

FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY
Department of History



Martin Luther

EUH 4930: Luther, Calvin and the Early Reformation
Summer 2 2010
TuTh 1:15 - 4:25 pm
AL 345 and various points in Germany and Switzerland

Prof. Ben Lowe
Office: AL 158

Required readings

Carter Lindberg, *The European Reformations*. Blackwell, 1996.
Hans J. Hillerbrand, ed. *The Protestant Reformation*. Harper Torchbooks, 1968.
Various found on reserve in the library, posted on Blackboard or on the internet

Description of the course

This course will introduce students to the Europe of the early Protestant Reformation with a focus on the major reformers and their ideas. Most people know what the Reformation constituted the break-up of the Roman Catholic church but few understand the major fault lines between the two branches of Christianity, that is what issues led to the separation. Since many of the same theological differences still exist, learning about their origins will give insight into the major beliefs of the dominant western Christian churches. As this is a history course, we will look at the religious context of the late medieval church and the early, largely unsuccessful attempts at reform. From there we will turn to Martin Luther and learn how his personal crisis helped to spark a movement, and then how the Lutheran church became established, largely through the work of Luther's associate, Phillip Melancthon. The other major early branch of Protestantism, the Reformed church, coming out of Zwingli and Calvin's actions in the Swiss cities of Zurich and Geneva, respectively, will then be studied. Finally, we will give attention to the fledgling Anabaptists, who originating in Zurich, ushered in what has become known as the "radical reformation."

As a major component of this course consists of learning about the reformers on site, at many of the historic places where they lived and worked, there will be few in-class lectures. To accompany the readings, we will have instead numerous expert tour guides who will provide detailed information that will be tested on both a midterm and final exam. It is expected that students will complete all assignments on time, including the reading, and attend all classes both on campus and overseas. This should be an exciting opportunity to learn first-hand about an important part of the western religious heritage, and to experience other cultures.

Class Requirements:

1. **Class Discussion/Participation.** It is important to keep up with the reading assignments **before** each class meeting so as to make discussions possible. On the study tour part of the class you will be expected to take notes at the various sites you are visiting and to participate in group discussions, which may be held on the bus in between destinations, or in a specified location at the site itself. Class participation is **required** and comprises **20% of your semester grade**. Quizzes may be given if needed to enhance discussion.
2. **Oral Presentation.** The major project due before the travel part of the course will be an oral presentation on a selected topic, to be given to the class on your assigned day. These

presentations will focus on the history and culture of one of the various towns we will be visiting, with the objective of demonstrating their importance to the Reformation or to early modern history. More information on how to complete this assignment will be given early in the term. The oral presentation will count for **20% of the final course grade**.

3. **Examinations.** There will be **one midterm examination given while in Wittenberg on Sunday, May 30th**, consisting of short-answer questions/essays and a map exercise, that will count for **20% of the total grade**. You are expected to bring material from lectures, readings, films, and texts into your answers as appropriate. The **final exam** will be two essay questions and some identification terms, and constitute **20% of the overall grade**. In all essays you are expected to set up a thesis, organize a clear answer and provide the details necessary to support it. **Please note that the final exam is scheduled for Thursday, June 19 during class time. There are no exceptions, so make travel plans with this in mind.**

3. **Paper Assignment.** Since this course takes place in part in Germany and Switzerland, you will be writing a journal of your experiences and encounters on the trip. This account should include your observations and insights into the Reformation as a period, and into the Reformers as people, based on both the sites you visit as well as the background you gain from readings and discussions. While you do not need to provide an entry for each day of the study tour you should have broad coverage of all aspects of what the trip entails. This journal/paper should be at least 7-8 pages in length [double-spaced, 1" margins, 10-12 cpi], and any footnotes should be according to the *Chicago Manual of Style*. Use the following link for more information on format and proper citation form:

<http://www.library.fau.edu/npb/hhist.htm>

This assignment is due Tuesday, June 22 and will make up 20% of the final grade. Any late papers will result in the grade being lowered accordingly. Printer, flash drive, or any other mechanical mishaps are not an acceptable excuse. Have some fun with this!

Office Hours: Tu Th noon - 1 pm, and by appointment

Grading Scale: A = 93-100 A- = 90-92 B+ = 87-89 B = 83-86 B- = 80-82
C+ = 77-79 C = 73-76 C- = 70-72 D+ = 67-69 D = 63-66
D- = 60-62 F = 59 or less

An administrative F (0) is earned for late papers, missed examinations, or missed presentations that unexcused. If there is a **real** emergency you **must** reach me **before** the scheduled date. **To be fair, there are no exceptions!**

Students at Florida Atlantic University are expected to maintain the highest ethical standards. Academic dishonesty, including cheating and plagiarism, is considered a serious breach of these ethical standards, because it interferes with the university mission to provide a high-quality education in which no student enjoys an unfair advantage over any other. Academic dishonesty is also destructive of the university community, which is grounded in a system of mutual trust and places a high value on personal integrity and individual responsibility. Harsh penalties are associated with academic dishonesty. For more information, see http://www.fau.edu/regulations/chapter4/4.001_Honor_Code.pdf.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), students who require special accommodations due to a disability to properly execute coursework must register with the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD) located in Boca Raton - SU 133 (561-297-3880), and follow all OSD procedures.

Syllabus and reading assignments (subject to change)

- May 18 **Introduction to the course**
Interpreting the Reformation
The late-medieval church
Lindberg, pp. 1-55
*Euan Cameron, *The European Reformation* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1990), pp. 1-99.
- May 20 **The German Reformation**
Lindberg, pp. 56-168
Reports on Lutheran sites in Germany
- May 25 **The Swiss and Radical Reformations**
Pre-departure orientation
Lindberg, pp. 169-273
Reports on Reformed and Anabaptist sites in Switzerland
- May 27 Leave for Germany
- May 28-
June 13 Study tour in Wittenberg, Eisleben, Eisenach, Erfurt, Leipzig, Worms, Zurich, and Geneva
- Jun 15 Discussion of study tour, with students sharing from their journals
- Jun 17 Lutheran theology
Hillerbrand (Luther selections)
- Jun 22 The Reformed theology of Zwingli and Calvin, and the Anabaptists
Hillerbrand (Zwingli, Calvin, and Anabaptist selections)
- Jun 24 Final exam

Topics for Oral Presentations:

Eisleben
Eisenach
Erfurt
Wittenberg
Leipzig
Torgau
Worms
Augsburg
Mainz
Rothenborg ob der Tauber
Heidelberg
Lucerne
Berne
Zurich
Geneva

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2. **Historiographic Essay.** The major project due before the travel part of the course will be

an historiographic essay on a major topic or theme in early Reformation history. This paper will look at how this topic has been studied over time and assess the current state of scholarship, utilizing at least 10 secondary sources. It is due the last class before we leave for Europe, and will count for **20% of the final course grade**.

3. **Examinations.** There will be **one midterm examination given while in Wittenberg on Sunday, May 30th**, consisting of short-answer questions/essays and a map exercise, that will count for **20% of the total grade**. You are expected to bring material from lectures, readings, films, and texts into your answers as appropriate. The **final exam** will be two essay questions and some identification terms, and constitute **20% of the overall grade**. In all essays you are expected to set up a thesis, organize a clear answer and provide the details necessary to support it. **Please note that the final exam is scheduled for Thursday, June 19 during class time. There are no exceptions, so make travel plans with this in mind.**

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