Center" for more detailed information.

2. Attendance and Class Participation

- Inclusivity/Diversity: The basic commitments of the seminary to mutual love and searching for the truth in Christ lead to a principle that in the classroom and in course assignments, persons are always to be respected and ideas are to be freely discussed. All participants in the teaching learning process have an obligation to honor and respect varying perspectives on relevant issues. (See 19 – 20 Handbook, 9)
- Attendance and lateness policies: Attendance is required. Students who miss more than 20% of the class sessions (e.g., more than 2 classes in the weekly schedule, a proportionate amount for other class formats) should not expect to pass the class. (19 – 20 Handbook, 19)
- Some faculty may limit on the usage of electronic devices such as cell phones during class. At the least, all cell phones should be silenced during the whole of a class session.

3. Academic Accommodations

- Student accommodations for documented conditions should be developed and requested before the beginning of the semester. See the Accessibility, Special Needs, and Disabilities policy and process set out in the Academic Handbook (19 – 20

Handbook, 12). Such accommodations are developed in consultation with the Registrar.

- Extensions: For Masters students, extensions, if granted, are normally for four weeks following the last day of class in spring and fall semesters or the final due date for coursework for January and summer terms. Extensions may not exceed three months following the end of the term. (19 – 20 Handbook, 20)

Course/instructor specific policy:

1. *Late papers and other assignments* will be accepted without penalty only in extreme and documented situations, such as a death or serious diagnosis in the family, a lengthy illness, or other emergency. Please plan your work so that an acute emergency (e.g. brief illness, computer problems, pastoral emergency) does not interfere with submitting your work on time. Unexcused late assignments will be docked a full letter grade (i.e., 10 percentage points) for every day they are late. Any portion of a day late counts as a full day, so if a paper is due at 10 p.m. and you submit it at 10.30 p.m., your grade will be docked by one full letter grade (e.g., 90% becomes 80%).

COURSE SCHEDULE

September 5:

Course Introduction

(Class discussion – no reading needed)

The Reformation in Outline

Lindberg, “The Reformations of the Sixteenth Century”

Pestana, “Reformation and the Politicization of Religious Expansion,”

bottom of p. 56 through p. 65 (feel free to skip or skim the beginning)

Introducing Late Medieval Practice

Kieckhefer, “Major Currents in Late Medieval Devotion” (Late Medieval)

September 12:

Catechesis/Christian Education

Van Engen, ed., pp. 253-269 (Lutheran); pp. 270-293 (Zürich);

pp. 294-313 (Genevan); pp. 314-329 (Catholic)

Collani, “The Jesuit Rites Controversy” (Catholic)

September 19:

Baptism

- Spierling, "Infant Baptism in the Sixteenth-Century: Doctrine and Liturgy" (Late Medieval)
- Estep, "The Birth of Anabaptism" (Radical)

September 26:

The Saints

- Duffy, pp. 155-206
- Kolb, "Saints and Martyrs at Wittenberg" (Lutheran)
- Myers, "'Redeemer of America': Rosa de Lima (1586-1617), the Dynamics of Identity, and Canonization" (Catholic)

October 3:

Confession

- Rittgers, "Between Hope and Fear" (Late Medieval)
- Thayer, "Luther's Response to the Late Medieval Penitential Process" (Lutheran)

October 10:

Worship

- Kingdon, "Worship in Geneva Before and After the Reformation" (Late Medieval & Genevan)
- Pettegree, "Militant in Song" (Lutheran, Genevan, French, English)
- Rempel, "Mennonites" (Radical)

October 17:

Preaching

- Taylor, "The Sermon as Event" (Late Medieval)
- Carlson, "The Boring of the Ear" (English)
- Lara, "Preaching: The Attractive Art of Conversion" (Catholic)

October 24: Reading Day - no class

November 7:

The Eucharist

Wandel, pp. 14-46; 139-171 (Late Medieval and Genevan, French, Scottish, Dutch)

Parker, "Converting Souls Across Cultural Borders (Dutch)

November 14:

Prayer

Duffy, "A Book for Laypeople" (Late Medieval)

Ryrie, "Speaking to God" (English)

O'Malley, "Early Jesuit Spirituality" (Catholic)

November 21:

Charity & Economic Ethics

Lindberg, pp. 17-67; 128-160 (Late Medieval and Lutheran)

Stayer, "The Swiss Brethren & Acts 4" & "Epilogue" (Radical)

November 25 - 29: Thanksgiving Break - no class

December 5:

Dying in the Faith

Swanson, "Death" (Late Medieval)

Cleugh, "'At the Hour of our Death': Praying for the Dying" (English)

Sweet, "Disease, Mortality, and Master Power" (Catholic)

Tuesday, December 10 (make-up day for Thursday Reading Day):

Paper / Project Presentations

December 13: Papers / Projects Due