



The Theology of Luther

SL 340/440

INSTRUCTOR:

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This class is an introduction to the theology of Martin Luther. As an introduction to his theology, we can cover only some of the major aspects and emphases of his thought. The focus of this course is to examine his theology in its historical context, giving the student a sound working introduction to Luther in the process.

We will examine the central themes of Luther's theology. We will also look extensively at some of the occasional writings which set forth his views on church, society and the state. The class requires considerable reading, with an emphasis on primary rather than secondary sources. Because of Luther's style and diverse interests, the readings will range over a wide selection of his writings.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Lohse, Bernhard. *Martin Luther's Theology: Its Historical and Systematic Development*. Translated and Edited by Roy A. Harrisville. Edinburgh: T & T Clark, and Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1999.

Lull, Timothy F., editor. *Martin Luther's Basic Theological Writings*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1989. (Recommended for primary source material. Comes with a CD)

RECOMMENDED TEXTS:

Luther, Martin. *Luther's Works on CD-Rom*. 55 Volume American Edition. General Editors Jaroslav Pelikan and Helmut T. Lehmann. Philadelphia: Fortress Press; St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, copyright 2002. Augsburg Fortress and Concordia Publishing House.

Arand, Charles P. and Kolb, Robert. *The Genius of Luther's Theology: A Wittenberg Way of Thinking for the Contemporary Church*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Academic, 2008.

Bayer, Oswald, *Martin Luther's Theology: A Contemporary Interpretation*. Thomas H. Trapp, trans. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 2008.

STUDENT OUTCOMES:

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

1. recognize and evaluate the main contributions of this 16th century reformer to the church
2. Identify and describe the contents of at least 10 of Luther's writings
3. Explain the basic principles of Luther's theological hermeneutic, as contained in his theology of the cross, and apply them in evaluating hermeneutic approaches encountered today.
4. Summarize and assess Luther's understanding of the authority of Scripture, justification, the freedom of the will, law and gospel, Christian freedom, the sacraments, worship, ministry, the relationship between church and state, the role of women, the family, and Jewish-Lutheran relationships.
5. Describe and evaluate the key theological issues identified by Luther in light of 16th Century and 21st century understandings of these doctrines
6. Articulate and evaluate how the Luther's theology is applicable today for church and society.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

Class Participation	20%
Facilitate Class Discussion	30%
Paper on a Major Theological Theme	50%

ASSIGNMENTS IN DETAIL

I. Participation and Facilitating Class Discussion

This course is structured as a seminar-style course, with an emphasis on discussion based on the assigned primary and secondary readings. Students will be expected to participate in the discussions, and to lead a discussion on one of the primary readings by Luther, assigned for one of the class periods. Students, in consultation with the professor, are required to prepare 3-4 questions to assist them in facilitating the class discussion on that reading. These questions are to be prepared one day ahead of time, so that the other students can think about them as they read the assigned material.

II. Paper

The students will be expected to write a paper of 5000 words (20 pages, double spaced, 12 point proportionately spaced font such as Times New Roman, typed) for this course. The paper should include proper footnotes, references, and bibliography in one of the approved styles for academic papers. The paper is to focus on one of the major themes in the writings of Martin Luther. The focus of the paper is work primarily from the primary sources, although students should exhibit a familiarity with the secondary sources in the area of thought. The paper is due at noon on Wednesday, April 29, 2009.

BRIEF BIBLIOGRAPHY

MAJOR MODERN INTERPRETATIONS

Althaus, Paul. *The Theology of Martin Luther*. Translated by Robert C. Schultz. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1966.

Bainton, R., *Here I Stand: A Life of Martin Luther*. Nashville: Abingdon Press Festival Edition, 1978.

Bornkham, Heinrich. *Luther's World of Thought*. Translated by Martin H. Bertram. St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1965.

