

Perkins Regional Course of Study School 2026  
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### COSS 322: Theological Heritage III: Medieval to Reformation (Session 1)

**Course Description:** This course focuses on major leaders, movements, and events beginning with the split between Eastern and Western forms of Christianity and continuing through the Protestant Reformation. It also touches very briefly on the Roman Catholic Council of Trent and the Puritan movement in England subsequent to the English Reformation. . Using primary and secondary sources, students will reflect on individuals, decisive events, and theological developments.

#### **Learning Goals:**

- Understand major theological developments in medieval Christianity leading up to the Reformation.
- Distinguish the theological characteristics of Luther, Zwingli, the Anabaptists, Calvin, the English Reformation, and Puritanism.
- Understand and articulate Reformation era debates around justification, sanctification, the sacraments, and church unity.

#### **Required Texts:**

\*Justo Gonzalez, *Story of Christianity Volume I: The Early Church to the Dawn of the Reformation*, Revised and Updated (San Francisco: Harper Collins, 2010). ISBN 978-0-06185588-7

\*Justo Gonzalez, *Story of Christianity Volume II: The Reformation to the Present Day*, Revised and Updated (San Francisco: Harper Collins, 2010). ISBN 978-0-06185-589-4

\*David Bagchi and David C. Steinmetz, eds., *The Cambridge Companion to Reformation Theology* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2004). ISBN 978-0-52177-662-7 (See #5 below under Pre-Course Readings for guidance.)

#### **Pre-class Reading:**

1. *The Story of Christianity Volume I* • Chapters 28–35
2. *The Story of Christianity Volume II* • Chapters 1–16, 18, 20–21
3. Read the following selections from Martin Luther's 95 Theses (<https://www.luther.de/en/95thesen.html>):
  - The introductory statement
  - Theses 1 and 2

- Theses 26 and 27
- Theses 31 and 32
- Theses 36 and 37
- Theses 43, 44, and 45
- Thesis 50
- Thesis 52
- Thesis 62
- Theses 67 and 68
- Theses 79 and 80
- Thesis 84
- Thesis 86

4. Read from *The Babylonian Captivity of the Church* (Martin Luther). <https://www.projectwittenberg.org/etext/luther/babylonian/babylonian.htm#2.37> Read pp. 497 (introduction) through page 515. The subject is the sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

5. Read *Cambridge Companion to Reformation Theology*, chapters 1-2, 4-13, 15. (This source will be available online, but it is a required text and I strongly urge you to take the plunge and spend the \$40 (paperback) it costs on Amazon. It's a book you can use as a reference many times in the future. )

### Pre-Class Assignments

(1) GLOSSARY: Based on your reading(s), describe the following terms or persons and their significance to the Reformation story in 1–3 sentences each. Your paper should be formatted in the form of “entries” as with a glossary, dictionary, or encyclopedia.

- |                                |                             |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Monothelitism               | 12. Erasmus of Rotterdam    |
| 2. Icon                        | 13. John Calvin             |
| 3. Latria/dulia                | 14. Ulrich Zwingli          |
| 4. Filioque                    | 15. Ignatius of Loyola      |
| 5. The Donation of Constantine | 16. Diet of Worms           |
| 6. Indulgences                 | 17. Philip Melancthon       |
| 7. Grace                       | 18. The Peace of Westphalia |
| 8. Sacrament                   | 19. Thomas Cranmer          |
| 9. <i>Summa Theologica</i>     | 20. Elizabethan Settlement  |
| 10. John Wycliffe              |                             |
| 11. Martin Luther              |                             |

Each entry is worth a maximum of five (5) points. The number of points awarded for each entry will be evaluated by:

- (1) *having met the deadline of the due date*
- (2) *clarity*
- (3) *brevity (without sacrificing clarity) 1-3 sentences per entry.*

(2) NOTES: Choose two (2) doctrines from the four articulated in the course objectives (justification, sanctification, sacraments, church unity) and prepare two (2) sets of notes, each approximately 1,500 words in length, each one on one of the four doctrinal themes mentioned in the course objectives. Outline the major claims of each doctrine. Summarize at least two objections to it, from among the six traditions articulated in the course objectives. For example, if you summarize the Calvinist understanding of the Sacraments, then, as one of the objections, you could summarize Zwingli's objections.

So, you have **two (2) sets of notes**, one on each doctrine, as instructed in the previous paragraph, each paper coming to approximately 1,500 words. An important part of this exercise is for you to determine what you think are the most important features of a doctrine and the most salient aspects of the objection you summarize, and to do it in the word requirement listed. In other words, you cannot include everything about a doctrine, or only what you find interesting, but what you conclude is the most important substance to include. **This way of working disciplines you to think clearly, which helps you teach and preach more clearly.**

The notes part of the pre-course assignment is worth 100 points, **50 points per each set of notes**. Since you are making notes and not a full manuscript, I will evaluate on the basis of accuracy of content and thoroughness of analysis.

The second pre-course assignment provides preliminary work for an in-class assignment. Once the session begins, you will submit sermon video by the due date found in the syllabus, uploaded to Canvas, dealing with one of the four doctrinal themes. Imagine yourself teaching about a major Reformation doctrine **that you believe is critical for Christian discipleship**. Use the notes you have made to prepare and deliver the sermon. Make a video of your delivering the message, either in a regular worship service or with a group of people gathered to help you meet the course requirements. You will upload your video and manuscript/outline used in the sermon.

Feel free to ask questions, once the class session begins, about this in-class assignment.

**Due Date for Pre-Course Assignment:** June 26, 2026.

**Course of Study Pre-class Assignment Completion Policy** Instructors have discretion to lower a student's grade for the pre-class assignments and their overall course grade for late submission of pre-class assignments. Submission of all pre-class assignments by the first day of class is required to attend the class. Students who do not have pre-class assignments completed by the first day of class will be required to withdraw from the course without a refund. Students are encouraged to contact their instructor if they have any questions about the pre-class assignments for their courses. They should also contact their instructor if they expect to submit their pre-class assignments following the submission deadline. All pre-class assignments will be submitted by uploading the Microsoft Word documents to Perkins Course of Study School's learning management system (LMS), called "Canvas."

Video tutorials on how to upload documents to Canvas are available on Perkins COSS web site. Perkins COSS staff are available to assist students learn to upload their pre-class assignments to Canvas.

**Style:** All Perkins Course of Study School courses use the same style of writing, known as the Chicago/Turabian style of writing. Basic examples of citations for written assignments are available for reference in the COSS Student Policies and on the COSS web site. All students are encouraged to purchase the following book that is the basis for submitting written work using the required formats for citations/footnotes. Turabian, Kate L. *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations, Ninth Edition: Chicago Style for Students and Researchers* (Chicago Guides to Writing, Editing, and Publishing) Ninth Edition ISBN-10: 022643057X ISBN-13: 978-0226430577 6. Writing assistance is available through the Bridwell Library: <https://www.smu.edu/Bridwell/Help/TWC>