

**Alabama Course of Study  
At Birmingham-Southern College  
Fall Term 2018  
September 14-15 & November 2-3  
Course Description and Requirements**

Course: COS 322 – Theological Heritage III: Medieval through the Reformation  
Instructor: Roger Short  
Address: 3149 Hidden Forest Cove, Montevallo, AL 35115  
Email: pastorog@gmail.com

**Outcomes:**

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:

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

**Primary Texts (Required Reading):**

- Gonzalez, Justo, The Story of Christianity, Volume 1: The Early Church to the Dawn of the Reformation, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. New York: HarperCollins, 2010. (ISBN 9780061855887) *Read from the split between the Eastern and Western forms of Christianity through the end of the book.*
- Gonzalez, Justo, The Story of Christianity, Volume 2: The Reformation to the Present Day, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. New York: HarperCollins, 2010. (ISBN 9780061855894) *Read from the beginning of the book through the Puritan Revolution.*
- Tracy, James, Europe's Reformations, 1450-1650: Doctrine, Politics, and Community, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc., 2006. (ISBN 9780742537897) *Read all.*

**Reference Text (Not Required):**

- Bettenson, Henry, and Chris Maunder, Documents of the Christian Church, 4<sup>th</sup> ed. New York: Oxford University Press, USA, 2011. (ISBN 9780199568987)

**Precourse Assignments:**

- Read The Story of Christianity, Volume 1: The Early Church to the Dawn of the Reformation, chapters 30-35 (pp. 327-446), taking notes for yourself on the important issues. Bring the notes to class sessions, but do not turn them in to the instructor for grading.

- Read The Story of Christianity, Volume 2: The Reformation to the Present Day, chapters 1-21 (pp. 1-235), taking notes for yourself on the important issues. Bring the notes to class sessions, but do not turn them in to the instructor for grading.
- Read Europe's Reformations, 1450-1650: Doctrine, Politics, and Community (the whole book), taking notes for yourself on the important issues. Bring the notes to class sessions, but do not turn them in to the instructor for grading.
- "Ten Paragraphs"--Write one paragraph on each of the following theological terms: sacrament, transubstantiation, predestination, merit, nominalism, scholasticism, purgatory, grace, justification, and sin. In each paragraph define one of the ten theological terms and give an assessment of the term's significance to the medieval (pre-Reformation) European Christian Church. You may use reliable sources of information other than the texts required for this course, but if you do, then provide your entire list of references on a separate sheet of paper.

Grading: No credit will be given for written work that addresses fewer than seven of the ten theological terms. Passing credit will be given for written work that defines and assesses seven or more of the above-listed theological terms in sensibly-written, typed, double-spaced paragraphs. The highest grade will be given for written work that defines and assesses all ten of the above-listed theological terms in sensibly-written, typed, double-spaced, footnoted/annotated paragraphs that also demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the required reading. At two paragraphs per page, the paper need not be longer than five pages. **This writing assignment must be delivered to the course instructor by U.S. Mail, private delivery service, or email no later than Friday, August 31, 2018.**

#### Midcourse Assignment:

- "Six One-Page Explanations"—Using the required textbooks, write a one page explanation of each of the following: (1) Doctrine of the Sacrament of Holy Communion, according to Martin Luther, (2) Ulrich Zwingli's Theology/Views on the Church of Jesus Christ, (3) Doctrine of Christ's Atonement, according to John Calvin, (4) Doctrine of Christian Baptism, according to the Anabaptists, (5) Theology of Grace, according to the English Reformation, and (6) Roman Catholic Doctrine of Salvation Specified at the End of the Catholic Reformation. You may use reliable sources of information other than the texts required for this course, but if you do, then provide your entire list of references on a separate sheet of paper.

Grading: No credit will be given for written work that addresses fewer than four of the six "explanations" named above. Passing credit will be given for written work that addresses four or more of the "explanations" named above in sensibly-written, typed, double-spaced pages. The highest grade will be given for written work that addresses all six "explanations" named above in six sensibly-written, typed, double-spaced, footnoted/annotated pages that also demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the required reading.

**The midcourse writing assignment, “Six One-Page Explanations,” is due on the second Friday that the class meets, November 2, 2018.**

Course (Pre/Mid/Post) Work Policy:

We all have deadlines that govern our lives. It is crucial that you take seriously your commitment to complete the pre-work assignments by the deadline. Extensions are granted only for extenuating circumstances. Normal pastoral duties do not constitute extenuating circumstances. Late work will be penalized. Any extension must be granted by the instructor of the class. For your protection, please keep copies of your pre-work assignments.

- All precourse and midcourse work must be submitted to the professor by the date indicated on the syllabus or assigned by the professor on the first weekend. Late pre-course work will be accepted for two weeks following the due date (but not beyond) with the following penalties:
  1. **Precourse/midcourse** work submitted within one week of the due date will receive a **one letter grade deduction**.
  2. **Precourse/midcourse** work submitted after one week of the due date but within two weeks will receive a **two letter grade deduction**.
  3. **No assignments** will be accepted after two weeks from the due date and a grade of “F” will be given in the course.
  4. **In cases where the student has registered late the same policy applies.**
- **Postcourse** work may be assigned in some courses. Post course work will be due no later than two weeks after the completion of the second weekend of the course. **No** late submissions will be accepted.

About Students’ Original Writing:

Please submit the completed assignments to the instructor. If possible, please type your work. Please do not use binders of any kind. Use the Alabama Course of Study cover sheet and staple your work in the top left corner. Write using your own words. Don’t merely quote from authors. When you do quote, paraphrase, or allude to the textbooks, please use internal documentation, giving the page number of the material that you are referencing, for example: “Luther saw religious images as encouragements to piety, and in many churches that became Lutheran all statues and paintings remained in place” (Tracy, 27). Be sure to keep a copy of your work.

Course Grading:

- 25% of each student’s final grade will be determined by the grade earned for the “Ten Paragraphs” writing assignment.
- 25% of each student’s final grade will be determined by the grade earned for the “Six One-Page Explanations” writing assignment.
- 25% of each student’s final grade will be determined by the grade earned for in-class participation and in-class assignments.
- 25% of each student’s final grade will be determined by the grade earned in taking a comprehensive final examination on the last day of classes.