SCHOOL OF DIVINITY, HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY

ACADEMIC SESSION 2015-2016

DR301J: REFORMATION, REASON AND REVOLT

15 Credits

WEEKS 1-11

PLEASE NOTE CAREFULLY:

The full set of school regulations and procedures is contained in the Undergraduate Student Handbook which is available online at your MyAberdeen page. Students are expected to familiarise themselves not only with the contents of this leaflet but also with the contents of the Handbook. Therefore, ignorance of the contents of the Handbook will not excuse the breach of any School regulation or procedure.

You must familiarise yourself with this important information at the earliest opportunity.

COURSE CO-ORDINATOR/COURSE TEAM

Course Coordinator: Dr Marie-Luise Ehrenschwendtner
Email: m.ehrenschwendtner@abdn.ac.uk
Telephone: 01224-273110
Office: 210, Crombie Annexe
Office Hours: TBC

Discipline Administration:
Mrs Claire Hargaden
50-52 College Bounds
Room CB001
01224 272366
divrs@abdn.ac.uk

TIMETABLE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Seminar – Attend all for Weeks 1-11</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesdays</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Students can view their university timetable at:

http://www.abdn.ac.uk/infohub/study/timetables-550.php

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course examines the history of Christianity during the early modern period (c.1450-c.1700) with a particular focus on 16th century efforts to reform the church and the permanent rifts such efforts ultimately created within western Christianity. Attention is given to developments in Roman Catholic doctrine and practice ensuing from internal and external pressure to reform, and to the origins and early development of national Protestant churches (Reformed, Lutheran and Anglican) as well as more radical Christian parties which often shared uneasy relations with political states and their allied churches. Some attention will be given to particular issues such as the impact which the Reformation had upon women and their roles in family/church and early modern efforts to evangelise non-European peoples.

INTENDED AIMS AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

In addition to a thorough knowledge and understanding of the events comprising the 16th century Reformation of the church, students should gain from this course an ability to critically analyse primary texts and determine their significance to our understanding of historical persons and periods in the life of the Christian church.
LECTURE/SEMINAR PROGRAMME

Note: Seminar Texts will be available on the course webpage (MyAberdeen)

Week 1: The Late-Medieval Church
Primary Text: Extracts from the Acts of the Council of Constance (1414–1418)
Background Reading: Heinze, Introduction and ch. 1 (pp. 11-42)

Week 2: Renaissance Humanism
Primary text: Extracts from Erasmus’ Paraclesis (1516)
Background Reading: Heinze, ch. 2 (pp. 43-68)

Week 3: Martin Luther: The Beginning and Consolidation of the Reformation
Primary text: Luther’s Breakthrough from the Autobiographical Fragment (March 1545) and Extracts from Luther’s Address To the German Nobility and The Freedom of a Christian (1520)

Week 4: The Radical Reformation and the Peasants’ War
Primary text: Extracts from Thomas Müntzer’s Sermon on Daniel (1524)
Background Reading: Heinze, ch. 6 (pp. 144-168); Friedrich Engels, The Peasants’ War in Germany, ch. 2 (http://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1850/peasant-war-germany/index.htm)

Week 5: The Radical Reformation: Non-violent Radicals
Primary text: Letter from the Swiss Brethren to Müntzer (1524); Schleitheim Confession (1527)
Background Reading: Heinze, ch. 6 (pp. 144-168)

Week 6: Reformed Protestantism
Primary text: Extracts from Calvin’s Short Treatise on the Lord’s Supper (1540)
Background Reading: Heinze, chs. 5, 7 (pp. 120-143; 169-196)

Week 7: Scotland and England
Primary text: The 39 Articles and The Scots Confession
Background Reading: Heinze, chs. 8-9 (pp. 197-254)

Week 8: Catholic Reformation
Primary texts: Extracts from Proposal of a Select Committee of Cardinals and other Prelates concerning the Reform of the Church (1537) and Decrees on Reformation of the Council of Trent (1545—1563)
Background Reading: Heinze, ch. 10 (pp. 255-279)

Week 9: Women and the Reformations
Primary text: Extracts from Katharina Schütz Zell, Apologia for Master Matthew Zell, Her Husband and Margaret Fell, Women’s Speaking Justified (1666)
Background Reading: Heinze, ch. 11 (pp.280-301)
Week 10: Colonization and Christian Mission
Primary texts: Documents related to the Chinese Rites Controversy
Background Reading: Heinze, ch. 12 (302-328)

Week 11: Persecution, Religious Wars, and Toleration
Primary texts: Extracts from Anne Askew & John Bale, Examinations; John Foxe, Acts and Monuments
Background Reading: Heinze, chs. 13-15 (pp. 329-408)

TEXTBOOK (RECOMMENDED FOR PURCHASE)

SECONDARY READING
Below is a list of useful starting points for your own research. Using the bibliographies in these works and the research tools listed below will help you access further relevant works.

