

1-1-2001

Ch 721 Theology Of Luther

J. Steven O'Malley

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Recommended Citation

O'Malley, J. Steven, "Ch 721 Theology Of Luther" (2001). *Syllabi*. Book 849.
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**A Syllabus and General Guide
for**

**CH 721
THEOLOGY OF LUTHER**

Spring 2001

Prepared by

J. Steven O'Malley, Ph.D.

I. Course Description

This course will investigate the life and thought of Martin Luther, with emphasis upon a first-hand analysis of major theological issues and confessional documents of his ministry. Lectures, reading and discussion will constitute the main substance of our learning.

II. LEARNING GOALS

1. Identify the main features in the historical context of Luther's era and explore their influence upon his life and thought.
2. Understand the major events in the life of Martin Luther and their influence upon his thought.
3. Evidence an understanding of major historiographical considerations in the life and thought of Martin Luther, including the relative merits of different schools of interpreting his thought.
4. Evaluate the major doctrinal emphases in Luther's thought, in the context of his theological method and historical context
5. Understand Luther's theological contribution to the Protestant Reformation, in light of other major expressions of Reformation thought.
6. Clarify the implications of Luther's theology for the practice of ministry in the contemporary world.

III. PREREQUISITES

Church History 500, or an equivalence, is prerequisite to this course. In addition, it is important for each class participant to manifest an attitude of open inquiry under God's leading, recognizing that the mind of Christ can be more fully discerned by an awareness of the shaping of His Body in history.

IV. TOPIC LISTING AND SEQUENCE

	Life and Times:	Dates:	Theological Issues and Texts:
A.	<u>. Introduction</u>	2/6	A. The Editions of Luther's Works (<u>L 7</u> = Lohse, chapter7)
B.	<u>Luther's World</u> (from B.Lohse:Martin Luther; 2/8 An Introduction to His Life and Thought; L=Lohse (<u>L 1</u> = Lohse, chapter one; collateral) Frederick III and Maximilian Charles V		Barinton,

Francis I and Henry VIII		
The Netherlands		
The Turkish Threat		
Luther's Home: The County of Mansfeld		
Territories and Cities of the German Empire		
The Growth of the Power of the Princes		
Economic Development		
Saxony		
The Situation of the Church		2/9
The Reform Councils of the Fifteenth Century		
The Need for a Reform of the Church		
The Reform Movements		
Huss and the Hussites		
The Intellectual Situation		
The Universities		
Scholasticism and Late Scholasticism		
Humanism		
Is the Idea of Historical Periods Valid?		
C.	<i>Questions Related to Luther's Life</i>	2/13
	<i>amid the Controversies of His Time</i>	
	(one observation from <u>L2.1-2.11</u>)	
	The Sources (L2.1)	
	The Task of a Biography of Luther (L2.2)	
	Luther's Intellectual Preparation to the	
	Time of his Vow, 1483-1505; <u>Bainton</u> ,	
	<u>Chs. 1-2:</u>	
	Childhood and Upbringing (L2.3-4)	
	Early Education in Magdeburg and Eisenach (L2.5)	
	Studies in Erfurt (1501-1505) (L2.6)	2/15
	<i>Luther's Spiritual Struggle to the Time of his</i>	
	<i>Illumination, 1505-1512:</i>	
	(one observation from <u>L2.7-2.13</u>)	
	Spiritual Temptations (L2.7-9)	
	Ordination to the Priesthood (1507) (L2.10)	2/16
Journey to Rome and Acceptance of the		
Lectureship on Bible at Wittenberg (1512) (L2.11)		
		C. Luther as Late Med'vl Theologian
		(<u>L 4.20-4.22</u> & <u>5.21-5.25</u>)

Luther's Development as an Evangelical Theologian, 1512-1517; Bainton, Ch.3: 2/23

Luther's Early Lectures and the Controversy over Scripture (L 2.12)

The Meaning of His Illumination (Romans 1:16-17) (L 2.13)

