POST-REFORMATION DEVELOPMENTS:
THM SEMINAR

June 2011

PROFESSOR: Dr. Frank A. James III

DATES: 13-17 June 2011

TIME/PLACE: RTS/O Seminar Room, 9 AM – 5 PM

TEXTBOOKS:

Students will be required to read the following books BEFORE the seminar:


**ISBN-13:** 978-0800634728


**ISBN-13:** 978-0801026188


**ISBN-13:** 978-0570045571


**ISBN-13:** 978-0853648536

All Texts are available through the online RTS Bookstore: MindandHeart.com
OBJECTIVES:

This is a graduate seminar with three basic components -- lectures, student presentations and tutorials. This seminar is designed to introduce the graduate student to the historical contours and theological development of doctrine in the seventeenth century Reformation movement. It is the goal of this program to provide students with graduate level critical and analytical skills, a good broad background in the field of Reformation studies as well as a high level of competence in the area of their thesis research.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

There will be 1 major research paper (20+ pages) on a topic approved by professor. The complete first draft is due 08 August. The final draft of research paper is due 26 August.

There are also two Response Papers (6-10 pages) on the reading assignments, which are to be completed BEFORE the June session. Each paper is to be a formal, well-written, footnoted, balanced, summary, analysis and critical response to a single chapter from any of the assigned texts. (That is-- a total of 2 response papers)

These response papers will presented informally in the morning sessions and will provide the basis for seminar discussions. In afternoon tutorials, Professor will work with student to help (i) to assess and develop scholarly skills and (ii) to begin work on research paper for the seminar.

Student presentation (30 min) of the fruits of his/her Response Paper, followed by class discussion. Student will provide the RTS Orlando Th.M. Coordinator with a copy of presentation on first day of session to be photocopied and distributed to class.

The major research paper is 80% of the final grade. Each response paper will be 10% of the final grade.

TUTORIALS:

1 pm – 5 pm in Professor’s office
SEMINAR SCHEDULE:

13 June  Introduction: Protestant Scholasticism
14 June  Lutheran Orthodoxy
15 June  Reformed Orthodoxy
16 June  Germany and Scandinavia
17 June  Switzerland, Netherlands, France and England

INTERNET SCHEDULE FOR Post Reformation Seminar

Week of 20 June -------------------Travel Week

Week of 27 June -------------------Preliminary Outline to Professor

Week of 04 July -------------------Professor responds to Student

Week of 11 July -------------------Research and Writing

Week of 18 July -------------------Research and Writing

Week of 25 July-------------------8 -10 pages to Professor

Nota Bene: Each student should also send a copy of this draft to all seminar participants for feedback

Week of 01 August-------------------All Seminar participants provide feedback for Student Paper.

Week of 08 August-------------------First Draft to Professor

Nota Bene: Each student should also send a copy of this draft to all seminar participants for feedback

Week of 15 August-------------------All Seminar participants provide feedback for Student Paper.

Week of 22 August-------------------Final Draft due to Professor.
**Nota Bene**: All preliminary drafts will be via email. The final draft should be emailed to: Dr. Frank A. James at fjames@gcts.edu [Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, 130 Essex Dr. South Hamilton, MA 01982].
CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION OF THM PAPERS

I. Grammar and Style (25%)
   * Is the text clean of spelling mistakes?
   * Is the text punctuated correctly?
   * Does the sentence structure consistently adhere to basic rules of good grammar?
   * Does the footnote/bibliographic apparatus follow Turabian consistently? (Turabian, A Manual for Writers).
   * Is the paper written in clear, straight-forward style of academic prose (e.g., the guidelines in Strunk and White, The Elements of Style)?

II. Organization (25%)
   * Is the subject of the paper clearly delimited? Is it significant, but still manageable?
   * Does the subject correspond to what was assigned in the syllabus?
   * Does the paper have a well-designed thesis statement and outline?
   * Does the running text of the paper adhere to the outline, and are the larger divisions of the paper clearly signposted?
   * Are the sentences and paragraphs of the text linked together clearly and in such a way that the thought of the student builds throughout the paper with continuity and coherence?

III. Clarity and Force of Argument (25%)
   * Is a convincing case made to support the thesis statement?
   * Is the evidence marshalled to support the argument used judiciously?
   * Where the student provides exposition or summary, does she/he do so succinctly and objectively?
   * Are opposing viewpoints treated fairly?
   * Is there evidence of mature Christian reflection on the subject matter?

IV. Research (25%)
   * Does the paper draw on primary sources for its main evidence?
   * Are the secondary sources selected and used judiciously?
   * Does the paper demonstrate sufficient depth and breadth of research, given the nature and level of the assignment?

Recommended Resources


ADDITIONAL BIBLIOGRAPHY FOR POST
REFORMATION STUDIES


Richard A. Muller, *Christ and the Decree: Christology and Predestination in Reformed Theology from Calvin to Perkins* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1986).


W, Stanford Reid, ed. *John Calvin: His Influence in the Western World* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1982).

Paul Helm, *Calvin and the Calvinists* (Edinburgh: Banner of Truth, 1982).


Peter Lake, *Moderate Puritans and the Elizabethan Church* (Cambridge Univ. Press, 1982).


Heinrich Heppe, *Reformed Dogmatics: Set Out and illustrated from the Sources* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1950)