School of Theology & Ministry

Seattle University Seattle, WA 98122-1090 Winter Quarter, 2013

Course Information:

STMA 584: Lutheran Confessions

Credits: 3

Mondays: 9:00 AM - 11:50 AM

Hunthausen, Room 160

Instructor:

Michael Reid Trice, Ph.D.

Office: Hunthausen, Room 207

Office Hours: Thursday Afternoons and by Appointment

Email: Tricem@seattleu.edu

Course Description and Objectives:

What are the Lutheran Confessions and what does it mean to belong to a 'confessional' communion? This course is a seminar on the place and authority of the confessions of the Lutheran experience of being Church. This course explores the Lutheran confessional texts included in the Book of Concord as a witness to the Christian scriptures, and as a guide for faith and life. From their contents, especially the Augsburg Confession and Luther's Catechisms, the course will define and describe the main themes of Lutheran theology, ecclesiology, Christology and spirituality. First-hand reading of the documents and learning about their historical context, content, and present application, will allow students an opportunity to appreciate the historical, hermeneutical, and contextual foundations of Lutheran theology, as well as consider perspectives for critical reflection on the role of the Confessions in today's ecumenical context. This latter aspect of Lutheran influence in the ecumenical cosmos, will be a central exploration in the latter part of the course.

Learning Outcomes:

Ability to read primary and secondary texts critically (MDiv, MAPS, MATS); Ability to be a responsive, discerning listener who can enter another's worldview (MDiv, MAPS, MATS); Student awareness of their own social location/assumptions/hermeneutics as they engage texts and ideas in their own lives, communities and society at large (MDiv).

The course endeavors to increase student awareness of major trends and themes in Lutheran confessional thought and theological application today. The course seeks to encourage students toward a sense of personal and vocational awareness and responsibility, for their own voice in interpreting the Lutheran Confessions for a 21st century world. Students will be guided by our readings and participate fully in the seminar discussion.

Required Texts:

- Kolb, Robert and Wengert, Timothy J, ed. The Book of Concord: The Confessions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church. (Either the 1959 Tappert edition or the 2000 Kolb and Wengert Edition [preferred for this course]).
- Guenther Gassmann and Scott Hendrix, Fortress Introduction to the Lutheran Confessions (1999).
- Eric W. Gritsch and Robert W. Jensen, Lutheranism: The Theological Movement and Its Confessional Writings (1978).
- Robert Kolb and James A. Nestingen, eds., Sources and Contexts of the Book of Concord (2001).

Recommended Texts for Further Reading (No Need to Purchase. Don't be stymied by the earlier publication dates. This is a list of classics that are helpful to a consideration of 16th century texts):

- Leif Grane, The Augsburg Confession: A Commentary (1987).
- Timothy J. Wengert, A Formula For Parish Practice: Using the Formula of Concord in Congregations (2006).
- Willard D. Allbeck, Studies on the Lutheran Confessions (1952).

- Charles S. Anderson, Faith and Freedom: The Christian Faith According to the Lutheran Confessions (1977).
- World Council of Churches, Baptism, Eucharist and Ministry (1882).
- William R. Russell, Luther's Theological Testament: The Schmalkald Articles (1995).
- David P. Scaer, Baptism, Confessional Lutheran Dogmatics Series (1999).
- Lumen Gentium (Dogmatic Constitution of the Church)," The Documents of Vatican II: With Notes and Comments by Catholic, Protestant and Orthodox Authorities (1966), 14-101, including public reflections on the advent of 50 years since Vatican II.
- Gaudium et Spes (The Church in the Modern World)," See above, also available online at the Vatican website.
- Heiko Oberman, Luther, Man between God and the Devil.
- Timothy Lull, ed., Martin Luther's Basic Writings.
- David Ford, Ed., *The Modern Theologians* (2nd Ed.), Blackwell Publishing (1997).
- Edmund Schlink, Theology of the Lutheran Confessions, 3rd paperback printing (1985).
- William Hutchison, Religious Pluralism in America: The Contentious History of a Founding Ideal (2003).
- John Dillenberger, Ed., Martin Luther: Selections from his Writings (1962).
- H. Richard Neibuhr, Christ and Culture, (1951).
- Stephen J. Duffy, The Dynamics of Grace: Perspectives in Theological Anthropology, New Theology Studies 3, (1993).
- John Reumann, Ed., Studies in Lutheran Hermeneutics, (1979).
- Wilhelm Pauck, Ed., Luther: Lectures on Romans, The Library of Christian Classics: Ichthus Edition (1961).

