

# Lutheran Theological Seminary Saskatoon

Affiliated College of the University of Saskatchewan

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## HL 299

### 16<sup>th</sup> Century Reformation Women: Women that made a Difference

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#### A Study Tour Course, Summer Term (May-June) 2013

Instructor: **Gordon A. Jensen, PhD**  
Office: Lutheran Theological Seminary, Room 226  
Office Hours: Generally 8:30am – 4:00pm, Monday –Friday  
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#### **Introduction:**

We hear a lot about the great reformers of the sixteenth century, people like Martin Luther, Phillip Melanchthon, Huldrych Zwingli, Jean Calvin, Martin Bucer, and Thomas Müntzer, to name a few. But we do not often hear about the women of the reformation – women who wrote letters, hymns, commentaries, theological treatises, women who translated theological works and pushed for reform in their own communities and congregations.

In this course and on this tour, we will focus on reformation women and their contributions. We will learn about the mother-and-daughter reformers Elisabeth von Brandenburg and Elizabeth von Branschweig; the Wittenberg women, Elisabeth von Meseritz (Cruciger), Katharina von Bora and Katharina Melanchthon, the Anabaptist reformer Katharina Schütz Zell of Strasbourg; the feisty Argula von Grumbach; and some of the important reformation women of England, including Katharine Parr, Anne Askew and Lady Jane Grey. Each woman was a reformer, and many paid the price for their commitments to bringing about the reform of the church. In this Summer Term intensive course, which is combined with a study tour to the places where these women lived and wrote, their voices will be heard as we consider the reformations from their perspective.

The first part of the course will be one week of classes, held through online discussions, in which the politics, economics, historical and social factors of the sixteenth century will be introduced, and then the writings of these significant reformation women will be studied. Students will prepare a presentation on one of the reformation women, to be posted online.

The second part of the course will include a 17 day tour of the various reformation sites in Germany, France, and England, where the students will have opportunity to examine first hand the places and monuments of the reformation era.

The final part of the course will include a research paper that reflects upon a historical issue that the students have chosen to explore, based on the first two parts of the trip.

The instructor for this course is Gordon Jensen, PhD, the William Hordern Professor of Theology, who teaches in the area of reformation history and theology at the Lutheran Theological Seminary Saskatoon, He is also an Adjunct Faculty member in the Department of History at the University of Saskatchewan. He regularly teaches courses on both Medieval Church History and the History of the Reformation.

**You may register for this course at the office at LTS, or by emailing the Registrar at [susan.avant@usask.ca](mailto:susan.avant@usask.ca). Registration deadline is February 10, 2012.**

## **Prerequisites**

An introductory history course dealing with the 16th Century reformations, or permission of the instructor

## **Required Textbooks**

Matheson, Peter, ed., *Argula von Grumbach: A Woman's Voice in the Reformation*. Edinburgh: T & T Clark, 1995.

McKee, Elsie Anne, ed. *Katharina Schütz Zell, Church Mother: The Writings of a Protestant Reformer in Sixteenth Century Germany*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 2006.

Mueller, Janel, ed., *Katherine Parr: Complete Works and Correspondence*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2011.

Stjerna, Kirsi. *Women and the Reformation*. Oxford: Blackwell Publishing, 2009.

Zahl, Paul F.M. *Five Women of the English Reformation*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2001.

## **Course Expectations and Requirements**

Class Presentation 35%

Research Paper 45%

Online Participation 10%

Participation in Discussion on Trip 10%

Students are expected to participate in the online course discussions in the week before the study tour travel begins and to complete the class presentation and the research papers by the assigned deadline.

In cases of incomplete course work, students will be assigned a numeric grade not exceeding 49%, regardless of the weighting of marks indicated on this course outline. Any requested extensions must be approved by the instructor one week before the deadline indicated. A hard copy of the class presentation must be submitted to the instructor by 4:30pm the day before the presentation is to be made. The research papers are to be submitted in hard copy, unless the instructor gives permission for other arrangements.

Class participation is based on attendance at and contributions made during the in-class/online portion of the course, as well at the nightly de-briefing sessions during the tour in Europe.

## **Academic Honesty and Plagiarism**

What is plagiarism? You are plagiarizing if you present the words or thoughts of someone else as if they were your own (exceptions are proverbial sayings or common knowledge), or if you submit without approval of the instructor any work for which credit has previously been obtained or is being sought in another course.

Avoid charges of plagiarism by acknowledging your sources in the research papers and class presentations and by including them in the list of works cited. When quoting, make sure that all words and phrases from the source are in quotation marks. When paraphrasing, acknowledge the source of the idea but rewrite in your own language. When in doubt, please check with your instructor.

