CALVIN ON THE KNOWLEDGE OF FAITH:
THM SEMINAR

RTS/Orlando
January 2005

Professor: Justin Holcomb
Dates: Jan 10-14, 2005
Time/Place: RTS Seminar Room,
9 AM – 5 PM

OBJECTIVES

This is a graduate seminar with three basic components—lectures, student presentations and tutorials. This seminar is designed to introduce the graduate student to Calvin scholarship and the theme of “the knowledge of faith” in Calvin’s work and theology. It is the goal of this program to provide students with graduate level critical and analytical skills, a good broad background in the field of Reformation studies as well as a high level of competence in the area of their thesis research.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

There will be 1 major research paper (20+ pages) on a topic approved by professor. The complete first draft is due Mar 21, 2005. The final draft of the research paper is due April 23, 2005.

There are also two Response Papers (6-10 pages) on the reading assignments, which are to be completed BEFORE the January session. Each paper is to be a formal, well-written, footnoted, balanced, summary, analysis and critical response to a single article or chapter from the assigned texts. (That is a total of 2 response papers). One response paper must engage one chapter from either Battles’ book or Muller’s book. The second response can engage any chapter or article of the required readings.

These response papers will be presented informally in the morning sessions and will provide the basis for seminar discussions. In afternoon tutorials, I will work with students to help (i) to assess and develop scholarly skills and (ii) to begin work on research paper for the seminar.

Student presentation (20-30 min) of the fruits of his/her Response Paper, followed by class discussion. Students will provide me with a copy of presentation on first day of session. It will be photocopied and distributed to class.

The major research paper is 80% of the final grade. Each response paper will be 10% of the final grade.
COURSE READING

Students will be REQUIRED to read the following BEFORE the seminar:


Texts available electronically (please email me and I will send them to you):


Jon Balserak, “Accommodating Act Pare Excellance?”


Other works (just helpful texts for your reference):


**SEMINAR SCHEDULE**

Jan 10 History of Calvin and His Work
   Calvin Scholarship: Dogmatic, Historical, and Philosophical Interpretations

Jan 11 Overview of the *Institutes*
   *Inst I.1-8*: Knowledge of God and *Sensus Divinitatis*

Jan 12 *Inst I.1-8*: Knowledge of God and *Sensus Divinitatis*

Jan 13 Accommodation, the Human Condition, and the Shape of Calvin’s Theology

Jan 14 Faith, the Incarnation, and Scripture
INTERNET SCHEDULE

Week of Jan 24-----------------------Travel Week

Week of Jan 31----------------------Preliminary Outline to Professor

Week of Feb 7------------------------Professor responds to Student

Week of Feb 14----------------------5-7 pages to Professor

Week of Feb 21-----------------------Professor responds to Student Papers

Week of Feb 28----------------------10-13 pages to Professor

Nota Bene: Each student should also send a copy of this draft to all seminar participants for feedback

Week of Mar 21----------------------All Seminar participants provide feedback for Student Paper

Week of Mar 21----------------------First Draft to Professor

Nota Bene: Each student should also send a copy of this draft to all seminar participants for feedback

Week of Mar 28----------------------All Seminar participants provide feedback for Student Paper

Week of April 18---------------------Final Draft due to Professor

Final Draft due April 23, 2005

Nota Bene: All preliminary drafts will be via email. The final draft should be two hard copies of the paper and should be mailed to Justin Holcomb by the due date. The address is: 1306 Preston Avenue, Apt. 4B, Charlottesville, VA 22903.
Criteria for Evaluation of ThM Papers

I. Grammar and Style (25%)
* Is the text clean of spelling mistakes?
* Is the text punctuated correctly?
* Does the sentence structure consistently adhere to basic rules of good grammar?
* Does the footnote/bibliographic apparatus follow Turabian consistently? (Turabian, A Manual for Writers).
* Is the paper written in clear, straight-forward style of academic prose (e.g., the guidelines in Strunk and White, The Elements of Style)?

II. Organization (25%)
* Is the subject of the paper clearly delimited? Is it significant, but still manageable?
* Does the subject correspond to what was assigned in the syllabus?
* Does the paper have a well-designed thesis statement and outline?
* Does the running text of the paper adhere to the outline, and are the larger divisions of the paper clearly signposted?
* Are the sentences and paragraphs of the text linked together clearly and in such a way that the thought of the student builds throughout the paper with continuity and coherence?

III. Clarity and Force of Argument (25%)
* Is a convincing case made to support the thesis statement?
* Is the evidence marshaled to support the argument used judiciously?
* Where the student provides exposition or summary, does she/he do so succinctly and objectively?
* Are opposing viewpoints treated fairly?
* Is there evidence of mature Christian reflection on the subject matter?

IV. Research (25%)
* Does the paper draw on primary sources for its main evidence?
* Are the secondary sources selected and used judiciously?
* Does the paper demonstrate sufficient depth and breadth of research, given the nature and level of the assignment?

Recommended Resources:

