

HT 5200: History of Christianity 2
Dr. Joshua Bruce
Spring 2023

Catalog Description

A continuation of History of Christianity 1 concentrating on great leaders of the church in the modern period of church history from the Reformation to the twentieth century.

Course Objectives

The students will grow in their ability to

- analyze texts, ideas, and debates in their historical contexts;
- gain familiarity with major theologians from the Reformation and modern eras (e.g., Luther, Calvin, Owen, Edwards, Schleiermacher, John Paul II);
- understand and assess the development of Christian doctrine through the centuries, including its relationship to exegetical, spiritual, philosophical, and various cultural forces;
- read primary sources from a variety of centuries, genres, and styles (including confessions of faith, doctrinal treatises, controversial tracts, etc.);
- retrieve riches from the past for the sake of contemporary theological renewal.

Instructor

Dr. Joshua Bruce

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Feel free to contact me at any point during the semester. Email is the best way to reach out to me.

Textbooks

The following books are required reading:

1. Martin Luther, *Three Treatises* (2nd ed.; Minneapolis: Fortress, 1990). Approx. 290 pages. ISBN# 0800616391.
2. John Owen, *Spiritual-Mindedness* (Puritan Paperbacks; Edinburgh: The Banner of Truth Trust, 2009). Approx. 250 (small) pages. ISBN# 9781848710368.
3. Ernst Troeltsch, *Protestantism and Progress: The Significance of Protestantism for the Rise of the Modern World* (Fortress Texts in Modern Theology; Minneapolis: Fortress, 1986; repr. Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock, 1999). Approx. 100 pages.

4. J. Gresham Machen. *Christianity and Liberalism* (rev. ed.; Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2009). Approx. 150 pages. ISBN# 0802864996.
5. Wilhelm Pauck (ed.), *Melanchthon and Bucer* (Library of Christian Classics 19; Philadelphia: Westminster, 1969). Approx. 200 pages.

A number of other required readings will be posted in PDF format on Canvas. Students are required to check Canvas regularly and should make sure to download all readings posted there.

Requirements

1. Reading

Reading must be completed before the class in which it is to be discussed. Class discussions will focus on readings, so you must be prepared to talk. This class is essentially a reading course. The bulk of your work circles around careful reading. Focus your time and efforts on *active* reading, and make sure you have read all required readings *before* each of our class meetings.

2. Reading Briefs

Students will provide written briefs on all assigned texts in advance of the class where those readings are discussed. **Texts for which reading briefs are assigned are denoted by asterisks (**) under the *schedule* below.** Students should also bring copies of their briefs with them to the classes where those readings will be discussed. The purpose of each brief is to summarize the thesis, outline, and argument of that text, as well as to state one's own analysis of it (in the form of questions, confirmations, objections, etc.). Briefs may include quotations from various points in the text (so long as page numbers are referenced). Briefs should be no more than 350 words. They should be written in complete sentences and edited carefully. Students must email the professor their briefs before each class where those readings are discussed.

3. Three Class Meetings

We will meet on three weekends during the spring 2023 terms. Our meetings, which will consist of both lectures and in-class discussions, will be on the following days and times:

Friday/Saturday, February 10/11 (3pm—9pm on Friday; 8am—5pm on Saturday)

Friday/Saturday, March 10/11 (3pm—9pm on Friday; 8am—5pm on Saturday)

Friday/Saturday, April 15/16 (3pm—9pm on Friday; 8am—5pm on Saturday)

4. Final Paper

Students will write a 2500-3000 word analysis of a theme found in Martin Bucer's *De Regno Christi*. The paper will examine that theme in Bucer and note ways in which it appears in other theological resources from our time period. In so doing, papers will demonstrate ability to examine a text in its own terms and also to do comparative analysis across various texts. Themes might include: authority, Christology, moral theology, civic life, and soteriology.

All papers are to be uploaded to Canvas in MSWord or PDF format.

The Grading Structure

Grades will be assessed as follows:

Reading Briefs	50%
Final Paper	50%

The grading scale can be found in the Academic Catalog. As laid out in the catalog, a “B” is the work normally expected of a student. An “A” is given for someone who consistently outperforms expectations, and a “C” is given for persons who only minimally and occasionally meet expectations. Read the Academic Catalog to see what grades reflect.

Academic Honesty (adapted from Dr. Timothy Phillips of Wheaton College and Dr. Michael Allen of Reformed Theological Seminary)

1. The assignments are designed to extend and deepen your comprehension and appreciation of Christian theology and to increase your facility with theological method. The processes of defining a topic, researching the results of others' studies, critiquing those studies, and organizing your conclusions in a clear and cogent presentation provides valuable skills for your various leadership ministries. The use of sources is an essential step in appropriating the learning of the Church's tradition in its relationship to cultures to help us understand and faithfully practice Scripture.
2. Using information obtained from a source without indicating it (whether by footnote, parentheses, or bibliography or some other appropriate reference, depending on the type of assignment) is plagiarism (intellectual thievery and lying). This applies to **any** information that you gain from someone that is not “common knowledge.” It does **not** apply **only** to exact

quotations or precise verbal allusions. Altering the wording does **not** remove the obligation to acknowledge the source.