D. The Breakthrough (McGrath, Part II) 2/25-6
(The Problem of its Dating: L 5.3.1-3)

The Development of a New Theology:

Luther in Controversy over the New Theology,

1517-1520: (one observation from L3.1-3.10) 3/2

Conflict with Rome(L2.14). The Indulgence Controversy (Bainton, Ch. 4) (L3.1-3)

The Ninety Five Theses (L3.5)

The Heidelberg Disputation (1518) (L3.6-7)

The Appeal to a Council (Bainton, Ch.5) 3/4

The Leipzig Debate (1519) (Bainton, Ch.6) 3/5
(CLASS EXERCISE #1: 3/5)

The Issuance of the Bull "Exsurge Domini" 3/9
(1520) (Bainton, Chs.7-8)

E. Dill., 489-500 (=Dillenberger)

Dill., 500-503; and L 4.23-24

F. The Authority of Scripture (L, 5.4.1-5)

G. Reason and Faith (L, 5.5.1-5);

Dill., The Two Kinds of Righteousness 3/11-12

Mid Term Exam: 3/16

The Treatises of 1520 (add L4.25-29) 3/18

The Critique of Monastic Vows (L4.30) 3/19

H. Luther's Attitude toward the Church Tradition (L 5.6.1-8)

Crises of the Lutheran Movement, 1520-1526

(one observation from L 3.14-27)3/23

I. Dill., Freedom of a Christian; Bainton, Ch. 9.

The Edict of Worms (1521) (L2.14)(Bainton, Ch.10) 3/25

Exile at the Wartburg (1521-22) (L2.15) (B., Chs11-12) 3/26 J. Dill., Prefaces, 14-36

The Wittenberg Reformers: Karlstadt and the Zwickau Prophets (3.14)

(CLASS EXERCISE # 2

K. Dill., An Appeal to the Ruling Class 3/30

Bainton, Chs.13-16; L 4.31-35)

- Luther's Views on Freedom and Order (L3.15) 4/1 L. Dill, *Secular Authority: To What Extent it Should be Obeyed* (L 4.36)
- The Treatise on "Temporal Authority" (3.16-17)
- Writings on the Peasants' War (L3.18)
- Thomas Muntzer (L3.19)
- Can Soldiers be Saved?" (L3.20) 4/2 M. Man as Sinner
- Controversy with Erasmus (L3.31) (L3.23-7) 4/12 Dill., *Bondage of the Will*; L 4.37)
- Marriage to Katherina von Bora (1525 (L2.16)
- (B, Ch.17)
- The Development of the Lutheran Church, 1525-9* 4/15 N. The Church (L, 5.7.1-10-
- (one ob. 3.29-33) Dill. *Pref. to Psalms, Sermons on the Catechism.*
- The Controversy about the Lord's Supper (3.29-33)
- Controversy with Karlstadt (1525) and with 4/16 O..Dill., *The Pagan Servitude*
- Zwingli. (1525-1529) (B, Ch.18) & L, 3.29-3.35.
- The Marburg Colloquy (CLASS EX.#3: 4/16) L 4.38-39
- The Later Struggles and Eventual Permanence 4/20 P.. *Bainton, Ch. 19-20*,
- of Lutheranism, 1530-1580.
- (one ob. 2.18-2.21 & one ob. 3.36-45) Dill., *Comm. on Galatians*
- Luther's Role in the Development of the 4/22 Q.. Church & State (L, 5.8.1-7)
- State Church (L 4.40-4.44)
- The Diet of Augsburg (1530) (L2.18)
- The Truce of Nürnberg (1532) (L2.19)
- The Wittenberg Concord (1536) (L2.20)
- Colloquies on Religion (1540-41)(L2.21)
- Luther's Later Controversies(L3.36-9) 4/23 R.. *Bainton, Ch. 21*
- A Polemical Style (see "Against Hanswurst"L4.45)
- Writings about the Jews (L3.41) 4/27 S.. *Bainton, Ch. 22*
- Luther's Self-Understanding (L3.45) 4/28 T. *History & Eschatology* (L, 5.9.1-7)
- Luther's Last Years and Death (add L 4.46-7)
- (L2.22-23)
- D. The History of the Interpretation of Luther: (L, 6.1-11) (5/4-7)
- E. Colloquy on Class Research in Luther: (5/11 & 13)
- F. Review and Conclusions (5/14)
- G. Final Exam (week of 5/17)

