

HT 775 60 Theology of John Calvin

Spring 2019

Instructor: Bradley Longfield

3 credits

Prerequisites: HT 500 and HT 502 or permission of the instructor

Letter grade

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. This course is highly recommended for Presbyterian students and others in the Reformed tradition. It is scheduled to be offered every other year.

Objectives:

A. Course Objectives

Students who successfully complete this course will be able to:

- Thoughtfully discuss and analyze the main points of John Calvin's mature theology as expressed in the *Institutes*.
- Thoughtfully discuss and analyze one aspect of Calvin's theology in depth.
- Teach a series of classes on Calvin's theology in a congregational setting.
- Wrestle with the ways in which Calvin's theology can inform contemporary ministry and mission.

B. Curricular Objectives

M.Div.:

- 1) nurture habits and disciplines of study, prayer and reflection that increase their love of God and neighbor and shape their personal and professional life.
- 2) be formed by, live in, and minister out of Scripture and *the historical and theological tradition of the church*.
- 3) interpret the Christian Scriptures through faithful exegesis and *in light of the Christian tradition*.
- 4) engage contemporary theological and ethical issues with insight and humility.
- 5) educate and equip individuals and congregations to live and minister joyfully and faithfully *as part of their own denomination and the ecumenical church*.

M.A.M.D.:

- 1) Articulate and reflect critically and constructively on the biblical and *theological foundations* of God's mission to the world.

M.A.C.L.:

- 1) Articulate key theological affirmations of the church's theological tradition.

Requirements/Evaluation

- Conscientious attendance, reading, and participation in discussions.
- Preparation of reading reports as assigned.
- A lesson plan for teaching an adult class in a congregation on Calvin's theology.
- A research paper involving some aspect of Calvin's theology and a class presentation on the paper topic.

Bibliography

Required:

You must have print copies of the books, identified by ISBN, unless the pagination on the digital copy is identical with the print copy.

Calvin, John. *Institutes of the Christian Religion*. Edited by John T. McNeill. Library of Christian Classics, v. 20-21. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1960. ISBN: 978-0664220280

Parker, T. H. L. *Calvin: An Introduction to His Thought*. Louisville: Westminster/John Knox, 1995. ISBN: 978-0664256029

Recommended:

Selderhuis, Herman, ed. *The Calvin Handbook*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2009. ISBN: 978-0802862303.

Strunk, William and E. B. White. *Elements of Style*. New York: Pearson, 1999. ISBN: 978-0205309023

Turabian, Kate L. *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 9th ed. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2018. ISBN: 978-0226430577