

Summer 2023 Course of Study  
COS 322: THEOLOGICAL HERITAGE III: MEDIEVAL THROUGH THE REFORMATION  
Face-to-Face Sessions – May 13, June 24

**Instructor Information:**

Dr. Brian K. White  
4780 E. 126<sup>th</sup> 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.
- Tracy, James D., *Europe's Reformations, 1450-1650: Doctrine, Politics, and Community*, second edition Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc., 2006. ISBN 978-0742537897.
- 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)

**How This Course Will Work:**

This will be a hybrid course. There will be two face-to-face meetings on May 13 and June 24. Face-to-face meetings will last from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. for a total of 13 hours of face-to-face instruction. The remainder of the instruction will be accomplished through asynchronous activities as described below. *Asynchronous* is when you engage in activities on your own time. This will be done through the Moodle course website.

It is *important to note* that a Course of Study course is 20 contact hours according to the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry (GBHEM). According to GBHEM, a student may only miss 4 contact hours and still pass the course. Contact hours will be divided across both face-to-face and asynchronous learning. In order to complete your contact hour requirement, you must participate in *both* the face-to-face *and* Moodle portions of the course.

### **Asynchronous Engagement**

The asynchronous portion of our course will involve several activities that you can engage in on your own time and at a time and pace that you wish. Two of the main ways this will take place are through discussion forums and through posted material such as videos, podcasts, and videoed lectures from the professor.

### **Statement about participation in discussion forums**

A discussion forum is a way that students as well as the instructor can interact with one another asynchronously. A discussion forum is akin to an in-class discussion in an in-person setting. As such this is a type of class participation. This takes place through the Moodle platform. It involves typing into Moodle a response to a question that the instructor poses. Other classmates and/or the instructor can then respond to that initial response. You or other classmates or the instructor can then respond to that response and so on. This gives the effect of a class discussion however it does not take place in real time. You can read responses and post responses on your own schedule, within the confines of the overall deadline of the course. Since it is a form of class participation you are *expected* to participate in a substantive way in the course discussion forums.

### **Statement about videos and other materials to be posted on the Moodle platform**

On Moodle there may be posted a number of resources and materials for the course. Some of these will be required and some may be supplementary. These may include material such as videos, podcasts, and videoed lectures from the professor, supplementary reading and handouts. It is fairly simple on the Moodle platform to engage these resources. It typically involves clicking a link and watching or listening to the video or podcast or downloading the handout, etc. You are responsible for the information in resources that are required for the course and posted on Moodle.

### **Writing and Submission of Assignments:**

All assignments for the class should be submitted via email in Word format on our class Moodle 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 – Assignment 1”). 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 Wednesday prior to the weekend. Each written 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.

### **Course Calendar:**

**May 8**

**Discussion Forum Assignment – May 8 (200 words)**

Introduce yourself and respond to at least two other introductory posts.

[Note: Discussion Forum Assignments are non-graded assignments and count toward meeting your asynchronous class participation.]

**May 10**

**Luther and the Ninety-Five Theses – Due May 10**

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?

**May 13**

**In-Person Class Meeting**

Topics:

Medieval Christianity

The Beginnings of Reformation|

Martin Luther

Ulrich Zwingli and the Swiss Reformation

The Anabaptist Movement

Read:

González, Vol. 1, Chapters 31-35; Vol 2, Chapters 1-6

Tracy, Chapters 1-10

Bettenson, Section VIII (This is a reference book. Read articles that are appropriate to your interest and as needed for writing papers.)

**May 22**

**Discussion Forum Assignment – Due May 22 (200 words)**

Martin Luther and John Wesley comparison

Compare and contrast the life and ministries of Martin Luther and John Wesley.

What are some similarities and what are some differences? What are some ways that you can identify with each of these pastor/theologians? What are some aspects of their ministries that you find difficult to relate to?

**May 31**

**Calvin and Sadoletto Debate – Due May 31**

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.

**June 12**

**Discussion Forum Assignment – Due June 12 (200 words)**

Preaching the Reformation

What are some stories or themes from your study of the Reformation that might make good sermon illustrations?

What makes these stories strong sermon material?

**June 21**

**Final Assignment Part A (4 pages) – Due June 21**

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 June 21**

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.

**June 23**

**Video Assignments – Due any time before the last class meeting.**

[Note: Video Assignments are non-graded assignments and count toward meeting your asynchronous class participation.]

**Review of “Martin Luther: Return to Grace” (Link on Moodle)**

View the movie and then write a one-page (single spaced) paper. One half page should be a brief synopsis of the movie. The second half page should talk about what you found meaningful or challenging about the content of the movie.

**Review of “Calvin, Zwingli, and Brother Klaus” (Link on Moodle)**

View the movie and then write a one-page (single spaced) paper. One half page should be a brief synopsis of the movie. The second half page should talk about what you found meaningful or challenging about the content of the movie.

**June 24**

**In-Person Class Meeting**

Topics:

John Calvin

The English Reformation

Further Lutheran Developments

Protestantism in France

The Catholic Reformation

Read:

González, Vol 2, Chapters 7-14

Tracy, Chapters 11-15

Bettenson, Sections IX-X