

Summer 2025 Course of Study School of Ohio at MTSO
COS 322: THEOLOGICAL HERITAGE III: MEDIEVAL THROUGH THE REFORMATION
Zoom Sessions – July 11-12 & August 1-2

Instructor Information:

See syllabus on Populi for phone and other contact info
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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, (Edited by John C. Colin) *A Reformation Debate*. New Richmond, WI: Baker Academic, 2000.

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:

There will be no in-person engagement for this class. There will be two ways of engaging in this class: *Synchronous* and *Asynchronous*. Synchronous is when we interact with one another in real time at the same time. This will be done by Zoom. *Asynchronous* is when you engage in activities on your own time. This will be done through the Populi 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). Contact hours will be divided across both synchronous and asynchronous learning. In order to complete your contact hour requirement, you must participate in *both* the Zoom *and* Populi portions of the course.

Synchronous Engagement

We will be doing Zoom meetings in lieu of in-person meetings. Don't worry if you do not have a Zoom account, I will invite you to the meeting with a link sent to your email or posted on the course website. Remember that Zoom is like showing up for class. Missing a Zoom meeting is the same as missing an in-person class.

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 recorded 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 Populi platform. It involves typing into Populi 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 Populi platform

On Populi 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 Populi 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 Populi. For example, this information may be discussed in a discussion forum or in a Zoom meeting for the course. These resources can be engaged on your own schedule and that will maximize the efficiency of our time together on Zoom.

Writing and Submission of Assignments:

All assignments for the class should be submitted on Populi in Word format. 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 "Course of Study School of Ohio at MTSO" guidelines. You will have three major written assignments for this course. Each 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:

- July 7** **Discussion Forum Assignment – Due July 7 (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. These assignments are analogous to class discussions.]
- July 9** **Written Assignment #1 - Luther and the Ninety-Five Theses – Due July 9**
Read Luther's Ninety-Five Theses (Bettenson, page 197ff.)
Write a five-page paper in essay format covering the following topics:
Identify several Roman Catholic teachings that Luther began to question.
Why did these issues require major change in how the church operated?
Was it possible to address these issues without a split with the Roman Catholic Church?
How are the questions Luther raised in his Theses still relevant to today's church?
- July 11-12** **Zoom Class Meetings**
July 11: 7:00-9:00 pm; July 12: 9:00-11:00 am & 1:00-3:00 pm
Zoom log in information will be provided by the instructor and will be available on Populi.
- 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
Bettenson, Section VIII (This is a reference book. Read articles that are appropriate to your interest and as needed for writing papers.)
- July 16** **Discussion Forum Assignment – Due July 16 (200 words)**
Compare and contrast the experiences and teachings of John Hus and Martin Luther. What factors led to Hus' eventual death? How did these factors delay the reformation of the church? Why were Luther's attempts to reform the church more successful?
- July 23** **Written Assignment #2 - Calvin and Sadoletto Debate – Due July 23**
From your reading of *A Reformation Debate*, in a paper of five pages write an essay comparing 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.

- July 28** **Discussion Forum Assignment – Due July 28 (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?
- August 1** **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 two of the following videos (Links to videos can be found on Populi):**
"Martin Luther: Return to Grace"
"Calvin, Zwingli, and Brother Klaus"
"John Hus: A Journey of No Return"
"Knox: The Life and Legacy of Scotland's Controversial Reformer"
 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.
- August 1-2** **Zoom Class Meeting**
Topics:
 August 1: 7:00-9:00 pm; August 2: 9:00-11:00 am & 1:00-3:00 pm
 Zoom log in information will be provided by the instructor and will be available on Populi.
- John Calvin
 The English Reformation
 Further Lutheran Developments
 Protestantism in France
 The Catholic Reformation
Read:
 González, Vol 2, Chapters 7-14
 Bettenson, Sections IX-X
- August 5** **Written Assignment #3, Part A (4 pages) – Due August 5**
 Write 4-pages comparing 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. How did they approach the issues of reformation in similar ways? What were some distinctive differences?
- Written Assignment #3, Part B (2 pages) – Due August 5**
 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.

Academic Honor Policy

The Course of Study School of Ohio requires that all material submitted by a student in fulfilling his or her academic requirements be the original work of the student.

Violations of academic honor include any action by a student indicating dishonesty or lack of integrity in academic ethics. Violations in this category include, but are not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, or knowingly passing off work of another as one's own.

Cheating includes seeking, acquiring, receiving or passing on information about the content of an examination prior to its authorized release or during its administration. Cheating also includes seeking, using, giving or obtaining unauthorized assistance in any academic assignment or examination.

Plagiarism is the act of presenting as one's own work the work of another whether published or unpublished (including the work of another student). A writer's work should be regarded as his or her own property. Any person who knowingly uses a writer's distinctive work without proper acknowledgement is guilty of plagiarism.

A student found guilty of a violation of the academic honor code, after a review of the case, may be subject to one or more of the following sanctions: (1) warning; (2) failing grade for the assignment and/or course; (3) probation; (4) suspension; (5) dismissal from the Course of Study School of Ohio. In severe or repeat cases (regardless of the sanctions) a letter will be sent to the student's District Superintendent and Board of Ordained Ministry representative.

COSSO Attendance Policy

National policy from the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry (GBHEM) states that a student is expected to attend every class session. Unexcused absences may be cause for loss of credit or dismissal from the school. A student missing 20% or more of the class sessions shall not receive credit for the class. In the event of extenuating circumstances which require the student to miss up to 20% of the synchronous course time (whether in-person or on Zoom), the student should contact both the instructor and the Director prior to the start of the class to get approval and discuss make-up work. (Extenuating circumstances include emergency situations, illness, and dire circumstances, for example. Students are to provide back-up coverage at the local church while attending COS classes.)

Students attending online are required to show their faces the entire class time in order to be considered present, unless internet bandwidth issues or emergency circumstances (e.g., a power outage) necessitate turning off one's camera or calling in to class by phone. You are expected to attend class as you would in a face-to-face classroom (e.g., not driving). During asynchronous class time, faculty may monitor time used in posting and responding to colleagues to track your participation.

- **CANCELLATION AND WITHDRAWAL**

Student must notify the COSSO office if they will be unable to attend class for which they are registered. Although there is no penalty when withdrawing more than two weeks in advance of the beginning of a term, registration fees are nontransferable and nonrefundable and unpaid registration fees are still due if withdrawing past the registration deadline. A \$50.00 late withdrawal fee is charged for all withdrawals within two weeks of the start of a class. All tuition and housing payments are applied to a future term.

Students withdrawing after the start of a term will be assigned a grade of AW (Administrative Withdrawal) and will be responsible for the full \$300.00 tuition amount. Any annual conference scholarship applied to the student billing record becomes the student's responsibility and is due by the end of the term. Housing payment is non-refundable.

- **NO SHOWS**

Except in cases of immediate and dire emergencies, if a student misses any class without notifying the COSSO office, tuition and housing fees are due immediately, a \$50.00 no show fee is charged, and the student will receive an "F" in the class.