

**THE ALABAMA COURSE OF STUDY**  
**Huntingdon College**  
**Winter 2010 - January 29-30 and February 19-20**  
**Assignment and Course Requirements**

**Course:** COS 312 - Exploring Our Theological Heritage: The Reformation  
**Instructor:** Roger Short  
**Address:** P.O. Box 409  
Aliceville, AL 35442  
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**Course Description:**

Critical reflection upon the individuals, decisive events, and theological developments during the period of the Protestant Reformation. Utilizing the categories of grace and faith as a focusing lens, the student appropriates the Reformation heritage and enters into the church's ongoing task of interpreting and enacting the gospel for contemporary life. Attention will be given to selected primary sources.

**Objectives include:**

1. Reflection upon movements and events in the period prior to the beginning of the Protestant reform' (e.g. mysticism, nominalism, the Renaissance, the Papal Schism, the martyrdom of Huss and Savonarola, etc.).
2. Examination of the Reformation on the European continent with due attention given to the theories of Luther, Zwingli, Calvin, and the Anabaptists.
3. Engagement with pivotal theological concerns in their historical context, including the relationship of faith and reason, justification by grace through faith, sacramental theology, ecclesiology, and Christology.
4. Analysis of the Catholic Reformation as reflected in the Council of Trent and such figures as Ignatius Loyola, Teresa of Avila, John of the Cross, and Blaise Pascal.
5. Analysis of the English Reformation of the 16<sup>th</sup> century and the rise of Puritanism in the 17<sup>th</sup> century.
6. Understanding and appreciation of the historical development and context of Christian theology.
7. Continued growth and development of the pastor's identity as theologian.

**Primary Texts (Required Reading):**

1. Gonzalez, Justo, The Story of Christianity. Volume 2: The Reformation to the Present Day, New York: Harper & Row Publishers: 1985 .. ISBN: 0060633166 (Read pages 1-184).
2. McGrath, Alister E., Reformation Thought: An Introduction, Malden, MA, Blackwell Publishers, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition, 2000. ISBN: 0631215212 (Read all).

**Supplementary Textbooks (Not Required):**

1. Bainton, Roland, and Pelikan, Jaroslav, The Reformation of the Sixteenth Century, Boston, Beacon Press, 1985, ISBN: 0807013013.
2. Chidester, David, Christianity: A Global History, New York, HarperCollins, ISBN 0062517708.
3. Harvey, Van A., A Handbook of Theological Terms: Their Meaning and Background Exposed in Over 300 Articles, ISBN 0684846446.
4. MacCulloch, Diarmaid, The Reformation: A History, New York, Viking, ISBN 0670032964.

### **Assignments:**

1. Read the required textbooks, taking notes for your self on the important issues. Bring the notes to class sessions, but do not turn them in to the instructor for grading.
2. "Twelve Factors"-List twelve factors that caused and/or shaped the Reformation-four social-cultural factors, four political-economic factors, and four religious factors. Write a paragraph for each factor, describing and explaining each one in some detail. Do not write about the history of the reformation itself, or about the lives of the 16<sup>th</sup> century reformers. Do not write about the same factor under more than one of the above 3 categories of factors. You may use other reliable sources of information, but if you do, 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 factors that caused and/or shaped the Reformation. Passing credit will be given for written work that addresses seven or more factors that caused and/or shaped the Reformation in sensibly-written, typed, double-spaced paragraphs. The highest grade will be given for written work that addresses twelve key factors that caused and/or shaped the Reformation in sensibly-written, typed, double spaced paragraphs that also demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the required reading. At two paragraphs per page, the paper need not be longer than six pages. This paper is due on the first Friday that the class meets, January 29, 2010.

3. "Six One-Page Histories"-Using the required textbooks, write a one page history for each of the following: Luther's Reformation, Zwingli's Reformation, Calvin's Reformation, "Radical" Reformation, England's Reformation, and Catholic Reformation. Briefly sketch reformers' lives and the progress of each of the above-listed "reformations. Do not write primarily about the reformers' respective theologies, but about the respective reformation histories, as requested. You may use other reliable sources of information, but if you do, 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 "reformation histories" named above. Passing credit will be given for written work that addresses four or more of the "reformation histories" named above in sensibly-written, typed, double-spaced pages. The highest grade will be given for written work that addresses all six "reformation histories" named above in six sensibly-written, typed, double-spaced pages that also demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the required reading. This paper is due on the second Friday that the class meets, February 19, 2010.

### **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. Be sure to keep a copy of your work.

**Grading:**

- 25% of each student's final grade will be determined by the grade earned for the "Twelve Factors" pre-work assignment.
- 25% of each student's final grade will be determined by the grade earned for the pre-work assignment, "Six One-Page Histories" pre-work 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.