Course Description
This one-credit course will examine the pastoral theology of the Protestant reformer John Calvin (1509-1564), and explore ways in which he attempted to translate this vision into actual pastoral practice in sixteenth-century Geneva. Our study of preaching, church discipline, prayer and worship, and pastoral care in Calvin’s Geneva, will provide students with rich insights into the nature of the office of Christian pastor, and provide helpful points of comparison with contemporary models of pastoral life and ministry.

Learning Objectives
The professor has three learning objective for this course: First, that students gain a general understanding of Calvin’s life and theological contribution, with an appreciation for recent developments in Calvin research. Second, that students mature in their ability to analyze and interpret theological and historical texts. Third, that students explore ways that Calvin’s theology and practice of pastoral ministry might inform and enrich their own ministries for the glory of God and the benefit of Christ’s Church.

Method of Instruction
This course will meet on three successive days, Monday, March 24 (5:30 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.); Tuesday, March 25 (8:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.); Wednesday, March 26 (8:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.) and will include lecture, text analysis, and class discussion. Attendance is expected. Students should bring their copy of Elsie Anne McKee, ed., John Calvin. Writings on Pastoral Piety to each class session.

Contacting the Professor
Professor Manetsch will be available to meet with students 30 minutes before each class session, and at other times per special arrangement. After March 26, students are invited to contact the professor at smanetsc@tiu.edu, or at his office telephone at Trinity (847-317-8033).

Required Course Texts
Students are asked to purchase the following three texts:


Course Requirements and Grading
Student grades for this course will be determined by the following four criteria:

(1) Critical Review of Herman Selderhuis’s *John Calvin. A Pilgrim’s Life* (30% of grade). This review is due on March 24 – **the first day of class**. It may be no longer than six pages (double spaced, one inch margins, 12 cpi font), and should offer both a concise summary as well as a penetrating critical assessment of the book. Detailed instructions for this review are provided at the end of this syllabus.

(2) Ministry Application Paper (50%). Students are required to write a 10 page (3,000 words) paper exploring in detail one of the following aspects of ministry in Calvin’s Geneva: preaching; church discipline; worship and liturgy; catechesis; pastoral care; celebration of the sacraments. The first 2/3 of this paper must provide a clear articulation of Calvin’s theological understanding underlying this ministry activity as well as a detailed description of how this ministry was practiced in Geneva in the sixteenth century. (Students are expected to draw from course material as well as original research in their analysis.) The final 1/3 of the paper should be a well-considered reflection on ways that Calvin’s theology and practice might inform and enhance congregational ministry in **your** present church context. This ministry application paper is due no later than 5 p.m. on **April 30**, and should be sent as an electronic file to Professor Manetsch at smanetsc@tiu.edu. Papers handed in after April 30 will be penalized 1/3 letter grade per day unless the student has made prior arrangement with the professor.

(3) Class Participation (10%). At the end of the course, the professor will evaluate the frequency and quality of each student’s participation in class discussion.

(4) Reading Covenant (10%). At the time that students submit their Ministry Application Paper (April 30), they will report the percentage of required course reading that they have read (not skimmed) during the semester. Students will receive a numerical grade, based on the percentage read. (E.g. a student who reads 75% of required material will receive 7.5 out of potential 10 points = ‘C’ grade.)

Schedule of Topics and Reading Assignments

**Before March 24:**

- Students read Herman Selderhuis, *John Calvin, A Pilgrim’s Life* and write a 6 page book review.
- Students read Manetsch, *Calvin’s Company of Pastors*.

**Class Session One** (March 24; 5:30 – 10:00 p.m.):

Topics: The Reformation of the Pastoral Office; John Calvin and Geneva; Pastoral Vocation.
Class Session Two (March 25; 8:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.):

Topics: Pastoral Ordination; Worship and Liturgy; Preaching.

Assignment: After class, please read McKee, 39-63; 98-134; 178-193.

Class Session Three (March 26; 8:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.):

Topics: Church Discipline; Pastoral Care.

Assignment: After class, please read McKee, 135-177; 197-224; 271-332.

Ministry Application Paper Due April 30, 2014
Guide Sheet for Book Review

Each student will write a critical book review of Herman Selderhuis’s *John Calvin, A Pilgrim’s Life* (Downers Grove, Ill: InterVarsity Press, 2009). This review should be no more than 6 pages in length, double-spaced with normal one-inch margins and 12 cpi font. Please provide a cover sheet with your name, postal address, and the date. The review is due on the first day of class, March 24, 2014. The review is worth 30% of the student’s grade for the semester.

The written review must include the following elements:

**Introduction:** In addition to introducing the author and title of the book you are reviewing, the first paragraph of your paper should provide a brief overview of the book, describing the subject matter, and explaining necessary background information. The ‘center-piece’ of this introduction should be a succinct statement of the author’s major thesis or arguments.