3. Cheating is the presentation of someone else's work, which the student ought to have done personally. This includes submitting answers to test questions derived by some means other than that intended by the instructor. It also includes turning in written assignments composed in whole or in part by someone else.
4. Cheating or plagiarism results, at minimum, in the disqualification of that unit of the course affected. A student caught plagiarizing or cheating will forfeit that project. A second offense will result in the forfeiture of the course. Punishments may be more severe than the minimum depending upon the specific situation.

Schedule

Classes will meet on campus at RTS Orlando over the three weekends of February 10/11, March 10/11, and April 14/15.

First Weekend of Meetings: February 10/11

Topics:

Orientation to the Reformation

Assigned Readings:

¹** *Luther, ch. 1: "To the Christian Nobility of the German Nation"*

95 Theses (PDF)

The Theology of Martin Luther

Assigned Readings:

***Luther, chs. 2-3: "Babylonian Captivity of the Church" and "Freedom of a Christian"*

Heidelberg Disputation (PDF)

Reformed Theology: On Holy Scripture and the Ministry of the Church

Assigned Readings:

** *Zwingli, "On the Clarity and Certainty of the Word of God" (PDF)*

** *Bullinger, "Of the Holy Catholic Church" (PDF)*

¹ Asterisks (**) denote texts for which reading briefs are required.

Ten Theses of Berne (PDF)

Reformed Theology: On Justification in Christ Alone by Faith Alone

Assigned Readings:

** Calvin, *“The Necessity of Reforming the Church” (PDF)*

Heidelberg Catechism (PDF)

Second Weekend of Meetings: March 10/11

Reformed Theology: Spirituality and Controversy

Assigned Readings:

** Owen, *Spiritual-Mindedness (pages 1-132)*

Canons of Dordt (PDF)

History of the Reformation in England and Scotland: 16th -17th Centuries

Assigned Readings:

** Owen, *Spiritual-Mindedness (pages 133-249)*

Excerpts from Book of Common Prayer (PDF)

The Great Awakening of the Eighteenth Century

Assigned Readings:

** Edwards, *“Distinguishing Marks” (PDF)*

** Wesley, *“Sermon 18: The Marks of the New Birth” (PDF)*

The Enlightenment & Schleiermacher

Assigned Readings:

** Schleiermacher, *excerpts from The Christian Faith (PDF)*

** Kant, *What is Enlightenment? (PDF)*

Third Weekend of Meetings: April 14/15

The Long Nineteenth Century in America

Assigned Readings:

** Schaff, *Principle of Protestantism (PDF)*

The Christian Century: Protestantism and Modernity in the Early Twentieth Century

Assigned Readings:

** Troeltsch, *Protestantism and Progress*

** *Theological Declaration of Barmen (PDF)*

Fundamentalism and Neo-Evangelicalism

Assigned Readings:

*** Machen, Christianity and Liberalism*

Modern Roman Catholic Theology

Assigned Readings:

*** John Paul II, Evangelium Vitae (PDF)*

Modern Reforms to Christian Theology and Ethics; Recent Trends: Global Christianity,
Theological Diversity, and Reformed Theology

Assigned Readings:

Bucer, Kingdom of Christ

Final Paper Due: Monday, May 1st

Course Objectives Related to MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes

Course: HT5200/History of Christianity
 Professor: Bruce
 Campus: Orlando
 Date: Spring 2023

<u>MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes</u> <i>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.</i> <i>*As the MDiv is the core degree at RTS, the MDiv rubric will be used in this syllabus.</i>		<u>Rubric</u> • Strong • Moderate • Minimal • None	<u>Mini-Justification</u>
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. Also includes ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and	Strong	Reading briefs and final paper test ability to communicate in written form.
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.)	Strong	Lectures and readings focus upon biblical exegesis as shaping the history of Christian thought
Reformed Theology	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	Moderate	Historical analysis of the Reformed church.
Sanctification	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	Minimum	Regular reading of classic devotional/

Worldview	Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God. Includes ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.	Strong	Readings, lectures, and final paper address the construction of principles and a moral imagination that is conformed to Holy Scripture as its final authority and informed by the Christian witness of the past.
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	Readings and lectures address instruction of Christians from beyond the Reformed world.
Pastoral Ministry	Ability to minister the Word of God to hearts and lives of both church and unchurched, to include preaching, teaching, leading in worship, leading and shepherding the local congregation, aiding in spiritual maturity, concern for non-Christians.	Moderate	Readings, lectures, and final paper address issues which inform pastoral ministry.