SYLLABUS

Course Objectives

The sixteenth century was dominated by the Reformation, a religious movement of revolution and change. It effectively undermined the authority of the Roman Catholic Church, broke the religious ties that held Western Europe together, and brought into existence most of the important types of Protestantism. Set in motion through the spiritual anxiety of a German monk, Martin Luther, the Reformation very quickly spread across Europe. Although the Catholic Church was initially slow to respond to Luther and the challenge of the Reformation, by mid-century it was primed to combat the new faith. Religion tore Europeans apart in the 16th century as neither Protestants nor Catholics could accept the idea that there could be more than one religious truth. Religious violence erupted, culminating in the devastating Saint Bartholomew’s Day Massacre in France in 1572.

The Reformation was fundamentally a religious revolution that affected the broader political, social and economic developments of the time. In the Holy Roman Empire, for example, German peasants used Luther’s doctrines to justify armed political revolt against their feudal landlords. The course examines not only the origins, spread and impact of the movement but also the many ways in which it influenced and helped shape the larger society politically, socially, and economically.

Course Requirements

The course will consist of lectures, readings and discussions. Requirements for the course include reading, class participation (15%), a quiz (10%), a midterm examination (20%), two papers (one approximately 6 pages (15%), the other approximately 4 pages, 10%) and a final examination (30%).

- Class participation includes class attendance, active participation in class discussions and several written and graded homework assignments. These written homework assignments will be linked to our class discussions of the readings and will only be accepted at the beginning of class on the day they are due. Late homework assignments will not be accepted.
• Two class absences will be excused, but any absences beyond that will be penalized with a grade depreciation. An excessive number of class absences will significantly lower a student’s class participation grade and may result in a failing grade for class participation.
• Students are expected to be present for all quizzes and exams. **If absent, students will incur a grade penalty on make-up quizzes and exams, except in cases where the circumstances are considered extenuating by the instructor. Students are not automatically given the option of a make-up quiz or exam just because they are absent from class on the day of the quiz or exam. Students need to discuss their situation with the instructor.**
• Students must complete the paper assignments in order to pass the course.
• Evidence of plagiarism in any aspect of coursework will result in an automatic “0” for the assignment, and a letter detailing the plagiarism will be placed on file with Dr. Stuart Brown, Director of Student Services.

**Class Etiquette**

• Please turn off all cell phones/electronic devices before class.
• **Texting and the use of cell phones/electronic devices during class are not permitted.** Failure to comply with this will result in referral to Dr. Stuart Brown for violation of the Student Conduct Code and potential disciplinary action.
• Once class has begun, please do not leave class unless absolutely necessary.
• During class, please refrain from conversation with others around you.
• If you arrive late for class, please enter as quietly as possible.

**Required Books**


Course Packet of Readings (17 items)

**Reading Schedule**

Introduction and Europe on the Eve of the Reformation
August 29 – September 7
Zophy, *A Short History of Reformation Europe*, Chapters 1-4, pp. 1-60

**Luther and the Crisis of Authority**  
**September 12 – September 28**

**PAPER TOPICS DUE (FOR BOTH PAPERS): TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19TH**

Zophy, *A Short History of Reformation Europe*, Chapters 5-6, pp. 61-96  
“Sermon Preached by Martin Luther in Erfurt (Germany),” 1521, pp. 6-10, from Merry E. Wiesner *et al.*, *Discovering the Western Past: A Look at the Evidence*, Vol. Two: Since 1500 (Readings packet)  
Katharina Schutz Zell, Writings on Reformation and Marriage, pp. 57-58, from Carter Lindberg, ed., *The European Reformations Sourcebook* (Readings packet)  

**The Reformation Spreads**  
**October 3—October 10**

Zophy, *A Short History of Reformation Europe*, Chapter 7, pp. 97-110  
The Marburg Colloquy and Articles (1529), pp. 117-118, from Carter Lindberg, ed.,
The European Reformations Sourcebook, 2nd edition (Readings packet)

For the Glory of God and Geneva:  John Calvin, Part I
October 12 – October 19

Zophy, A Short History of Reformation Europe, Chapter 8, pp. 111-125
(Readings packet)

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 17TH: MIDTERM EXAM

Reformation and Society: Divorce
October 24


For the Glory of God and Geneva:  John Calvin, Part II
October 26 – November 2


TUESDAY, OCTOBER 31ST: IST PAPER DUE (ANALYTICAL BOOK REVIEW)

Militant Saints: The Spread of Calvinism and Religious Violence
November 2 – November 16

Zophy, A Short History of Reformation Europe, Chapter 12, pp. 166-190
Diefendorf, The Saint Bartholomew’s Day Massacre:


1. “Religious Divisions in Sixteenth-Century France,” pp. 41-45; 49-56; 65-70:

   (Includes “Song on the Massacre of Vassy,” (1562) pp. 71-72)


4. “Repercussions of the Massacre in France and Abroad,” pp. 128-135; 137-142; 144-148:

THANKSGIVING BREAK: NOVEMBER 21ST AND 23RD
The English Reformation  
November 28 – November 30

Zophy, *A Short History of Reformation Europe*, Chapters 9-10, pp. 126-150

2ND PAPER DUE (ANALYTICAL ARTICLE REVIEW): THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30TH

The Catholic Response: Catholic Reformation and Counter-Reformation  
December 5 – December 7