1. THEOLOGICAL/INTELLECTUAL HISTORY:

2. HISTORY AND BIOGRAPHY

3. OTHER SURVEYS

**ASSESSMENT**

**PLEASE NOTE:** In order to pass a course on the first attempt, a student must attain a Common Grading Scale (CGS) mark of at least E3 on each element of course assessment. Failure to do so will result in a grade of no greater than CGS E1 for the course as a whole.

1st Attempt: one two-hour written examination (50%); one literature review (20%); one 2000 – 2500 word essay (30%).

Resit: one two-hour written examination (100%) provided each element of assessment is CGS 6 or above.

*Click to view the University Level Descriptors (ANNEX A).*
*Click to view the University Assessment Scale Band Descriptors (ANNEX B).*

**LITERATURE REVIEW (1000 WORDS; 20% OF FINAL GRADE)**

In this exercise you will review a relevant article from the English language version of [Wikipedia](http://www.wikipedia.org/) and suggest how it might be improved.

**Step one:** Select a Wikipedia article related to the content of this course. Please be sure to print out a copy of the article you’re going to work with and submit this with your review (Wikipedia articles are susceptible to constant editing; it’s important that I know which version of the article you are reviewing).

**Note:** To save yourself unnecessary work, you would do better to choose a shorter article on a more precise topic, rather than one of the longer and more general survey articles.

**Step two:** Assess how well your chosen article does its job.

- Identify strengths and weaknesses of the article.
- Without actually rewriting the article, describe the main improvements you would recommend, and explain why you think they’re needed. If you would not recommend any major improvements, explain why.
- Assess the usefulness of the list of ‘References’ and/or ‘External links’ appended to the article (if there is one) and, if necessary, supplement these with details of
any books, articles and internet links you think would be useful to a generalist reader interested in finding out more about this topic. If you choose not to list supplementary references, you should explain why you think the existing list does not require supplementation.

It may also help you to compare your selected article with articles and survey chapters in the reference works listed in the bibliography below, or located elsewhere in the library or on the internet.

ESSAYS (2000 – 2500 WORDS; 30% OF FINAL GRADE)

Students can find valuable advice on essay writing in the Student Handbook. Some essay topics are suggested below, but students are free to choose a topic more to their own liking. If you do decide to write on a topic of your own choosing, please run it past me first. This is so that I can assure myself that you're not taking on a piece of research that is too ambitious or labour-intensive for a 15 credit course at level 3.

Essays should be between 2000 and 2500 words long, including quotations and footnotes; students should note that they will be penalised for work which is either too long or too short.

When markers assess your written work, one of the things they take into consideration is how accurately and consistently you have cited your source material in footnotes and your bibliography.

LIST OF ESSAY TOPICS

**Topic 1: Was the Reformation a product of the success of the pre-Reformation church or of its failure?**

Some Background Reading:

**Topic 2: Assess the effects of the Reformation on the lives of women in 16th century Europe.**

Some Background Reading:

**Topic 3: In what sense (if any) can we speak of a Catholic “Reformation”?**

Some Background Reading:

**Topic 4: How true is it to say that the Elizabethan Church of England struck a middle way between Catholicism and Protestantism?**

Some background reading:


**ASSESSMENT DEADLINES**

- Literature Review: Thursday, 8th October 2015
- Essay: Thursday, 12th November 2015

**SUBMISSION ARRANGEMENTS**

Submit one paper copy to the drop boxes in CB008 in 50-52 College Bounds and one electronic copy to Turnitin via MyAberdeen. Both copies to be submitted by 3.00pm on the due date.

Please note: Failure to submit both an electronic copy to TurnitinUK and an identical paper copy, with the digital receipt attached, will result in a deduction of marks. Failure to submit to TurnitinUK will result in a zero mark.

**EXAMINATION (50% OF FINAL GRADE)**

There will be a two-hour examination on a date to be arranged in December 2015. The exam will consist of 10 extracts from the primary texts studied in the seminars. You will be asked to select four of these, and then write short essays that do the following:

- identify and explain key phrases and ideas in each text
- relate these key phrases and ideas to broader developments in the history of Christianity in this period

Good analysis of, and commentary upon, a primary text should demonstrate familiarity with lectures and assigned readings from that week in which text in question was examined.
General exam guidance will be given in the Student Handbook.

RESIT INFORMATION

100% Exam

Access to the resit which is provisional on:

- All submitted coursework having been submitted and graded at CGS 6 or higher.
- Student having a valid Class Certificate. Students with C7’s are not eligible for resits.

Past exam papers can be viewed at http://www.abdn.ac.uk/library/learning-and-teaching/for-students/exam-papers/.