Abbreviations for all Texts:

Augsburg Confession AC

AP **Apology of the Augsburg Confession**

FCE Formula of Concord Epitome

FCSD Formula of Concord Solid Decaration

LC Large Catechism SA **Smalcald Articles** SC **Small Catechism**

TRPPP Treatise on the Power and Primacy of the Pope Gassman & Hendrix: Fortress Introduction to the Fortress Intro.

Lutheran Confessions

Schedule of Topics and Readings:

January 9

Title: The Reformation in an Historical Context Required: Fortress Intro., (preface + ch. 1-4).

Recommended: TBA

Themes: Introduction to the Course, Review the Syllabus, Working Definition of Reformation, The development of Lutheranism, The structures and texts of the Lutheran Confessional

heritage, the nature of vocation.

January 16

Title: The Unspeakable – Entering into the Heritage of the Lie: Sin

Required: AC Preface, I, II, III, XIX. AP I, II, III, XIX. SA III:I. FCE I. FCSD I.

Recommended: TBA

Themes: Sin, brokenness, the aesthetics of the clay and the potter, the unspeakable as a theological category, the fall, original sin, imago dei, theological anthropology as a macrocategory for reflection, in bondage to sin and death.

Our Guest: Rev. Jan Ruud, St. Marks on the Narrows Lutheran Church - A pastor and a new member of the Lutheran Outreach Team, Rev. Ruud served Lutheran communities in Cameroon, France, Madagascar, Taiwan and in our own Pacific Northwest. His interests include pilgrimage and the sacred journey, and will spend an hour in conversation about how Lutheran identity and confessions shape his life and ministry.

January 23

Title: Encountering the Totality of Law

Required: Fortress Intro., 55-64. AC XVI. AP XVI. SA III:II, III, IV. FCE V, VI. FCSD V, VI.

Recommended: TBA

Themes: Civility, the Political Order, the Powers of Princes and Principalities, Law and Gospel,

Third Use of the Law, the freedom of a Christian in service to the neighbor.

Our Guest: Mr. Dennis Frado, Director, Lutheran Office for World Community. A long-standing leader in both the ELCA and the LWF, Mr. Frado has been instrumental in the Global Lutheran Communion on issues ranging from the Middle East to Jewish-Christian dialogue. Mr. Frado serves on the board of Church World Service and is one of the most respected members of ECOSOC partners at the United Nations.

January 30

Title: Justification by Grace Through Faith and the Sanctified Life

Required: AC IV, VI, XX. AP XVI. SA III:II, IV. FCE V, VI. FCSD V, VI. Fortress Intro., 55-64.

Recommended: TBA

Themes:

Begin: Class Leadership on Assigned Readings: One Student – See Syllabus.

February 6

Title: Election and Free Will

Required: AC XVII, XVIII. AP XVII, XVIII. FCE II, XI. FCSD III, IV.

Recommended: TBA

Themes: Freed from bondage to sin and death, the nature of proper vows, power of the

Church, The theoretics of 'Election,' The Unelected, by grace through faith.

Class Leadership on Assigned Readings: One Student – See Syllabus.

Guest Facilitator:

February 13

Title: The Church as the Body of Christ

Required: AC VII, VIII. AP VII, VIII. SA III:XII. Fortress Intro.

Recommended: TBA

Themes: The body of Christ, the intentionality of the minister in the administration of the sacraments, the key articles of Christian doctrine, the role of the papacy and the oversight of

the Holy Office.

Our Guest:

February 20

Title: Baptism/Confession and Absolution

Required: AC IX, XI, XII, XIII. AP IX, XI, XII, XIII. SC IV, V. LC I. SA III: V, VII, VIII.

Recommended:

Themes: Appleby, TBA

Class Leadership on Assigned Readings: One Student – See Syllabus.

February 27

Title: The Holy Supper and the Ecumenical Commitments of the Church

Required: AC X, XXIV. AP X, XXIV. SC VI. LC V. SA II:III, III:VI. FCE VII, VIII. FCSD VII, VIII.

Fortress Intro., 109-122. Recommended: TBA

Themes: **Our Guest:**

Student Case Studies: .

March 6

Title: The Ministry

Required: AC V, XIV, XXVIII. AP XIV, XXVIII. TRPPP. SA II:IV, III:X. Fortress Intro., 122-132.

Recommended: TBA

Themes: Ministry, ministry in an ecumenical and interreligious context (challenges today).

Class Leadership on Assigned Readings: One Student – See Syllabus.

Student Case Studies: ______.

