

COURSE OUTLINE
**THEO 2222 / THEO 5271 The Reformation Era
(Church History II)**

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Venue: CCT T41

Language of instruction Cantonese/Mandarin

Description The purpose of the course is to **introduce the students to the developments in church and theology in 16th century Europe**. After the course the student shall be able to understand different aspects of the transformations happening during this period: theological, spiritual, historical, social, political, and others. A special emphasis will be on the *shifts in theological thinking* and how these shifts affected the traditional configuration of society, state, culture, and religion.

Expected Outcome a) The students will gain a general knowledge of the ecclesial and theological developments during the covered period.
b) The students will get acquainted with different perspectives on church history and with issues that are still debated.
c) The students will develop sensitivity regarding the diversity of Christian faith expressions.

Course Structure Usually the course will be divided into two parts:
1) Two hours lecturing with teacher's handouts
2) One hour tutorial in groups with discussions led by students.

1. Structure of the course

I. Introduction and Backgrounds

1. The Social and Political conditions on the eve of the Reformation
2. The Church in Crisis and the Failure to Transform
3. An Introduction to the Late Medieval thoughts

II. Reformation – Historical Account

4. The Early Lutheran Reformation: Historical Developments
5. Early Swiss Reformation and the Radical Reformation
6. Divisions within the Reformation Movement (1525-1546)
7. The Reformation in England and Anglicanism
8. Renewal in the Catholic Church

III. Reformation – Theological Themes

- 9. Sin and Salvation
- 10. Sacraments
- 11. Scripture and Ministry
- 12. Reformation and Politics

IV. Reformation continued

- 13. Unfinished business and an Assessment

2. Textbooks

- a) Justo Gonzalez: *The Story of Christianity. Volume 1&2. The Reformation to the Present Day*, San Francisco: Harper, 1985 – 中譯: 冈萨雷斯著, 赵城藝譯: 《基督教史(上/下)》. 上海: 三聯, 2016.
- b) Alister E. McGrath: *Reformation Thought. An Introduction*, Oxford, UK, and Cambridge, USA: Blackwell, 1993 – 中譯: 麥格夫著, 陳佐人譯: 《宗教改革運動思潮》. 香港: 基道, 2006. (BT26 M3712 2006) (譯自英文 1988 初版) or 宗教改革运动思潮 (简体版) 中国社会科学出版社, 2009.

For interested students:

- c) Carter Lindberg: *The European Reformations*, Blackwell Publishers, Oxford 1996.
- d) Madeleine Gray: *The Protestant Reformation. Belief, Practice and Tradition*, Brighton; Portland: Sussex Academics Press 2003.
- e) Diarmaid MacCulloch: *Reformation: Europe's House Divided, 1490-1700*, Penguin Books 2003.

If it needs to be in Chinese, one may consider

- f) 李廣生: 《一石激起千重浪: 改革運動教會歷史簡介》. 道聲, 2016.
- g) Timothy George, 王麗譯: 改教家的神學思想. 北京: 中國社會科學出版社, 2009.
- h) Walker, Williston (and Richard A. Norris, David W. Lotz, Robert T. Handy): *A History of the Christian Church*. Edinburgh: T. & T. Clark, 1986 (classical textbook; rewritten by Norris, Lotz and Handy; 405 pp on the pre-reformation part; translated into Chinese as 華爾克, 《基督教會史》(香港: 基督教文藝出版社, 2016))
- i) 陶理編: 《基督教二千年史: 第一世紀至當代》(海天書樓, 2001) (translation of *Oxford History of Christianity*; around 670 pages, covering the whole history of the church until the present)
- j) Bihlmeyer, *Early Church History*, translated by L. Leeb (毕尔麦尔著, 雷立柏譯, 《古代教會史》、《中世紀教會史》、《近代教會史》(北京: 宗教文化出版社, 2009)) (covering the church history until 5th century; around 350 pages; with Western-Chinese and Chinese Western indexes, useful)

It is highly recommended that the book by **Justo Gonzalez** and by **Alister McGrath** are purchased and read in preparation of the course or parallel to the course.

3. Assessment and Requirements

The students are expected to regularly participate in the lecture (2h / week) and the tutorial (1h / week). The students shall regularly read assigned texts and reflect on what they have read.

a) Tutorials

- Requirements: Read the handouts and the related texts of the past session in preparation for the tutorial
- Goals of the tutorial:
 - To clarify what has been learnt in the past lesson
 - To reflect and critically discuss the past
 - To apply and to relate the past to the present
 - To involve all the students in a meaningful discussion
 - To prepare for the short paper, quiz and reflection paper

b) Assessment

20% short paper, 40% quiz, and 40% reflection paper

- Both English or Chinese are allowed
- Assessment Criteria:
 - Content: do the answers reflect a good understanding of the materials read?
 - Thought: Does the student critically engage with the thoughts expressed?
 - Form: Neatness of the paper, good structuring, concise writing, mastering of language and proper use of source materials
 - Creativity: Does the form of the presentation show creative dialogue with the historical events or thoughts? (Additional resource materials, creative presentation)

c) Short paper

- Provisional time: 25 Jan 2017
- A short report on why there was the Reformation taking place in the 16th century western Europe
- To be submitted within 2 weeks
- Late submission will lead to a deduction of 2% of your marks per day

d) Quiz

- Provisional time: 15 Mar 2017
- Consists mainly of short questions and expected short answers; you may be asked to write short essays of introducing some theologians or historical events.
- To be submitted within 2 weeks after the exam paper is posted on the blackboard
- Late submission will lead to a deduction of 4% of your marks per day

e) Reflection paper

- <5000 words in English or <7000 in Chinese (note: exceeding length causes deduction; say what is crucial with limited words).
- Submission deadline: 4 May 2016
- Late submission will lead to a deduction of 4% of your marks per day

- Choose one topic from what you have learnt from Reformation theology and relate it to church or society in Hong Kong or China or your country of origin. The purpose of this reflection paper is *to discover in what way the Reformation thought contains thoughts that are of lasting relevance*.
 - ➔ Example: Lutheran soteriology in present-day China / The political theology of Calvin and today's Hong Kong / Anabaptist ecclesiology in the context of Hong Kong / Reformation thought and Christian counseling / Reformation anthropology and Confucian anthropology / etc.
 - ➔ Instead of one specific topic, you may also choose a personality of the Reformation and engage in a dialogue with this person.
- Important for the assessment will be
 - (1) Does the paper reflect a thorough understanding of Reformation thought (in a specific area)?
 - (2) Does it relate Reformation thought in a meaningful way to the present?
 - (3) Does the paper show depth and originality of thought?
 - (4) Is the paper readable, well organized, making appropriate use of reference literature, etc.?
- The most important aspect in the assessment will be how Reformation and present context communicate. You may therefore, if it helps your case, also use alternative forms – letter, fictional dialogue, poem – to express your thoughts.

Course assignments (book report and reflection paper): please follow the CUHK rules concerning submission

1. Upload your assignment on the Blackboard website. **Only word-format is allowed. PDF is regarded as non-submission.**
2. At the same time also upload a soft copy of the completed assignment to the plagiarism detection engine VeriGuide, at the URL:
<https://veriguide2.cse.cuhk.edu.hk/cuhk/>
3. The system will issue a receipt which also contains a declaration of honesty, which is the same as that in
<http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/p10.htm>. The declaration should be uploaded in pdf to the blackboard system.