CONTENT OF THE COURSE

Puritan Theology arose and developed in a time of national and international revival, reformation, and revolution. Much of the American Evangelical tradition is in certain important respect the direct heir of British Puritanism. Many questions and methodologies raised by Puritan Theologians in the 16th and 17th centuries are still vitally important issue for Christianity in the late 20th century. We will survey the development of major themes and issues in Puritan Theology with particular emphasis on 16th and 17th century England and some reference to 17th century New England. We deal with such matters as the authority of Scripture and the regulative principle over all of life; pastoral care; the practicalities of sanctification; natural theology; the sovereignty of God; devotion to Christ; church/state relations; the rise of modern science; future optimism, and the relationship between Calvin and Puritan soteriology.

STRUCTURE OF THE COURSE

This course is based on both lecture and seminars. After every three class hours of lecture, there will be an hour seminar which will take the form of class discussion based on the required reading for that part of the course. Please take notes on your readings as this is an important part of the course. Your participation in discussion is encouraged, and this will constitute 25% of your course grade.

REQUIREMENTS

1. Do the required readings on time in preparation for class seminars every other week. Take notes where appropriate.

2. Read the following textbooks:
   f. Selected weekly readings posted on Self-Service

3. Be prepared to participate in class discussion on the basis of the course readings. This will be worth 25% of the course grade.

4. Essay: This paper should be from 12 to 15 pages in length (typed and double-spaced) with appropriate footnoting and bibliography. Do not include a string of long quotations. Make sure you (1) deal with the relevant information competently and fairly to all sides and (2) interact with the material yourself so that you demonstrate that you have “thought about it theologically.” (3) Have a proper introduction and conclusion and a clear structure for your essay. (4) Use good grammar and write clearly. Essay topics are available on Self-Service. This essay will be due Thursday, 10/3/2013 by 5 PM. This is worth 35% of course grade.
5. There will be a final exam (sample essay questions will be given two weeks before the end of the semester). **This is worth 40% of course grade.**