HT5200 The History of Christianity II

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**Course description:**

A continuation of History of Christianity I, this course is a general introduction to Christianity in the Reformation, Post-Reformation and Modern eras. The course will focus on the key figures, movements and ideas that have contributed significantly to the history of the Church. As an outcome of the course, students should have a general grasp of Christian history since the Sixteenth Century, and with it a working knowledge of the major ecclesiastical issues and personalities of this period of church history, with particular reference to Europe and North America.

**Required Texts:**

Justo Gonzalez, *The Story of Christianity, vol. 2: The Reformation to Present Day*, revised

edition (New York: Harper, 2010).

Martin Luther, *The Bondage of the Will*, trans. Packer & Johnston (Grand Rapids: Baker

Academic, 2012 [1525]).

John Calvin, *A Reformation Debate*, ed Olin (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1966 [1539]).

J. Gresham Machen, *Christianity and Liberalism*, (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2009 [1923])

Michael Reeves, *Theologians You Should Know: An Introduction from the Apostolic Fathers to the 21st Century* (Wheaton: Crossway, 2016).

Hugh T. Kerr, *Readings in Christian Thought*, 2nd edition (Nashville: Abington, 1990).

**Assessment:**

Two book digests: 30% each

The student must write two 2 page (12 point font, 1.5 spacing) reflections on two the following required texts: texts from the required readings:

Luther, *Bondage of the Will*

Calvin, *A Reformation Debate*

Machen, *Christianity and Liberalism*.

Due date: July 7

Paper: 40%

The student must write a 7- 8 page (12 point font, 1.5 spacing paper on a topic which is relevant to the course and approved by the professor in advance. The bibliography should include at least four books which the student consulted in researching and writing the paper.

Due date: July 21

**Grading scale (standard RTS scale):**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 97-100 | A |
| 94-96 | A- |
| 91-93 | B+ |
| 88-90 | B |
| 86-87 | B- |
| 83-85 | C+ |
| 80-82 | C |
| 78-79 | C- |
| 75-77 | D+ |
| 72-74 | D |
| 70-71 | D- |
| Below 70 | F |

As part of our purpose to train servants of the triune God to walk with God in all of life, we expect godly integrity in the academic work done at RTS. God’s covenant with His people calls for honesty and a commitment to truth (as in the 9th commandment). As we live in that covenant and in community with one another, upholding truth is an essential duty. Specifically applied to academic labors, this means that we accurately represent our work to others. In other words, neither cheating nor plagiarism is tolerated.

**Class Schedule:**

Day One: Luther and the Reformation

Day Two: The Reformation Spreads

Day Three: Seventeenth Century Developments

Day Four: Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries

Day Five: The Modern Era

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **MDiv\* Student Learning Outcomes***In order to measure the success of the MDiv curriculum, RTS has defined the following as the intended outcomes of the student learning process. Each course contributes to these overall outcomes. This rubric shows the contribution of this course to the MDiv outcomes.* *\*As the MDiv is the core degree at RTS, the MDiv rubric will be used in this syllabus.* |  | **Rubric**1. Strong
2. Moderate
3. Minimal
4. None
 | **Mini-Justification** |
| **Articulation**  **(oral & written)** | Broadly understands and articulates knowledge, both oral and written, of essential biblical, theological, historical, and cultural/global information, including details, concepts, and frameworks.  |  Strong | 1. Submit two book reflections.
2. Write one paper
 |
| **Scripture** | Significant knowledge of the original meaning of Scripture. Also, the concepts for and skill to research further into the original meaning of Scripture and to apply Scripture to a variety of modern circumstances. (Includes appropriate use of original languages and hermeneutics; and integrates theological, historical, and cultural/global perspectives.) |  Moderate |  Class discussion. |
| **Reformed Theology** | Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.  |  Moderate | 1. Class discussion.
2. Book reflections and paper.
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| **Sanctification** | Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student’s sanctification. |  Minimal | Class opens with prayer. |
| **Worldview** | Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God. |  Strong |  The whole course will seek to draw contemporary lessons from the periods under discussion. |
| **Winsomely Reformed** | Embraces a winsomely Reformed ethos. (Includes an appropriate ecumenical spirit with other Christians, especially Evangelicals; a concern to present the Gospel in a God-honoring manner to non-Christians; and a truth-in-love attitude in disagreements.) |  Strong |  My mere presence in the classroom. To know me is to be more winsome. To spend a week with me will bne utterly transformative. |
| **Pastoral Ministry** | Ability to minister the Word of God to hearts and lives of both churched and unchurched, to include preaching, teaching, leading in worship, leading and shepherding the local congregation, aiding in spiritual maturity, concern for non-Christians. |  Moderate |  The course covers material which the student should be able to apply in each of these areas as appropriate. |
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Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs—see attachments)