COURSE DESCRIPTION
Surveys Protestantism from the Reformation to the present, including the formation of Protestant theology, the relationship of Protestantism to culture and contemporary developments.

TEXTBOOKS

Readings from primary sources posted on Blackboard.

Students are encouraged to explore internet resources to supplement their reading and research. However, the quality of internet resources is highly uneven and the student must be very judicious in the use of such sources. A sample of such resources is given at the end of the syllabus with bibliography.

COURSE STRUCTURE
The course is divided into three sections:

I. 16th - 18th centuries
Rise of Protestantism: Luther, “Preface to the Epistle to the Romans”; Commentary on Galatians (Chapters 1 and 2); selection Commentary on Galatians.
Reformed Protestantism: Calvin, selection from Necessity of Reforming the Church.
Radical Reformation: The Anabaptists
English Reformation: From Henry VIII to Elizabeth I (1534-1604).
17th century Protestant Scholasticism: 1564-1675.
Pietism and Puritanism

II. Enlightenment Rationalism and 19th Century Protestant Liberalism
Liberal Protestantism, 1st Phase: Schleiermacher and Hegel; 2nd Phase: David F. Strauss, F. C. Baur, Albrecht Ritschl, Ernst Troeltsch.
Protestant Expansion, Slavery, and the American Indian
III. Conservative vs. Liberal Protestantism: 19th century to Early 20th century

Conservatism in Germany: E. W. Hengstenberg
Princeton Theology in America: Charles Hodge, A. A. Hodge
American Fundamentalism: Benjamin Warfield, “The Inspiration of the Bible”; Gresham Machen, selection from Christianity and Liberalism.
Protestantism in Germany, 2nd Phase: From de Wette to Ritschl

IV. 20th Century: Post 1960s Developments

German Christian Movement: The Nazi Church.
Post-1960s Developments: Ecumenism, “God-is-Dead” Theology; Black Liberation Theology; Feminist Theology, Resurgent Fundamentalism.

INSTRUCTIONAL OBJECTIVES
1. To expose the student to the seminal primary sources or "raw materials" for the study and understanding of Protestantism.
2. To facilitate the informed discussion of the nature of Protestantism in all its complexity and diversity.
3. To analyze selected primary documents essential for understanding the evolution of Protestantism from Luther to the present, with an emphasis theological development.
4. To provide the student with a comprehensive historical overview of the major voices and movements that shaped the Protestant tradition.
5. To make possible, for students who may be neither Western, Christian nor Protestant, a sympathetic understanding of a major and influential branch of the Christian religious tradition by situating Protestantism in the context of historical forces and factors that have their analogue and significant parallels in the other great world religions.
6. To equip the student with the categories, historical and conceptual framework, identity of the most important figures and movements of thought that will allow him/her to pursue and explore in greater depth through a research paper a particular topic or aspect of the Protestant tradition.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS
1. A 12-15 page research paper on any aspect of Protestantism (40% of grade).
2. A 100 question cumulative final objective exam: multiple choice, true or false, based on lectures and readings (40% of grade). You will have three (3) hours to complete exam and two (2) attempts (with
highest score as final score). Exam will be posted during final exam weeks and you can take it at any time during that week.

3. An in-class 5-10 minute, 2-page double spaced, presentation based on the reading assignment for a particular week (20% of grade).

GRADE CRITERIA

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COURSE OUTLINE

Week 1  
**I. 16th - 18th centuries**  
Introduction: Syllabus, Requirements, Overview of course

The Protestant Reformation: The Medieval Background, Martin Luther & John Calvin  
*Required Reading:* Dillenberger & Welch, 3-52; *Luther:* “Preface to the New Testament” (Dillingberger, *Luther*).  
*Recommended:* “Address to the Christian Nobility of the German Nation” (Dillenberger, *Luther*); “The Babylonian Captivity of the Church” (Dillenberger, *Luther*).

Week 2  
Selection from Luther’s *Commentary on Galatians* 1, 2 (on Blackboard).

Movie: Martin Luther

Week 3  
The Protestant Reformation: John Calvin  
*Required Reading:* Calvin: “Necessity of Reforming the Church” (Reid, *Calvin*)  

Video: John Calvin

Week 4  
Radical Protestantism (Zwingli, the Anabaptists) and the English Reformation  
*Required Reading:* Dillenberger & Welch, 43-47; 53-71; 108-111; Roger Williams, selection from *Bloody Tenet of Persecution*; William Penn, selection from *Primitive Christianity Revived* (on Blackboard).  

Video: The Anabaptists

Week 5  
Protestant Orthodoxy, Pietism, Puritanism, and Evangelical Protestantism in America  
*Required Reading:* Dillenberger & Welch, 73-108; 111-136; Edwards, “Divine and Supernatural Light.”  
*Recommended:* Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God” (on Blackboard).
II. Enlightenment Rationalism and the 19th Century

Enlightenment Rationalism (1696-1794): From Deism to Reimarus and Kant.