- Brecht, Martin. *Martin Luther: His Road to Reformation. 1483-1521*. Volume 1. Translated by James L. Schaaf. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1985.
- _____. *Martin Luther: Shaping and Defining the Reformation. 1521-1532*. Volume 2. Translated by James L. Schaaf. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1990.
- _____. *Martin Luther: The Preservation of the Church. 1532-1546*. Volume 3. Translated by James L. Schaaf. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1990.
- Brendler, Gerhard. *Martin Luther: Theology and Revolution*. Translated by Claude R. Foster, Jr. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1991.
- Carlson, Edgar Magnus. *The Reinterpretation of Luther*. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1948.
- Ebeling, G., *Luther: An Introduction to His Thought*. Translated by R.A. Wilson. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1970.
- Forde, Gerhard O. *Where God Meets Man: Luther's Down-to-Earth Approach to the Gospel*. Minneapolis: Augsburg, 1972.
- Gritsch, Eric W. *Martin: God's Court Jester: Luther in Retrospect*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1983.
- Kittlelson, James M. *Luther the Reformer: The Story of the Man and His Career*. Minneapolis: Augsburg Publishing House, 1986.
- Loeschen, John R. *Wrestling with Luther: An Introduction to the Study of His Thought*. St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1976.
- Loewenich, Walther von. *Martin Luther: The Man & His Work*. Translated by Lawrence W. Deneff. Minneapolis: Augsburg Publishing House, 1986.
- Lohse, Bernard. *Martin Luther: An Introduction to His Life and Work*. Translated by Robert C. Schultz. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1986.
- Marius, Richard. *Martin Luther: The Christian Between God and Death*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1999.
- Oberman, Heiko A. *Luther: Man between God and the Devil*. Translated by Eileen Walliser-Schwarzbart. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1989.
- Pinomaa, Lennert. *Faith Victorious, An Introduction to Luther's Theology*. Translated by Walter J. Kukkonen. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1963.
- Prenter, Regin. *Spiritus Creator*. Translated by John M. Jensen. Philadelphia: Muhlenberg Press, 1953.
- Rupp, E. Gordon. *The Righteousness of God: Luther Studies*. London: Hodder and Stoughton, 1953.
- Schwarz, Hans. *True Faith in the True God: An Introduction to Luther's Life and Thought*. Translated by Mark William Worthing. Minneapolis: Augsburg Publishing House, 1996.
- Steinmetz, David C. *Luther in Context*. Second Edition. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 1995.
- Watson, Philip S. *Let God be God! An Interpretation of the Theology of Martin Luther*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1948.
- Wengert, Timothy J. *Harvesting Martin Luther's Reflections on Theology, Ethics, and the Church*. Lutheran Quarterly Books. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Wm B. Eerdmans, 2004.

SPECIALIZED TREATMENTS

- Althaus, Paul. *The Ethics of Martin Luther*. Translated by Robert C. Schultz. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1972.
- Altmann, Walter. *Luther and Liberation: A Latin American Perspective*. Translated by Mary. M. Solberg. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1992.
- Atkinson, James. *The Trial of Luther*. London: B.T. Batsford, 1971.
- Bagchi, David V. N. *Luther's Earliest Opponents: Catholic Controversialists 1518-1525*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1991.
- Braaten, Carl E. *Justification: The Article By Which The Church Stands or Falls*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 1990.
- Boehmer, Heinrich. *Luther in the Light of Recent Research*. Translated by Carl F. Huth. New York: Christian Herald, 1916.
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- _____. *Luther and the Old Testament*. Translated by Eric W. And Ruth Gritsch. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1969.
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- Edwards, Mark U. *Luther's Last Battles: Politics & Polemics, 1531-1546*. Leiden: E.J. Brill, 1983.
- Eriksson, Erik H. *Young Man Luther: A Study in Psychoanalysis and History*. New York: Norton, 1958.
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- Forell, George W. *Faith Active in Love: An Investigation of Principles Underlying Luther's Social Ethics*. New York: American Press, 1954.
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- Harran, Marilyn J. *Luther on Conversion: the Early Years*. Ithaca, NY.: Cornell University Press, 1983.
- Haendler, Gert, *Luther: On Ministerial Office and Congregational Function*. Translated by Ruth C. Gritsch. Edited by Eric W. Gritsch. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1981.
- Hendrix, Scott H. *Luther & the Papacy: Stages in a Reformation Conflict*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1981.

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- Janz, Denis. *Luther on Thomas Aquinas : the Angelic Doctor in the Thought of the Reformer*. Stuttgart : Franz Steiner Verlag Wiesbaden, 1989.
- _____. *Luther and Late Medieval Thomism : A Study in Theological Anthropology*. Waterloo, Canada : Wilfrid Laurier University Press, [c1983].
- Jensen, Gordon A. *The Significance of Luther's Theology of the Cross for Contemporary Political and Contextual Theologies*. Toronto: University of St. Michael's College (Dissertation), 1992.
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COURSE OUTLINE

