

Fall 2024 – Indiana Course of Study
COS 322: THEOLOGICAL HERITAGE III: MEDIEVAL THROUGH THE REFORMATION
September 14, October 12, and November 9

Instructor Information:

Dr. Brian K. White
4780 E. 126th Street
Carmel, IN 46033
(317) 846-4912 ext. 17
brian.white@inumc.org

Course Description:

This course focuses on major movements and events beginning with the split between Eastern and Western forms of Christianity and continuing through the Reformation. Using primary sources, students will reflect on individuals, decisive events, and theological developments.

Students will be able to:

1. Understand major theological developments in medieval Christianity leading up to the Reformation.
2. Distinguish the theological characteristics of Luther, Zwingli, the Anabaptists, Calvin, the English Reformation, and Puritanism.
3. Understand and articulate Reformation era debates around justification, sanctification, the sacraments, and church unity.

Textbooks:

- González, Justo. *The Story of Christianity, Volume 1: The Early Church to the Dawn of the Reformation*. 2nd ed. New York: HarperCollins, 2010. ISBN 978-0061855887 [You should have a copy of this book from COS 222.]
- González, Justo. *The Story of Christianity, Volume 2: II: The Reformation to the Present Day*. 2nd ed. New York: HarperCollins, 2010. ISBN 978-0061855894.
- Calvin, John and Jacopo Sadoletto, *A Reformation Debate* (Edited by John C. Colin) [A PDF copy of this document will be provided by the instructor.]

Reference Book:

- Henry Bettenson & Chris Maunder, Editors. *Documents of the Christian Church*, 4th ed. Oxford University Press, 2011. (ISBN 978-0199568987)

Writing and Submission of Assignments:

All assignments for the class should be submitted via email in Word format through our Populi course page. All assignments should be double-spaced, 12-point font, and margins of 1 inch on all sides. I do not need lots of header content taking up space at the beginning of an assignment either, your name and the name of the assignment is enough. Files should also be named in a similar fashion with last name, assignment title (example: “White, Creedal Statement”). References can be noted by any means of standard practice (MLA, APA, Chicago, etc.). I am not specific about the style of formatting as long as all references are made such to avoid plagiarism and formatting is consistent in style.

Grading will follow the Grade Policy in the “Indiana Course of Study Student Manual.” You will have a written assignment for each weekend meeting which will be due on the Monday prior to the weekend. Each weekend’s assignment will count 30% of the final grade (90% total). Class participation, including online discussions and in class assignments, will account for 10% of the final grade.

September 14

Topics:

- Medieval Christianity
- The Beginnings of Reformation
- Martin Luther

Read:

- González, Vol. 1, Chapters 31-35; Vol 2, Chapters 1-4
- Bettenson, Section VIII (This is a reference book. Read articles that are appropriate to your interest and as needed for writing papers.)

Write:

Luther and the Ninety-Five Theses – Due September 13

Read Luther’s Ninety-Five Theses (Bettenson, page 197ff.)

Write a five-page paper covering the following topics:

Identify several Roman Catholic teachings that Luther began to question.

How are the questions Luther raised in his Theses still relevant to today’s church?

Who are some others who throughout history (including your own life) who have sounded the wake-up call?

What are some factors that make it difficult for us to fill that role today – to sound the gospel trumpet?

What are some factors that make it easier for us to fill that role today than in other times of history?

October 12

Topics:

- Ulrich Zwingli and the Swiss Reformation
- The Anabaptist Movement
- John Calvin

Read:

- González, Vol. 2, Chapters 5-7
- Bettenson, Section VIII, Parts II-V

Write:

Calvin and Sadoletto Comparison – Due October 11

From your reading of A Reformation Debate, in a paper of five pages compare the arguments of the two theologians covering the following topics:

What are two or three primary arguments of each theologian?

What are points of agreement and disagreement?

Whose arguments do you find most compelling? Why?

Be sure to provide evidence from both writers for your position.
Use no direct quotations of more than 50 words.

November 9

Topics:

- The English Reformation
- Further Lutheran Developments
- Protestantism in France
- The Catholic Reformation

Read:

- González, Vol 2, Chapters 8-14
- Bettenson, Sections IX-X

Write:

Final Assignment Part A (4 pages) – Due November 8

Write 4-pages identifying the unique characteristics of the various English Reformation movements including: the Church of England characterized by the 39 Articles; the Scottish and English Reformations characterized by John Knox - the Scots Confession and the Westminster Assembly.

Which aspects of these movements or documents did you find compelling?

How are these similar or different from the reformers in Germany and other European countries?

Final Assignment Part B (2 pages) – Due November 8

Create a list that addresses the following statement in ranked order with #1 being the most important (2 pages):

The top ten reasons that the Reformation shapes or challenges my theology are: (Include a brief explanation for each item in the list.) This project will be graded based on the extent to which it accurately and specifically refers to aspects of the reformers and their teaching (for example, a person, event, idea, teaching, or action), and explicitly describes the effects on your theology. Additional explanation and instructions will be provided during the first day of class.

Other smaller written assignments may be made during class.