HA/HL 112: The Story Of Christianity:
Part A: The Reformations

Time: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1:30 - 2:50 pm.
Place: Room 209, Lutheran Theological Seminary (LTS)
Instructor: Gordon Jensen, LTS ph. 966-7866 gordon.jensen@usask.ca

Course Description

This course picks up the story of Christianity in the late medieval period (the end of the fifteenth century) and carries it through to the end of the sixteenth century. The first part of HA/HL 112 deals with the Reformation movements of the 16th century. The second part, taught by Dr. Sandra Beardsall, will deal with the story of Christianity from the time of the Reformations to the present.

The Reformation Era

The sixteenth century represents a major watershed in the story of Christianity in the West. We speak of “the Reformations” of the sixteenth century, but what that term means is understood in a variety of ways. Some have seen the Reformations as the triumph of light after centuries of darkness; for others it is the tearing apart of Christ’s body, the church, into many fragments.

The first part of the course will seek to address the questions that swirl around the sixteenth century. It will look at backgrounds and try to put the Reformation movements into the context of their time and place. These movements will be seen ultimately in religious terms, but religion itself will be understood as very much a part of the social, economic and political realities of the day. By examining the major developments, personalities and writings of various kinds, we will attempt to shed some light on this period and to lay down some of the basic foundational stones for Christianity in the modern world.

Required Texts


Original source readings: these can be found on the professor’s website, www.gjlts.com. Please contact professor for access information.
Course Requirements

The Reformation section of this course is worth 65% of the total mark in the HA/HL 112 course, and the Modern section, taught by Dr. Sandra Beardsall, is worth 35% of the final grade. The grades for the Reformation section are as follows:

1. **Class attendance and participation (10%)**
2. **Participation in one of three groups** that will prepare and present a debate and discussion in class on one of three dates (as indicated above): **February 20, March 3, or March 17.** This counts 25% toward final grade.
3. **Mid-term Examination** (in class) on **March 26.** This counts 30% toward the final grade.

Student Outcomes:

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

1. Describe, formulate and analyze the main ecclesial and social historical moments of the Reformation period, and how they shaped the theology and practice of the newly formed churches;
2. Identify key figures from this period of time
3. Identify and describe the various reform movements and issues,
4. Explain and differentiate the key issues of contention between the reform movements and the Roman Catholic Church in this period;
5. Describe how the reformations have shaped the church to the present time.

Basic Bibliography

A. **Primary Sources**


**B. Secondary Sources**


________. *Women of the Reformation in Germany and Italy* (Minneapolis: Augsburg, 1973).


Martin Luther: The Preservation of the Church, 1532-1546 (Minneapolis: Fortress, 1993).


Croken, Robert C. Luther’s First Front: The Eucharist as Sacrifice (Ottawa: University of Ottawa Press, 1990).


Edwards, Jr., Mark U. Luther’s Last Battles: Politics and Polemics, 1531-46 (Minneapolis: Fortress, 2005).

Printing, Propaganda, and Martin Luther (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1994).


_______. *Zwickau in Transition, 1500-1547: The Reformation as an Agent of Change* (Columbus: Ohio State University Press, 1987).

Kittelson, James M. *Luther the Reformer* (Minneapolis: Augsburg, 1986).


_______. *The Impact of the Reformation* (Edinburgh: T & T Clark, 1994).


_______. *The Reformation: Roots and Ramifications* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1994).


# COURSE OUTLINE

## Part A

### Church History - Reformation

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### A. Background to the Reformation Era

Jan. 29: Political, Economic, Social and Religious Backgrounds of the Reformation  
- TER, ch. 2;  
- Gonzalez, ch. 1

### B. Martin Luther and the Beginnings of the German Reformation

Jan. 31: Luther’s Life  
Gonzalez, ch. 2, 4

Feb. 5: Movie: *Martin Luther: Heretic*

Feb. 7: Luther’s Reforms and Writings  
- TER, ch 3-4  
- “The 95 Theses” and “The Freedom of a Christian” (at [www.gjits.com](http://www.gjits.com) website)

Feb. 12: The Broadening of the Reformation Movement and the Peasants’ War  
- TER, ch. 5-6  
- Gonzalez, ch. 3, 9

Feb. 14: **GROUP A:** Martin Luther: Pro and Con

### C. The Swiss/South German Reformation

Feb. 19: The Swiss/South German Reformation and Huldrych Zwingli  
- TER, ch. 7  
- Gonzalez, ch. 5

Feb. 21: The Swiss/South German Reformation and John Calvin  
- TER, ch. 7,10;  
- Gonzalez, ch. 7, 11

Feb 26: **GROUP B:** Huldrych Zwingli and John Calvin: Pro and Con

### D. The English Reformation

Feb 28: The “So-Called” English Reformation  
- TER, ch. 13;  
- Gonzalez, ch. 8

Mar. 5: **GROUP C:** Thomas Cranmer: Pro and Con
March 7  Diversity of Reform: From Bucer to Knox  -González, 99-104
-Eells, “The Contributions of Martin Bucer to the Reformation”
(last two are found at www.gilts.com website)

Mar 12 & 14  Reading Week: No classes!

E.  The Radical Reformation

Mar. 19:  The Radical Reformations: the Tragedy at Münster
TER, ch. 8;
-Gonzalez, ch. 6, 10

Mar. 21:  The Anabaptists and Menno Simons
-Gonzalez, ch. 6

F.  The Catholic Reformation

Mar 26:  The Catholic Reformation
-TER, ch. 14-15;
-Gonzalez, ch. 12

Mar. 28:  Midterm Exam