

HT775D, The Theology of John Calvin

Spring 2010

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3 Credits

Prerequisites: None.

This course is highly recommended for Presbyterian students, and open to all.

Letter grade or P/F

Description

This seminar will explore the theology of John Calvin, through a reading of *The Institutes of the Christian Religion* and consideration of key secondary sources.

Objectives

Course Objectives: By participating fully in the class, students will

1. grow in understanding main themes in the work of one of the most influential theologians of the Reformed tradition.
2. study in depth particular themes of importance to their own theological, ethical, and ministerial development.
3. grow in the ability to explore texts of another age and ideas cooperatively, learning by articulating their own thoughts and learning from those of others.
4. be able to proudly boast that they have read Calvin's *Institutes* cover to cover.

Curricular Objectives: This course helps fulfill the following M.Div. curricular goals (emphasis added):

- *Nurture habits and disciplines of study, prayer, and reflection that increase their love of God and neighbor and shape their personal and professional lives.*
- *Be formed by, live in, and minister out of Scripture and the historical and theological tradition of the Church.*
- *Interpret the Christian Scriptures through faithful exegesis and in light of the Christian tradition.*
- *Educate and equip individuals and congregations to live and minister joyfully and faithfully as part of their own denomination and the ecumenical church.*

Requirements/Evaluation

1. Conscientious attendance, timely reading, and participation in discussion (35%).
2. Analyses of weekly readings to spark discussion (30%).
3. One annotated bibliography of modern research on a topic in Calvin's theology (10%).
4. One short research paper on a topic in Calvin's theology (25%).

Tentative Bibliography

Required

Calvin, John. *Instruction in Faith (1537)*. Translated by Paul T. Fuhrmann. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1949.

- _____. *Calvin's First Catechism: A Commentary featuring Ford Lewis Battles' translation of the 1538 Catechism*. Commentary by John Hesselink. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 1997.
- _____. *Institutes of the Christian Religion (1536 edition)*. Translated by Ford Lewis Battles. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1986.
- _____. *Institutes of the Christian Religion, 1541 French Edition*. Translated by Elsie Anne McKee. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2009.
- _____. *Calvin: Institutes of the Christian Religion [1559 edition]*. Edited by John T. McNeill, translated by Ford Lewis Battles. Library of Christian Classics, vols. 20 and 21. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1960.
- Selderhuis, Herman. *John Calvin: A Pilgrim's Life*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2009.
- _____, ed. *Calvin Handbook*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2000.

Recommended

- Cottret, Bernard. *John Calvin: A Biography*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2000.
- Douglass, Jane Dempsey. *Women, Freedom, and Calvin*. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1985.
- Dowey, Edward A., Jr. *The Knowledge of God in Calvin's Theology, third edition*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2000.
- Gerrish, Brian. *Grace and Gratitude: The Eucharistic Theology of John Calvin*. Reprint edition. Wipf and Stock, 2002.
- McKim, Donald K. *Calvin's Institutes: Abridged Edition*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2000.
- Muller, Richard. *The Unaccommodated Calvin: Studies in the Foundation of a Theological Tradition*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2000.
- _____. *Christ and the Decree: Christology and Predestination in Reformed Theology from Calvin to Perkins*. Reprint edition. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2008.
- Niesel, Wilhelm. *The Theology of Calvin*. Reprint edition. Lutterworth Press, 2002.
- Pitkin, Barbara. *What Pure Eyes Could See: Calvin's Doctrine of Faith in its Exegetical Context*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1999.
- Schreiner Susan. *The Theater of His Glory: Nature and the Natural Order in the Theology of John Calvin*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2001.
- Zachman, Randall. *Image and Word in the Theology of John Calvin*. Notre Dame: University of Notre Dame Press, 2007.
- _____. *John Calvin as Teacher, Pastor, and Theologian*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2006.