Plagiarism, whether from the internet, from other students, or from published sources, is a serious academic offence that bears severe consequences. Instructors will report such offences to the Dean of Studies at the Lutheran Theological Seminary, and any allegations will be reviewed by the Academic Guidance Committee. Penalties can range from a "0" on an essay to a reduced mark for the course. Any violations by students from colleges or schools other than Lutheran Theological Seminary will be reported to the colleges in which they are registered.

## **Student Outcomes**

At the conclusion of this course and attendant study tour, the students will be able to:

1. Explain the basic reasons and contributing factors that led to the reformations.
2. Identify and describe the basic biographical information about key women reformers.

3. Articulate the main theological, political, economic and social themes of the various reformation women studied.
4. Describe the various ways the political and ecclesiastical leaders, the common people, and the reformers responded to the various reformation women of this era.
5. Identify and describe the geographical sites where the various reforms took place.

## **Course Schedule**

All classes will be held online, through a discussion/posting format, from May 14-18th, 2012. Please follow the schedule of discussions and topics listed below.

Monday, May 13 Introduction to the course

Background to the Reformations

- History
- Politics
- Economics
- Social issues
- Ecclesiastical and political developments
- Historical reform movements already in place

Tuesday, May 14 Women of the Lutheran Reforms; Choices and Consequences

- Elisabeth von Brandenburg
- Elisabeth von Braunschweig
- Elisabeth von Meseritz-Cruciger
- Katharina von Bora
- Katharina Melanchthon

Wednesday, May 15 South German Reformation Women: Argula von Grumbach

- Biography of Argula von Grumbach
- Her writings
- Consequences

Thursday, May 16 The Strasbourg Reform Movement and Katharina Schütz Zell

- Biography of Katharina Schütz Zell
- Her writings
- Consequences
- Equality in all things

Friday, May 17 Women of the English Reformation

- Biographies of Katharine Parr, Anne Askew, and Jane Grey

The Writings of Katharine Parr  
The Writings of Anne Askew and Jane Grey  
Consequences and trajectories of the English Reformation under Elizabeth I  
Summary and final tour preparations

## **Assignments in Detail**

### **1. Reading Assignment:**

For each day's presentations, the students should have completed the assigned readings.

### **2. Class Presentation**

A sign-up sheet will be sent around to all students two weeks before the first day of class, so it is helpful for the students to have thought about what subject they would like to research for their presentation. Students may choose to do their presentation on any of the women noted in the course schedule, as noted below:

- Elisabeth von Brandenburg
- Elisabeth von Braunschweig
- Elisabeth von Meseritz-Cruciger
- Katharina von Bora
- Katharina Melanchthon
- Argula von Grumbach
- Katharina Schütz Zell
- Katharine Parr
- Anne Askew
- Lady Jane Grey

Significant events in the life of this woman reformer should be identified, as well as perceived strengths and weaknesses in their writings or reformation involvements. At the end of the written presentation by the student, two thoughtful questions should be posed, to which the other students will post comments and reflections. A hard copy of the class presentation must be submitted to the instructor.

This presentation, which is to be posted before noon on the day these women will be covered, should be no more than three pages long, double spaced, 12 point Times New Roman font, with one inch (2.54cm) margins, following an acceptable writing standard.

### **3. Participation**

To facilitate discussion, the professor will pose some questions, and the students will be expected to respond to at least one of the questions for each day. The students will also be expected to post at least two thoughtful and scholarly comments about the response of another student and at least one thoughtful reflection on the student presentations for that day. The students have 24 hours

from the time of the initial posting to respond. After that time, the discussion list will be closed.

The Class Participation mark is based on the required contributions posted online each day of the course, as well at the nightly de-briefing sessions during the tour in Europe. 10% of the participation mark is based on the classroom section of the course, and 10% is based on participation during the trip itself. It is expected that the participants will show respect to others and to themselves on this tour.

Behaviour that jeopardizes the others, the sites visited, or the safety of the tour, will not be tolerated, and may result in a return home by the student much quicker than they planned, at their own expense.

#### 4. *Research Paper*

The Research paper is to be approximately 2500 words in length, typed in Times New Roman font, 12 point font, double spaced, and one inch (2.54cm) margins. This will be approximately 10 pages in length. A recognized and acceptable scholarly style of footnoting, along with a bibliography of cited works, is required. The topic is to be selected in consultation with the instructor. You are encouraged to do a research paper on a topic and reformation personality other than your presentation topic. It should include historical research, as well as incorporate research from your experience and interactions while on the tour portion of the course. This paper is due by **July 31st at 12:00 noon**, and is to be handed in to the office at Lutheran Theological Seminary. 5% will be deducted, per day, for late papers.