V. COURSE PROCEDURES

Our aim will be a first-hand investigation of issues and a critical understanding of Luther's theology. Lectures on the life and ministry of Martin Luther will be given and these will be interspersed with discussion sessions devoted to class discussion and interaction with lectures and readings.

1. A reading report is to be submitted on the last day of class (indicate percentage of assigned readings completed and lists of supplemental readings appropriate to individual research selected). (20 pts)

2. Complete class attendance and class participation (20 pts.)
(note: more than two unexcused absences will result in grade reduction). Class will be cancelled in case Jessamine and Fayette County schools are closed for inclement weather.

3. One individual brief (or position statement) will be selected and prepared in relation to the pro/contra exercises (5-7 pages, double-spaced, and documented where appropriate.* They will be presented in class according to the schedule given below, with copies to class members. (15 points for content and form of brief; 5 points for presentation= 20 points).

(note: all papers to be based on primary sources, not from Althaus; secondary sources are to be cited to assist interpretation of those sources.)

4. Class members will also be divided into working teams, and a 5-7 page brief will be prepared (double-spaced and documented where appropriate*) will be prepared by each team, for presentation of the day of the exercise. Each team member is requested to submit a one-page outline response to the question under consideration prior to the presentation of the team brief. Copies of briefs are to be prepared for all class members (Crusaders, Prophets, and Evangelists).; 10 points for brief, 10 points for presentation). See schedule for dates. (20 points)
(*Lack of conformity to this length or late submission will result in grade reduction.)

5. Two examinations will be given during the semester: a mid-term and a final. These exams will reflect the assigned readings as well as class discussions. Two questions will be selected for the mid term and three questions for the final; notes may be used in class. (mid term=50 pts; final exam=75 pts)

A 15-20 page research paper is to be prepared, in consultation with the instructor, on an aspect of Luther's theology or practice of ministry. The paper is to reflect coherence and insightfulness in its discussion, and competent grammatical form. It is due on May 4 (Tuesday). (50 points)

A reading report indicating that all assigned readings have been completed is due on the day of the final exam. It should also indicate what reading has been completed in the preparation of research papers.

Total possible points: 205

Grading scale:

185-205 A (90-100 %)

164-184 B (80-90%)

144-163 C (70-80%)

123-143 D (60-70%)

below 122 = F

VI. BIBLIOGRAPHY

A. Texts for Purchase

1. Dillenberger, John, ed., Martin Luther (Doubleday Anchor paperback)
2. Bainton, Roland, Here I Stand
3. Althaus, Paul, Theology of Martin Luther (Fortress)
- 4.. Xeox materials to be purchased at bookstore

C. Optional (Collateral) Texts:

1. Lohse, Bernhard, Martin Luther: An Introduction to his Life and Thought (Fortress)
2. Steinmetz, David, Luther in Context (Oxford)
3. Thompson, Bard, Liturgies of the Western Church (Meridian)

B. Reserve List

1. Baillie, John, et al, eds., The Library of Christian Classics, Volumes XV-XXVI.
2. Thompson, Bard, ed., Liturgies of the Western Church (Meridian Books,

World; paperback)

C. An Abridged Bibliography on the Protestant Reformation

1. General Studies

A. Documents

Baillie, John, et al, general ed., The Library of Christian Classics,
Vols. 15-26
Hillerbrand, Hans, eds., The Reformation
Schaff, Philip, ed., The Creeds of Christendom, Vols. 2, 3
Thompson, Bard, Liturgies of the Western Church

