2HT832 - The Reformation in the New World:

Studies in American Presbyterianism

INSTRUCTOR: John R. Muether (jmuether@rts.edu)

DATES: June 25-29, 2007

PLACE: Classroom 6: RTS Seminar Room

TEXTBOOKS

Students will be required to read the following books before the seminar:

1. Either one of these two books:
   


3. One biography of a significant figure in American Presbyterian history (consult with the instructor on your selection).


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 the historical and theological developments American Presbyterianism.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

There will be one major research paper (20-30 pages) on a topic approved by the instructor. The complete first draft is due August 17. The final draft of research paper is due August 31.

There are also two response papers (7-10 pages) on the reading assignments, which are to be completed before the June session. Each paper is to be a formal, well-written,
footnoted, balanced, summary, analysis and critical response to any *two chapters from the assigned reading*.

These response papers will be presented informally in the morning sessions and will provide the basis for seminar discussions. In afternoon tutorials, the instructor will work with students to begin work on the research paper for the seminar.

Students will give presentations (30 min.) of the fruits of their response papers, followed by class discussion. Students are to provide Mr. Muether with a copy of their presentations on first day of the session. They will be photocopied and distributed to class.

The major research paper is 70% of the final grade. Each response paper will be 15% of the final grade.

**SEMINAR SCHEDULE: 9 am - Noon**

June 25  Colonial Presbyterianism:
June 26  Nineteen Century Presbyterianism
June 27  The Presbyterian Controversy
June 28  Mainline Presbyterianism
June 29  Vanishing Presbyterianism

**TUTORIALS:** 1 PM – 3 PM in the instructor’s office

**INTERNET SCHEDULE FOR American Presbyterianism Seminar**

Week of 25 June  ---------------Travel Week

Week of 2 July  ---------------Preliminary Outline to Professor

Week of 9 July  ---------------Professor responds to Student

Week of 16 July  ---------------5-7 pages to Professor

Week of 23 July  ---------------Professor responds to Student Papers

Week of 30 July  ---------------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 6 August ----------------------All Seminar participants provide feedback for Student Paper.

Week of 13 August ----------------------First Draft to Professor

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

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

Final Draft due 31 August 2007

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 RTS by the due date. Address is:

John R. Muether
Reformed Theological Seminary
1231 Reformation Drive
Oviedo, FL. 32765.
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


