Preachers, Witches, Riots, and Diets: The Reformation and European Society, 1400-1700

Course Objectives: The Reformation was a series of movements within Christianity that transformed religious, political, and social life throughout much of the early modern world. People from all walks of life witnessed their world change drastically, and individuals and groups came to interact in unprecedented and unforeseen ways. This course will use multiple historical perspectives to introduce students to the Reformation in Europe and the world beyond. Students will use primary and secondary sources to access the perspectives of various individuals and groups. They will engage with and compare the diverse experiences of early modern Christians, as well as those of their non-Christian neighbors. They will ultimately be able to connect the lofty ideas of theological reformers to the myriad religious, political, and social realities of people’s everyday experiences.

Class Structure: Tuesdays (periods 2-3) will consist of a lecture providing context for the readings for the week, followed by a discussion of those readings. Thursdays (period 3) will consist of a lecture addressing the broader impact of the themes discussed on Tuesday.

Required Texts for Purchase:


Required Readings Posted Online: UF e-Learning in Canvas - https://lss.at.ufl.edu/
Students should print out the readings that are posted online and bring hard copies to class on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Use of Computers: Students wishing to take notes or access the online readings on their computers in the classroom may do so, but computers may only be used for these two purposes. If I suspect that students are using computers for other purposes, I reserve the right to prohibit the further use of computers in the classroom.

Grading:
Participation: 20%
Essay 1: 20%
Midterm: 20%
Essay 2: 20%
Final: 20%
*** Each student must submit both essays and both exams in order to pass the course.***

**Attendance:** Attendance will be recorded only during the first few weeks. However, participation during Tuesday discussions makes up a significant part of the final grade. Material from Tuesday and Thursday lectures will appear heavily on the exams and will not be available online.

**Participation:** Students are expected to come to Tuesday classes having read all of the assigned readings for the week, having brought copies of the readings, and prepared to discuss the readings during class. Simply being present does not count as participating in discussion.

**Essays:** There will be two essay assignments – the first due on February 10\textsuperscript{th} and the second due on March 31\textsuperscript{st}. These essays will be typed, 5 pages long, double-spaced, in 12-point Times New Roman font, with 1-inch margins, with no header, with page numbers, stapled or paper-clipped, and with an additional cover page including your name and the title of your essay. One-third of a letter grade will be taken off for each of these qualities missing from your essay. The prompt for each essay will be announced in class and online during the semester. Essays submitted late will lose two-thirds of a letter grade per day. After the first essay has been graded and returned, students may rewrite and resubmit it, earning up to one full letter grade more. Rewrites are due on March 10\textsuperscript{th}. Students must submit their original essay along with their rewrite. There is no rewrite for the second essay.

**Exams:** The midterm exam will be held in class on February 26\textsuperscript{th} and the final exam will be held on May 1\textsuperscript{st}, 7:30-9:30am in the regular classroom. The format for each exam will be announced in class and online during the semester.

**Make-up Policy:** There will be no make-up exams provided except in the case of documented medical emergency. Essays submitted late will lose two-thirds of a letter grade per day. Each student must submit both essays and both exams in order to pass the course.

**University Policy on Accommodating Students with Disabilities:** Students requesting accommodation for disabilities must first register with the Dean of Students Office (http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/). The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation. You must submit this documentation prior to submitting assignments or taking the quizzes or exams. Accommodations are not retroactive, therefore, students should contact the office as soon as possible in the term for which they are seeking accommodations.

**University Policy on Academic Misconduct:** Academic honesty and integrity are fundamental values of the University community. Students should be sure that they understand the UF Student Honor Code at [http://www.dso.ufl.edu/students.php](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/students.php).

Other resources are available at [http://www.distance.ufl.edu/Getting-Help](http://www.distance.ufl.edu/Getting-Help) for:

- Counseling and Wellness resources
- Disability resources
- Resources for handling student concerns and complaints
- Library Help Desk support
Schedule:
Week 1
Required Reading: Rice, Foundations, Preface, Introduction (online)
Jan 6: Syllabus, Expectations, Introductions
Jan 8: Late Medieval Anxieties

Week 2
Required Reading: Groote, Resolutions/Sayings/Letter/Sermon, pp. 65-77, 84-97;
Hus, The Church, 1413, pp. 67-72, 111-136;
Kempis, The Imitation of Christ, 1418-1427,
pp. 1-18, 70-85, 111-127, 162-181
Jan 13: Late Medieval Christianity – Participation and Reform
Jan 15: Intellectual Foundations – Universities, Printing, and Public Culture

Week 3
Required Reading: Rice, Foundations, ch. 1-2, 4
Jan 20: Political and Social Foundations – Princes, Estates, Cities, and Peasants
Jan 22: Europe in the World – Contact with Asia, Africa, and the Americas

Week 4
Required Reading: Rice, Foundations, ch. 3;
Erasmus, On Free Will, 1524, pp. 2-23, 39-41, 46-47, 74-89
Jan 27 – Erasmus and Criticism of the Church
Jan 29 – The Republic of Letters

Week 5
Required Reading: Luther, The Freedom of the Christian Man, 1520, pp. 3-28;
Luther, On the Bondage of the Will, 1525, pp. 160-212;
Augsburg Confession, 1530
Feb 3 – Luther and Melanchthon
Feb 5 – Early Reform in European Society

Week 6
Required Reading: Calvin, Institutes of the Christian Religion, 1536,
pp. 46-47, 81-86, 283-284, 590-602, 633-644, 870-904;
Calvin, Reply to Sadoletto, 1540, pp. 153-172
Feb 10 – Zwingli and Calvin, ESSAY 1 DUE
Feb 12 – Expanding Notions of Reform

Week 7
Required Reading: Sermon on the Mount;
Müntzer, Sermon to the Princes, 1524, pp. 11-32;
Racovian Catechism, 1605, pp. 20-24, 51-62, 168-172, 320-368
Feb 17 – The Radical Reformation
Feb 19 – The Reformation in England
Week 8

**Required Reading:** Rice, *Foundations*, ch. 5-6  
Feb 24 – Opposition to Reform and Early Attempts at Reunion, midterm review  
Feb 26 – MIDTERM

*Spring Break*

Week 9

**Required Reading:** Ignatius of Loyola, *Spiritual Exercises*, 1524 (selections);  
Teresa of Avila, *The Interior Castle*, 1577 (selections)  
Mar 10 – The Catholic Reformation, **ESSAY 1 REWRITE DUE**  
Mar 12 – The Society of Jesus

Week 10

**Required Reading:** Wunderli, *The Drummer of Niklashausen* (selections);  
Scribner, “Elements of Popular Belief”, pp. 231-255;  
Luria, “Popular Catholicism”, pp. 114-127  
Mar 17 – Popular Religion  
Mar 19 – The Politics of Religion

Week 11

**Required Reading:** Statute of Kalisz, 1264 (selections);  
Warsaw Confederation, 1573 (selections);  
Kagan, *Inquisitorial Inquiries*, pp. 21-68  
Mar 24 – Religious Minorities in Europe  
Mar 26 – *manuscript/old books @ Library East*

Week 12

**Required Reading:** Ginzburg, *The Cheese and the Worms*  
Mar 31 – Violence and Toleration, **ESSAY 2 DUE**  
Apr 2 – The Scientific Revolution

Week 13

**Required Reading:** *A Tryal of Witches @ Assizes of Bury St. Edmonds*, 1682, pp. 1-59;  
*Inquisition Trials* (selections);  
Klaniczay, “Decline of Witches and the Rise of Vampires”  
Apr 7 – Witches and Dissidents  
Apr 9 – Religion and Reform in the Atlantic World

Week 14

**Required Reading:** Modrzewski, *De Republica Emendanda*, 1551 (selections);  
Skarga, *Sermons to the Diet*, 1597 (selections);  
Milton, *Aereopagitica*, 1644 (selections);  
Milton, *The Ready and Easy Way to Establish a Free Commonwealth*, 1660 (selections)  
Apr 14 – Case Studies in Monarchy – England and Poland-Lithuania
Apr 16 – The Thirty Years’ War

Week 15

**Required Reading:** Milton, *Of Reformation*, 1640 (selections);  
Locke, *The Reasonableness of Christianity*, 1704, pp. 1-19;  

Apr 21 – Religion in the Enlightenment

**Final**

*May 1 – 7:30-9:30am*