B. Interpretations

Bainton, Roland, The Reformation of the Sixteenth Century
Dillenberger, John, and Welch, Claude, Protestant Christianity
Forell, George W., the Protestant Faith
Schaff, Philip, The Creeds of Christendom, Vol. 1
Whale, J. S., The Protestant Tradition

2. Luther

A. Documents

Hazlitt, William, ed., Table-Talk of Martin Luther
Luther's Large Catechism, published by Augsburg Press
Pelikan, J., and Lehmann, H.T., Luther's Works, 55 volumes
Rupp, E.G., ed., Luther and Erasmus on Free Will: Library of
Christian Classics, XVIII
Tappert, T.G., ed., Letters of Spiritual Counsel: Library of Christian
Classics
Torrance, T.F., ed., Early Theological Works: Library of Christian
Classics, XVI

B. Interpretations of Luther's career (select one for review)

Atkinson, James, Martin Luther, Prophet to the Church Catholic (focus
on Luther's contribution to Catholic-Protestant dialogue, 200 pp.)
Atkinson, James, The Trial of Martin Luther (200 pp.)

Bainton, Roland, Here I Stand (insightful biography, 400 pp.)
 Boehmer, H., Road to Reformation (an examination of Luther's personality in its formation, 400 pp.)
 Bornkamm, H., Luther and the Old Testament (300 pp.)
 Bornkamm, H., Luther's World of Thought (300 pp.)
 Bornkamm, H., Martin Luther in Mid-Career (650 pp. 1979)
 Brecht, M., Martin Luther, His Road to Reformation (early career to 1521, recent study, 476 pp.)
 Brecht, M., Martin Luther, Shaping and Defining the Reformation (later career, 450 pp.)
 Brendle, G., Martin Luther, Theology and Revolution (recent Marxist analysis, 376 pp.)
 Edwards, M. U., Luther and the False Brethren (his evangelical opponents, 1975, 200 pp.)
 Edwards, M.U., Martin Luther's Last Battle (300 pp.)
 Erikson, E., Young Martin Luther (psycho-social study)
 Gensichen, H., We Condemn (how Martin Luther condemned heresies, 200 pp.)
 Gerrish, B.A., Grace and Reason (170 pp.)
 Hail, H. G., Martin Luther, An Experiment in Biography (later years, 360 pp.)

Headley, J., Luther's View of Church History (280 pp.)
 Hoffman, B., Luther and the Mystics (270 pp.)
 Hyma, A., New Light on Martin Luther (examines the charges of Martin Luther's similarity to Hitler, based on later career, 275 pp.)
 Lage, D., Martin Luther's Christology and Ethics (recent, 170 pp.)
 Lazareth, W. , Luther on the Christian Home (solid ethics, 230 pp.)
 Lohse, B., Martin Luther, An Introduction to His Life and Work (identifies major problems in Luther studies, 270 pp.)
 Obermann, H., Luther and the Jews (ca 300 pp., recent study)
 Prenter, R., Spiritus Creator, Martin Luther's Doctrine of the Holy Spirit (300 pp.)
 Steinmetz, D., Luther and Staupitz (150 pp.)
 Volkmor, L., Response to Violence (150 pp.)
 Von Loewenich, W., Martin Luther, The Man and His Work (serious study of theological development, 380 pp.)

C. Theological Interpretations of Luther

Althaus, Paul, The Theology of Martin Luther
Cranz, F. Edward, An Essay on the Development of Luther's Thought on Justice, Law, and Society
Dillenberger, John, God Hidden and Revealed
Figgs, J. N., Political Thought from Gerson to Grotius
Forell, George W., Faith Active in Love: An Investigation of the Principles Underlying Luther's Social Ethics
Gerrish, B. A., Grace and Reason: A Study in the Theology of Luther
McDonough, T. M., The Law and Gospel in Luther
Mueller, William A., Church and State in Luther and Calvin
Ozment, Stephen, Homo Spiritualis (on Luther's anthropology in comparison with Tauler's)
Pelikan, J., Luther the Expositor
Prenter, Regin, Spiritus Creator
Rupp, Gordon, The Righteousness of God: Luther Studies
Trigg, J. D., Baptism in the Theology of Luther
Vajta, Vilmos, Luther on Worship
Wingren, Gustaf, Luther on Vocation