Day:	Topic	Required Readings:
Jan. 28	<u>Introduction</u> -Historical Background and defining events of the early reformation period	-Lohse, 3-41 85-126.
Feb. 4	<i>No Class- Professor away</i> Make-up Class: Feb 6, -9-11:30am? <u>Primary Source Study:</u> <i>Prefaces to the Bible</i> <i>Ninety-Five Theses</i> <u>Thematic Study:</u> God and Revelation Indulgences and the Papacy	-Lull, 98-48 ("Preface to the Epistle of St. Paul to the Romans;" "A Brief Instruction on What to Look for and Expect in the Gospels;" "Preface to the New Testament;" "Preface to the Old Testament;" "How Christians Should Regard Moses"). -Lull, 40-46 ("The Ninety-Five Theses"); (skim through "Explanation to the Ninety-Five Theses,; LW 31: 77-252, if so interested) -Lohse, 85-126, 187-218
Feb.11	<u>Primary Source Study:</u> <i>The Heidelberg Disputation</i> <u>Thematic Study:</u> The Theology of the Cross	-Lull, 47-61 ("The Heidelberg Disputation"), - Luther, The Large Catechism, (Commandment 1) -Lohse, 35-41, 47-48, 96-109.
Feb. 18	<u>Primary Source Study:</u> <i>The Bondage of the Will</i> <u>Thematic Study:</u> Sin and the Will	-Lull, 165-196 ("The Bondage of the Will," Introduction, Part VI and Conclusion). -Lohse, 53-55, 68-74, 248-57.
Feb, 25	<u>Primary Source Study:</u> <i>Galatians Commentary; Romans Commentary; Two Kinds of Righteousness</i> <u>Thematic Study:</u> Justification and Sanctification, Law and Gospel	-Luther's Works, <i>Galatians</i> , 26:115-85; 269-91. -Luther's Works, <i>Romans</i> , chapter 3, 25:194-254; -Lull, 134-140 ("Two Kinds of Righteousness"); -Lohse, 51-84,110-17, 258-76.
Mar. 4	<u>Primary Source Study:</u> <i>The Freedom of a Christian</i> <u>Thematic Study:</u> The Christian Life	-Lull, 386-411 ("The Freedom of a Christian"). -Lohse, 178-184; 240-247; 267-276
Mar. 11	<i>No Class – Reading Week</i>	
Mar. 18	<i>No Class – Professor Away</i> Make-up class: Feb, 27, 9-1130am? <u>Primary Source Study:</u> <i>Confession Concerning Christ's Supper;</i> <i>Babylonian Captivity of the Church</i> <u>Thematic Study:</u> The Sacraments	-Lull, 259-276 ("Confession Concerning Christ's Supper"). -Lull, 210-238 ("The Babylonian Captivity of the Church"); -Lull, 277-280 ("The Marburg Colloquy") -Lohse, 57-59, 78-80, 127-36, 169-77, 298-313

- Mar. 25 Primary Source Study:
Concerning the Ministry
Thematic Study:
 Church, Ministry and Vocation
- Luther's Works, Vol 39: xi-xix; Introduction, and 39: 7-44 ("Concerning the Ministry")
 -Lohse, 48-50, 63-67, 80-84, 277-97.
- Apr 1 ***No Class – Professor Away***
 Make-up class: *evening class at my house?*
Primary Source Study:
Order of Mass and Communion for the Church at Wittenberg; Concerning the Order of Public Worship
Thematic Study:
 Worship and Music
- Lull: 303-316 ("Order of Mass and Communion for the Church at Wittenberg")
 -Lull, 300-302 ("Concerning the Order of Public Worship")
 -Lull, 282-299 ("Eight Sermons at Wittenberg")
 -Luther's Works, Vol. 53 Liturgy and Hymns (Investigate Hymn(s) of your choice).
- Apr. 8 Primary Source Study:
Temporal Authority: To What Extent Should it be Obeyed; Letter to the Christian Nobility
Thematic Study
 Civil Authority and Rebellion
- Lull, 429-459 ("Temporal Authority").
 -Luther's Works: "Letter to the Christian Nobility," 44:117-217; "Admonition to Peace," 46:17-55; Warning to His Dear German People, 47:5-55.
 -Lohse, 151-184, 314-324.
- Apr. 15 Primary Source Study:
The Estate of Marriage; A Sermon on the Estate of Marriage
Thematic Study:
 Luther's View of Women
- Lull, 147-164 ("The Estate of Marriage")
 -Lull, 412-417 ("A Sermon on the Estate of Marriage").
 -Daphne Hampson, "Luther on the Self: A Feminist Critique," *Word & World* 8/4 (1988), 334-342
 -Jane E. Strohl, "Marriage as Discipleship: Luther's Praise of Married Life," *Dialog: A Journal of Theology*, 47, no. 2 (Summer 2008), 136-142.
 -Jane E. Strohl, "The Lord's Supper in Light of the Piety of Medieval Women: A Lutheran View," *Word & World*, XVII, no. 1 (Winter 1997), 21-27.
- Apr. 22 Primary Source Study:
That Jesus Christ Was Born a Jew; On the Jews and their Lies
Thematic Study:
 Luther and the Jews
- Luther's Works, "That Jesus Christ Was Born a Jew," LW 45: 195-230; "On the Jews and their Lies," 47:137-76, 267-306.
 -Lohse, 336-45.