**The Book Summary:** The major portion of your review should contain a carefully crafted explanation of the author’s major thesis/theses and a general summary of the book’s contents. Consider the methods and sources that the author employs to prove his central arguments. Ask yourself: ‘What is the author concerned about? Why? What is new or unique in the author’s treatment of this topic? How is this book different than other treatments on this same subject?’ You may also wish to mention details in your summary that will become ‘evidence’ in the critical evaluation section of your review. Nevertheless, this first descriptive part must not contain a critical evaluation of the book (positive or negative). Instead, a good summary provides an ‘objective’ report of the book’s major themes and arguments. Your objective is to summarize the book in such a way that, if the author were present, he would say ‘that’s exactly what I was arguing.’

**The Critical Evaluation:** In the final pages of the review you should provide a thoughtful critique of the book. How well does the author use his sources? Does he successfully defend his thesis/es? Does the evidence bear out the author’s conclusions? Are there flaws in the author’s reasoning or the book’s organization? Does he propose new approaches, use any major new documents, propose new interpretations, challenge existing interpretations, or present old information in new ways? What are the major strengths and weaknesses of the work? If you judge the book to be ‘interesting,’ ‘provocative,’ ‘boring,’ or ‘significant,’ explain why or how. If you did not like the book, say so, but support your opinion with solid reasons. In other words, the critical evaluation requires you to state and defend your opinion of the book. **NB -- a critical evaluation must always be gracious and polite. Avoid cheap shots or *ad hominem* arguments!**

**Conclusion:** In a final paragraph, briefly summarize the argument of your review and provide a concluding assessment (whether positive or negative) of Selderhuis’s monograph.
Calvin Research: Some Basic Resources

I. Calvin Bibliography:

The best place to begin intensive scholarship in Calvin studies is the bibliography that has been compiled each fall since 1960 in the *Calvin Theological Journal*. This excellent bibliography includes journal articles and books published in more than a dozen languages. It can be accessed on-line at [www.calvin.edu/library/database/card/index.stm](http://www.calvin.edu/library/database/card/index.stm). Complementing this bibliography are several important books and bibliographical essays:


II. Calvin Biography:

The most important monographs exploring Calvin’s life and thought are:


Doumergue, E. *Jean Calvin: les hommes et les choses de son temps*. 7 Vols. Lausanne,1899-1917. Though hard to find, this book remains the most detailed study of Calvin’s life ever written.


**III. Encyclopedias and Handbooks:**

The best reference resources for Reformation studies generally, and Calvin research in particular are:


Haag, Eugène and Émile, eds. *La France protestante*. 10 volumes. Paris, 1877-88. This remains the standard source to identify obscure pastors and leaders of French Protestantism during the early modern period.


**IV. Journals:**

A variety of academic journals contain articles and book reviews related to Calvin and Calvinism. The most important are:
*Archiv für Reformationsgeschichte.* This well-respected journal contains many articles in English. Once a year, the editors of the ARG publish a supplement called the *Literaturbericht* in which the most important books on the Reformation from the previous year are reviewed.

*Bibliothèque d’humanisme et renaissance.* As the title suggests, focuses on sixteenth-century French literature and culture.

*Bulletin de la société de l’histoire du protestantisme français.* A journal more than 120 years old that contains an enormous amount of obscure information about Calvinism in France from the sixteenth century to the present.

*Calvin Theological Journal*

*Church History.* Has occasional articles related to Calvin and Calvinism.

*Sixteenth Century Journal.* The most important journal for Reformation studies, although the focus of articles is frequently on social and cultural rather than intellectual history.

**V. Primary Sources:**

The definitive edition of Calvin’s writings remains *Ioannis Calvini Opera quae supersunt omnia* (known as the *Calvini Opera*; abbreviated as *CO*), edited by G. Baum, E. Cunitz, and E. Reuss (59 vols., 1863-1900). The *CO* includes most of Calvin’s writings in their original Latin and French versions. It can now be purchased in electronic format from the Instituut voor Reformatieonderzoek (Apeldorn, The Netherlands). In recent decades, the *CO* has been expanded by several volumes of Calvin’s (French) sermons, entitled collectively the *Supplementa Calvini*. A smaller collection of Calvin’s Latin writings are found in P. Barth and W. Niesel (editors) five volume *Ioannis Calvini Opera Selecta* (1926-62).

The definitive bibliography of Calvin’s original language writings is now the three volume *Bibliotheca Calviniana*, edited by Rodolphe Peter and Jean-François Gilmont (1991, 1994, 2000). In addition, W. de Greef’s *The Writings of John Calvin* (Baker, 1993) offers an excellent survey and description of John Calvin’s vast literary corpus.

Although serious Calvin scholarship employs Latin and French editions of the reformer’s corpus, a variety of English translations of Calvin’s writings are also available:

* Anthologies of Calvin’s Writings:

* Commentaries:


* Institutes of the Christian Religion:


* Letters:


* Sermons:


* Theological Treatises and Catechisms:

    “Apology of John Calvin, to Messrs. the Nicodemites upon the Complaint that they make


