INSTRUCTOR:
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COURSE DESCRIPTION
This class is an introduction to the theology of Martin Luther. As an introduction to his theology, we can cover only some of the major aspects and emphases of his thought. The focus of this course is to examine his theology in its historical context, giving the student a sound working introduction to Luther in the process.

We will examine the central themes of Luther's theology. We will also look extensively at some of the occasional writings which set forth his views on church, society and the state. The class requires considerable reading, with an emphasis on primary rather than secondary sources. Because of Luther’s style and diverse interests, the readings will range over a wide selection of his writings.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Lull, Timothy F., editor. Martin Luther's Basic Theological Writings. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1989. (Recommended for primary source material. Comes with a CD)

RECOMMENDED TEXTS:


Student Outcomes:
By the end of this course, students will be able to:
1. recognize and evaluate the main contributions of this 16th century reformer to the church
2. Identify and describe the contents of at least 10 of Luther’s writings
3. Explain the basic principles of Luther’s theological hermeneutic, as contained in his theology of the cross, and apply them in evaluating hermeneutic approaches encountered today.
4. Summarize and assess Luther’s understanding of the authority of Scripture, justification, the freedom of the will, law and gospel, Christian freedom, the sacraments, worship, ministry, the relationship between church and state, the role of women, the family, and Jewish-Lutheran relationships.
5. Describe and evaluate the key theological issues indentified by Luther in light of 16th Century and 21st century understandings of these doctrines
6. Articulate and evaluate how the Luthe’s theology is applicable today for church and society.

Course Assignments
Class Participation 20%
Facilitate Class Discussion 30%
Paper on a Major Theological Theme 50%

Assignments in Detail
I. Participation and Facilitating Class Discussion
This course is structured as a seminar-style course, with an emphasis on discussion based on the assigned primary and secondary readings. Students will be expected to participate in the discussions, and to lead a discussion on one of the primary readings by Luther, assigned for one of the class periods. Students, in consultation with the professor, are required to prepare 3-4 questions to assist them in facilitating the class discussion on that reading. These questions are to be prepared one day ahead of time, so that the other students can think about them as they read the assigned material.

II. Paper
The students will be expected to write a paper of 5000 words (20 pages, double spaced, 12 point proportionately spaced font such as Times New Roman, typed) for this course. The paper should include proper footnotes, references, and bibliography in one of the approved styles for academic papers. The paper is to focus on one of the major themes in the writings of Martin Luther. The focus of the paper is work primarily from the primary sources, although students should exhibit a familiarity with the secondary sources in the area of thought. The paper is due at noon on Wednesday, April 29, 2009.

Brief Bibliography
Major Modern Interpretations


SPECIALIZED TREATMENTS


_______. *Luther and Late Medieval Thomism: A Study in Theological Anthropology*. Waterloo, Canada: Wilfrid Laurier University Press, [c1983].


## Course Outline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Required Readings</th>
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<tr>
<td>Jan. 28</td>
<td>Introduction&lt;br&gt;-Historical Background and defining events of the early reformation period</td>
<td>-Lohse, 3-41 85-126.</td>
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<td>Feb. 11</td>
<td><strong>Primary Source Study:</strong>&lt;br&gt;The Heidelberg Disputation&lt;br&gt;<strong>Thematic Study:</strong> The Theology of the Cross</td>
<td>-Lull, 47-61 (“The Heidelberg Disputation”),&lt;br&gt;-Luther, The Large Catechism, (Commandment 1)&lt;br&gt;-Lohse, 35-41, 47-48, 96-109.</td>
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<td>Feb. 25</td>
<td><strong>Primary Source Study:</strong>&lt;br&gt;Galatians Commentary; Romans Commentary; Two Kinds of Righteousness&lt;br&gt;<strong>Thematic Study:</strong> Justification and Sanctification, Law and Gospel</td>
<td>-Luther’s Works, Galatians, 26:115-85; 269-91.&lt;br&gt;-Luther’s Works, Romans, chapter 3, 25:194-254;&lt;br&gt;-Lull, 134-140 (“Two Kinds of Righteousness”);&lt;br&gt;-Lohse, 51-84,110-17, 258-76.</td>
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<td>Mar. 4</td>
<td><strong>Primary Source Study:</strong>&lt;br&gt;The Freedom of a Christian&lt;br&gt;<strong>Thematic Study:</strong> The Christian Life</td>
<td>-Lull, 386-411 (“The Freedom of a Christian”).&lt;br&gt;-Lohse, 178-184; 240-247; 267-276</td>
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<td>Mar. 11</td>
<td><strong>No Class – Reading Week</strong></td>
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<td>Mar. 18</td>
<td><strong>No Class – Professor Away</strong>&lt;br&gt;Make-up class: Feb 27, 9-1130am?&lt;br&gt;<strong>Primary Source Study:</strong> Confession Concerning Christ’s Supper; Babylonian Captivity of the Church&lt;br&gt;<strong>Thematic Study:</strong> The Sacraments</td>
<td>-Lull, 259-276 (“Confession Concerning Christ’s Supper”).&lt;br&gt;-Lull, 210-238 (“The Babylonian Captivity of the Church”;&lt;br&gt;-Lull, 277-280 (“The Marburg Colloquy”)&lt;br&gt;-Lohse, 57-59, 78-80, 127-36, 169-77, 298-313</td>
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Mar. 25
Primary Source Study: Concerning the Ministry
Thematic Study: Church, Ministry and Vocation
-Luther’s Works, Vol. 39: xi-xix; Introduction, and 39: 7-44
(“Concerning the Ministry”)

Apr 1
No Class – Professor Away
Make-up class: evening class at my house?
Primary Source Study:
Order of Mass and Communion for the Church at Wittenberg; Concerning the Order of Public Worship
Thematic Study: Worship and Music
-Lull: 303-316 (“Order of Mass and Communion for the Church at Wittenberg”)
-Lull, 300-302 (“Concerning the Order of Public Worship”)
-Lull, 282-299 (“Eight Sermons at Wittenberg”)
-Luther’s Works, Vol. 53 Liturgy and Hymns (Investigate Hymn(s) of your choice).

Apr. 8
Primary Source Study:
Temporal Authority: To What Extent Should it be Obeyed; Letter to the Christian Nobility
Thematic Study: Civil Authority and Rebellion
-Lull, 429-459 (“Temporal Authority”).

Apr. 15
Primary Source Study:
The Estate of Marriage; A Sermon on the Estate of Marriage
Thematic Study: Luther’s View of Women
-Lull, 147-164 (“The Estate of Marriage”)

Apr. 22
Primary Source Study:
That Jesus Christ Was Born a Jew; On the Jews and their Lies
Thematic Study: Luther and the Jews

-Lohse, 336-45.