

# HT800 THM SEMINAR: PRE-REFORMATION DEVELOPMENTS

RTS/Orlando

May/June 2010

**PROFESSOR:** Dr. Frank A. James III

**DATES:** 31 May –4 June 2010

**TIME/PLACE:** The Nicole Rare Book Room, 9 AM – 5 PM

**TEXTBOOKS:**

\*All ThM students should have this book for reference:

J. Bradley and R. Muller, *Church History: An Introduction to Research, Reference Works, and Methods* (Eerdmans, 1995).

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

Johan Huizinga, *Erasmus and the Age of Reformation* (Phoenix Press, 2002).

John C. Olin, *Catholic Reform from Cardinal Ximenes to the Council of Trent (1495 to 1563)* (Fordham University, 1990).

G.R. Evans, *Wyclif: Myth and Reality* (IVP, 2006).

**All Texts are available through the online RTS Bookstore at:**

<http://www.mindandheart.com>.

**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 contours and theological developments in the pre-reformation period from the 14<sup>th</sup> to the early 16<sup>th</sup> centuries. 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 **26 July, 2010**. The final draft of research paper is due **13 August, 2010**.

There are also **two Response Papers (6-10 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 **a single chapter from any of the assigned texts. (That is—a total of 2 response papers)**

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

Student presentations (30 min) of the fruits of his/her Response Paper, are followed by class discussion. Student should provide Mrs. Ceci Helm ([chelm@rts.edu](mailto:chelm@rts.edu)), Assistant to the Dean, 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.

## **SEMINAR SCHEDULE:**

31 May -----Introduction: Late Medieval Context

1 June-----Conciliarism, John Wyclif and Jan Hus

2 June-----Erasmus and Humanism

3 June-----Italian Reform Movement

4 June-----Lefevre and the Meaux Circle

**TUTORIALS:** 1 pm – 5 pm in Seminar Room

## **INTERNET SCHEDULE FOR Pre-Reformation Seminar**

Week of 07 June -----Travel Week

Week of 14 June-----Preliminary Outline to Professor

Week of 21 June -----Professor responds to Student

Week of 28 June -----Research and writing

Week of 05 July -----Research and Writing

Week of 12 July-----8 -10 pages to Professor

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

Week of 19 July-----All Seminar participants provide feedback for Student Paper.

Week of 26 July -----First Complete Draft to Professor

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

Week of 02 August-----All Seminar participants provide feedback for Student Paper.

Week of 09 August -----Final Draft due to Professor.

<b>Final Draft due 13 August 2010</b>
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**Nota Bene:** All preliminary drafts will be via email. The final draft should be **two hard copies of the paper** and should be mailed by the due date. Address is: Dr. Frank A. James, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, 130 Essex St. South Hamilton, MA 01982 or [fjames@gcts.edu](mailto:fjames@gcts.edu).

### **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**

Jacques Barzun and Henry F. Graff, The Modern Researcher (New York: Harcourt, Brace Jovanovich, latest edition).

Mary-Claire van Leunen, A Handbook for Scholars (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1979).

William Zinsser, On Writing Well (New York: Harper and Row, latest edition).