DE 5500 | THE THEOLOGY OF MARTIN LUTHER

3 sem. hrs.

I. Course Description

This course surveys the background and setting of Luther's thought as well as his teaching on the range of topics which form Christian theology. It focuses on Luther's doctrines of sin and grace, justification and faith, law and gospel, as well as on his understanding of Christian daily living in the midst of God's callings within the world.

II. Course Objectives

A. To understand the historical background of Luther's thought in his own career and in the intellectual context of late medieval theology.

B. To understand the chief points in Luther's theology on the critical topics discussed in his era and relevant to twentieth century Christian thought.

C. To understand and be able to identify Luther's law/gospel hermeneutic at work within the entire structure of his exposition of the biblical message.

D. To be able to interpret Luther's sixteenth century concerns within their own historical setting and in their significance for later periods of church history, including the turn of the twenty-first century.

E. To appreciate Luther's combination of faithfulness to the biblical text and his deep concern for the comfort of Christian consciences and the proper exercise of the Christian faith by all believers.

III. Course Materials

A. Required Reading


**Note:** Students should read a minimum of 750 pages from the following secondary texts or from primary sources.

B. Recommended Collateral Reading


C. Other Collateral Reading Options

*Primary Sources in English*


*Bibliographies*


*Biographies*


Kittelison, James M. *Luther the Reformer*. Minneapolis: Augsburg, 1986.


Lohse, Bernard. *Martin Luther: An Introduction to His Life and Work*. 1983


Theology


Christiansen, Carl C. Art and the Reformation in Germany. Columbus: Ohio State University Press, 1981.


Headley, John M. Luther's View of Church History. 1963


_____.*Luther's Small Catechism*. Chicago: Wartburg, 1929.


### IV. Course Requirements

A. The student must listen carefully to all of the twenty-four recorded lectures by Professor Robert Kolb.

B. The student must complete all of the required readings.

   **Note:** The student should complete the readings assigned in conjunction with a particular lecture before listening to that lecture.

C. The student must complete at least 750 pages of reading outside of the assigned required textbooks. These can be taken from the Bibliography under Collateral Reading. The student must report on a separate sheet indicating the title of the book, author, publisher, date of publication, and the pages read.

D. The student is required to make careful use of the “Lessons” prepared by Professor Kolb and must turn in written answers to the questions. These are found in the documents folder in your course forum. Your answers
should be done in typewritten form and can be submitted directly to your course tutors icon in your course forum.

E. The student is required to participate in the online discussion areas of TriNet. Thoughtful responses should be given to at least one question in each discussion area, and responses to the comments of other students are encouraged.

F. Research Paper. The student must complete a written project. This paper may focus on one of the two following topics.

1. A historical problem in Luther's theology

   Examples of the former might include "Luther's Doctrine of Justification through Faith," "Luther's Debates over the Lord's Supper," "Luther's Critique of Medieval Piety and Religion," "The Relationship of Luther's Doctrine of Sin and of the Fallen Human Will to His Soteriology," etc.

2. An application of Luther's insights to the contemporary scene

   Examples of the latter might include, "A Critique of Contemporary North American Religious Life on the Basis of Luther's Theology of the Cross," "Two Kinds of Righteousness and Proclamation in the Contemporary North American Piety," "Luther vs. the Anabaptists: Resolving the Dispute in Twentieth Century Terms," "Luther's Model for Congregational Life and Personal Piety as a Model for Today."

   All papers must follow the form outlined in the TIU Style and Format Guide which can be obtained from the Distance Education office. You may contact us to obtain these at 800.588.7705/847.317.6554 or email the Distance Education office. Students should submit one copy to the instructor and keep one copy for personal reference.

G. The student will take a one-hour Mid-Term examination (anytime after completed Lesson 12) and a two-hour Final examination (cumulative, but mostly covering material from Lesson 12 to the end). The exams are to be closed book and without notes.

V. Course Grading

The grade for the course shall be determined by the following four factors:

A. Mid-Term Examination 20%
B. Final Examination 30%
C. Written project 30%
D. Typed answers to questions in syllabus 10%
E. Discussion Questions on TriNet 5%

F. Required and Collateral Reading 5%

All assignments should be submitted directly to your Course Tutor using the icon within your TriNet course labeled with your course tutors name. Exams should be mailed by your proctor to the address below. Course work may be submitted by mail if necessary.

Distance Education
Trinity International University
2065 Half Day Road
Deerfield, IL 60015

If you have questions related to your assignments, please contact your Course Tutor in TriNet. All other questions should be directed to the Distance Education office (email or 847-317-6554).

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