March 13

Title: Adiaphora and Practical Reform

Required: AC XV, XXI, XXII, XXIII, XXV, XXVI, XXVII. AP XV, XXI, XXII, XXIII, XXVII.

Recommended: TBA

Themes:

Presentation of Student Papers Today:

Requirements:

- A. Completion of reading assignments. All reading assignments should be completed prior to the class on which they are assigned, in order to ensure robust conversation.
- B. Attendance and participation in class 30% of Grade: Since absence and tardiness, even

when they are "excused," diminish your participation in class, they will likewise diminish your participation grade. Moreover, because classmates and the instructor deserve your full attention, food and smart phones are expected to be packed away during class time (not counting the fifteen-minute break). If you take notes on a laptop, I expect you to refrain from social networking during class time. Any of these activities will diminish your participation grade.

- C. Completion of weekly one-page reflections 20% of Grade: For each class you will be expected to turn in a one-page paper (literally, a single sheet). These are a total of <u>nine</u> reflections for the quarter. In the **first paragraph**, I want you to respond to specific topic, theme or value that is chosen from the week's assigned readings, discussion or lecture. In the **second paragraph** you are to engage with the primary or secondary literature. With the week's theme in mind, choose something you found especially significant, insightful, challenging, or problematic, etc., and respond to it. On the day these reflections are used in class, they are likewise to be posted in Angel in the weekly Turnitin Dropbox, and will be graded based on how thoughtfully you engage the theme and assigned reading for that class. Late one-page reflections will not be accepted and will receive a zero.
- D. Class Leadership on Assigned Readings 5% of Grade: Course leadership involves students (assigned during the first week of the course) engaging the class in discussion on the critical themes raised in our texts. This does not mean summarizing the text. Please distribute an outline of your discussion to me and each student at the beginning of the class session. The exercise should be approximately thirty minutes.
- E. **Case Studies** 15% of Grade: This assignment consists of the presentation of one Case Study on the theme of Lutheran Confessions (assigned during the second week of the course). This Case Study should be between three to five double-spaced pages and is to be accompanied by a PowerPoint or Prezi Presentation to be shown in the course. Be prepared to present for 20 minutes, followed by a 20 minute discussion on your topic.
- F. Completion of Final Paper 30% of Grade: Student Proposals are due on the fifth week of the course February 6th. Proposals must be typed, double-spaced, only one page long, and should persuade the reader of your ability to construct your paper in a meaningful manner. The outline must have a clear thesis statement, and a developing sense of both the body and conclusion(s) you hope to reach. The paper must draw from any central themes of the Lutheran confessional heritage, and apply these to the regional, national and/or international needs for the Lutheran voice and influence today. These challenges can range from civil violence and gun control to the specific examples of the Lutheran gift to ecumenical and interreligious challenges and realities in the world today. All papers are due on the last day of our STM assigned exam period. Late papers are docked ten points per day until turned in.

Citation Format

- APA: http://bcs.bedfordstmartins.com/resdoc5e/ (Diana Hacker website/social sciences)
- CMS http://bcs.bedfordstmartins.com/resdoc5e/ (Diana Hacker website/history) ②or http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html (CMS website) ②At times students need assistance with the writing process itself. In addition to face-to-face assistance offered by Seattle University's Writing Center (McGoldrick Learning Commons 2nd Floor), two websites offer online assistance with writing
- Seattle University Writing Center: http://www.seattleu.edu/writingcenter/ (Resources)
- Purdue Writing Center: http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/

Special Requirements or Needs: If you have or think you may have a disability (including an "invisible disability" such as a learning disability, a chronic health problem, or a mental health condition) that interferes with your performance as a student in this class, you are encouraged to discuss your needs and arrange support services and/or accommodations through Disabilities Services staff in the Learning Center, Loyola 100, 206-296-5740.

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Academic Honesty: The School of Theology and Ministry strictly adheres to the Academic Policy concerning Academic Honesty as published in the Seattle University Student Handbook (see the Seattle University website).

Final Grade Calculation:

Your final grade will be calculated thus:

Attendance and <u>participation</u> in class – 30% Completion of weekly one-page papers – 20% of Grade Class Leadership on Assigned Readings: 5% of Grade Case Studies: 15% of Grade Completion of Final Paper – 30% of Grade

Your letter grade will be determined thus:

Α	93-100
A-	90-92.99
B+	87-89.99
В	83-86.99
B-	80-82.99
C+	77-79.99
С	73-76.99
C-	70-72.99
D+	67-69.99
D	63-66.99
D-	60-62.99
F	59 and below