3. Melanchthon

Hill, C. H., Loci Communes
Manschreck, C. L., ed., Melanchthon on Christian Doctrine: Library of Protestant Thought
Taylor, F. J., ed., Melanchthon and Bucer: Library of Christian Classics, XIX

4. Zwingli

Courvoisier, Jacques, Zwingli: A Reformed Theologian

5. Periodicals (In Reference)

Church History
Harvard Theological Review
Journal of Religion
(Others to be selected at discretion of instructor)

6. Bibliography

Bainton, R. H., Bibliography of the Continental Reformation (1935)
Case, S. J., et al, Bibliographical guide to the History of Christianity (1935)
Pauck, W., "Historiography of the German Reformation," Church History, IX (1940), 305-40

Class Exercises (Pro/Contra Format)

1. Luther's distinction between the general and the proper knowledge of God gives inadequate basis for a doctrine of general revelation. (pro/contra).
2. Luther's "theology of the cross" involves a valid understanding of the appropriateness of reason in knowing and serving God. (pro/contra).
3. Luther's understanding of the inspiration of the Bible gives due recognition to the importance of all books of the New Testament. (pro/contra).
4. Luther's doctrine of Satan implicates God in the problem of evil. (pro/contra).
5. Luther's Christology adequately distinguishes between Christ's humanity and divinity. (pro/contra).
6. Luther gives no place for the law in the Christian life (pro/contra).
7. Luther's emphasis on the invisible aspect of the church gives inadequate room for the renewal of the visible form of the church. (pro/contra).
8. Luther's doctrine of the priesthood of all believers undermines the role of the ordained ministry in the ministry of the church. (pro/contra).
9. By comparison with the Roman Catholic view, Luther's doctrine of the Lord's Supper contains a more valid understanding of how Christ's grace is available to sinners. (pro/contra).

Exploratory Questions of the Theology of Martin Luther

1. Why does Luther want to distinguish between the "general" and the "proper" knowledge of God, and what would be some major implications of each for building one's basic theological position?
2. What were the reasons that led Luther to propose a "Theology of the Cross" (theologia crucis) and what are some of the distinctive features of such a theology?
3. What was Luther's doctrine of the inspiration and significance of the Bible (hermeneutics) and assess whether you think it is valid for our day.
4. According to Luther, what is the difference between man as created and man as sinner, and how does Luther's understanding of the nature of sin, Satan, and the wrath of God influence his understanding of man's condition?
5. What was distinctive about Luther's understanding of the presence of God in Jesus Christ? Assess.

6. What was distinctive about Luther's understanding of the work of Jesus Christ as our Reconciler and Redeemer? Assess.
 7. What is the relation between Luther's doctrines of alien righteousness, the new birth, and faith?
 8. What is the relation between law and gospel, and what is the place of the law in the Christian's life?
 9. What are the distinctive features of Luther's doctrine of the church, and assess whether you think it is valid for our day.
 10. What does Luther understand to be the proper relation between the church and the state, and what are the implications for the Christian's involvement in the political process?
 11. What is the nature and purpose of the ministry, according to Luther, and assess the validity of his doctrine of ministry.
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12. What is Luther's theology of baptism and how would you evaluate his position?
 13. What is Luther's theology of the Lord's Supper and how would you evaluate his position?
 14. What were Luther's views on eschatology? Evaluate his position in the light of his age and ours.
 15. Select of theological doctrine from Luther's theology and develop an interpretation of that doctrine that reflects a specific contemporary cultural context of ministry which is characterized by unfamiliarity with Christianity.

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