#### **¶ Preliminary basic bibliography for further reading:**

Bainton, Roland. *Women of the Reformation in Germany and Italy*. N.p. Academic Renewal Press, 2001. First published in 1971, Minneapolis: Augsburg Publishing House.

Beilin, Elaine V. ed., *The Examinations of Anne Askew*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1996.

Classen, Albrecht. "Woman Poet and Reformer: the 16th Century Feminist Argula von Grumbach." *Daphnis*. Vol. 20, no. 1. 167-97.

Chrisman, Miriam. "Women and the Reformation in Strasbourg 1490-1530." *Archiv für Reformationsgeschichte*. Vol 63. (2001) 143-68.

Dempsey Douglass, Jane. *Women, Freedom, and Calvin*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 1985.

Hannay, Margaret Patterson, ed. *Silent But for the Word: Tudor Women as Patrons, Translations, and Writers of Religious Works*. Kent: Kent State University Press, 1985.

- Irwin, Joyce L. *Womanhood in Radical Protestantism, 1525-1675*. Lewiston, NY: Edwin Mellon Press, 1979.
- Ives, E. W. *Anne Boleyn*. Oxford : Basil Blackwell, 1986.
- James, Susan E. *Kateryn Parr: The Making of a Queen*. (Women and Gender in Early Modern England, 1500-1750). Ashgate: Aldershot, 1999.
- Lindberg, Carter. *The European Reformations*. Oxford: Blackwell Publishing, 1996.
- \_\_\_\_\_. ed. *The Reformation Theologians: An Introduction to Theology in the Early Modern Period*. Oxford: Blackwell Publishing, 2002.
- Matthew, David. *Lady Jane Grey: The Setting of the Reign*. London: Eyre Methuen, 1972.
- McKee, Elsie Anne. *Reforming Popular Piety in Sixteenth Century Strasbourg: Katharina Schütz Zell and Her Hymnbook*. Princeton: Princeton Theological Seminary, 1994.
- Markwald, Rudolf K., and Marilynn Morris Markwald. *A Reformation Life: Katharina von Bora*. St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 2002.
- Matheson, Peter. "Breaking the Silence: Women, Censorship, and the Reformation." *Sixteenth Century Journal*. Vol 27 no 1 (1996) 97-109.
- Matheson, Peter, ed. *Reformation Christianity*. A People's History of Christianity, Volume 5. Denis R. Janz, gen. ed. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2007.
- Karant-Nunn, Susan C. And Merry E. Hanks Wiesner, *Luther on Women: A Sourcebook*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003.
- Roper, Lyndal *The Holy Household: Women and Morals in Reformation Augsburg*. Oxford: Claredon Press, 1989.
- Smith, Jeanette C. "Katharina von Bora Through Five Centuries: A Historiography." *Sixteenth Century Journal*. Vol. 30 no. 3 (1999), 745-74.
- Stjerna, Kirsi. "Katie Luther: A Mirror to the Promises and Failures of the Reformation." In David Whiteford, ed., *Caritas et Reformatio: Essays on Church and Society in Honor of Carter Lindberg*. St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 2002. 27-39.
- Synder, C. Arnold, and Linda A. Huebert Hecht, *Profiles of Anabaptist Women: Sixteenth Century Reforming Pioneers*. Studies in Women and Religion/Études sur les femmes et la religion. Vol. 3. Pamela Dickey Young, gen. ed. Waterloo: Wilfrid Laurier University Press, 1996.

Treu, Martin. "Katharina von Bora, the Woman at Luther's Side." *Lutheran Quarterly*. Vol 13 no. 2 (1999), 157-78.

Weisner, Merry E. "Nuns, Wives and Mothers: Women and the Reformation in Germany." In Sherrin Marshall, ed., *Women in Reformation and Counter-Reformation Europe: Public and Private Worlds*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1989. 9-27.

Wiesner-Hanks, Merry. "Kinder, Kirche, Landeskinder: Women Defend their Publishing in Early Modern Germany." In Robin B. Barnes, Robert A. Kolb and Paula L. Presley, eds., *Habent sua fata libel, Or, Books Have Their Own Destiny: Essays in Honor of Robert V. Schnucker*. Kirksville: Sixteenth Century Journal Publishers, 1998. 143-52.

Zimmermann, Dr. K., ed. *Luther's Letters to Women*. Mrs Malcolm, trans. London: Chapman and Hall, 1865.