*Required Reading:* Dillenberger & Welch, *Protestant Christianity*, 136-143.

Week 7

Schleiermacher, Hegel, and the Emergence of Liberal Protestantism, 1st Phase

*Required Reading:* Dillenberger & Welch, 161-176; Schleiermacher, *Speeches on Religion Addressed to its Despisers Among the Educated* (1799), 1st and 2nd Speeches.

Week 8

Developments in America and England: Unitarianism and Transcendentalism; *Essays and Reviews* (1860) and *Lux Mundi* (1889)

*Required Reading:* Dillenberger & Welch, 201-203; William Ellery Channing, "Baltimore Sermon" (1819); Ralph Waldo Emerson, "Divinity School Address" (1838) (posted on Blackboard).

Week 9

The Uneasy Conscience of Protestantism: Expansionism and the Missionary Movement; the Encounter with the world religions; the Question of Slavery and the American Indian; Protestantism and the Industrial Revolution.

*Required Reading:* Dillenberger & Welch, 145-160; selections from John Henry Channing; Orestes Brownson; Chief Red Jacket; John Henry Thornwell, Richard Furman (on Blackboard).

Week 10

Liberal Protestantism in Germany, 2nd Phase: de Wette, Strauss, Baur, Wellhausen, Ritschl, Harnack, and Troeltsch; Conservative Protestantism: E. W. Hengstenberg

*Required Reading:* Dillenberger & Welch, 177-200; 208-211 Alvarez, Handout #1: Study of Religion in the West: 1800-1900 (on Blackboard); Troeltsch, "Historical and Dogmatic Method in Theology" (1898); "The Place of Christianity Among Religions" (1923) (on Blackboard); Alvin Plantinga, "Critique of Troeltsch and Historical Biblical Criticism" (on Blackboard).

Week 11

III. Conservative vs. Liberal Protestantism: 19th century to Early 20th century

Ritschlian Protestantism and the Challenge of Marxism


Fundamentalist Protestantism

*Required Reading:* Dillenberger & Welch, 200-208; 299-308; A. A. Hodge and Benjamin Warfield, “Biblical Inerrancy” [1881] (from Smith & Handy, 324-332); J. Gresham Machen’s *Christianity and Liberalism* [1923] (Smith & Handy, *American Christianity*, 345-349) (on Blackboard).

Week 12

Neo-Orthodoxy, 1930-1960  Karl Barth (d. 1968) Confronts the German Christians

*Required Reading:* Dillenberger & Welch, 233-256; Karl Barth (d. 1968), selections from Karl Barth’s *Epistle to the Romans* (1922) (on Blackboard); *The Barmen Declaration* (on Blackboard); Barth’s “Schleiermacher” (1926), in *Theology and the Church* (on Blackboard).

*Recommended:* “Schleiermacher” (1952), in *Protestant Theology in the 19th Century* (on Blackboard).
Week 13  
**IV. 20th Century: Post 1960s Developments**

Paul Tillich (d. 1965) and Rudolf Bultmann (d, 1976)


Week 14  
Ecumenism, God-is-Dead Theology, Black Liberation and Feminist Theologies, Ecological of Environmental Theologies, Resurgent American Fundamentalism Black Liberation Theology: James Cone (b. 1936, age 81)

*Required Reading:* Dillenberger & Welch, 273-279; 295-342; Diana Hayes, “James Cone’s Hermeneutics of Language and Black Theology” (2000).


Week 15  
Feminist Liberation Theology: Rosemary Ruether (b. 1936, age 81)


Week 16  
**FINAL EXAM POSTED**

SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY FOR THE STUDY OF PROTESTANTISM

Van Harvey, *The Historian and the Believer.*
Edward Farley, *Ecclesial Reflection.*
Otto Pfleiderer, *The Development of Theology in Germany Since Kant.*
A. C. McGiffert, *Protestant Thought Before Kant.*
Langdon Gilkey, *Naming the Whirlwind.*
George W. Forell, *The Protestant Faith.*
Wilhelm Pauck, *Heritage of the Reformation.*
Claude Welch, *Protestant Thought in the 19th Century* (2 volumes).
B. J. Kidd, *Documents of the Continental Reformation.*
Paul Althaus, *The Theology of Luther.*
Martin Brecht, *Martin Luther,* 3 Volumes.
Roland H. Bainton, *Here I Stand: A Life of Martin Luther.*

Heiko Oberman, *Luther.*

A. M. Hunter, *The Teaching of Calvin.*

Wilhelm Niesel, *The Theology of Calvin.*


Horton Harris, *David F. Strauss.*

Horton Harris, *The Tubingen School.*

A. H. Smith, *Church and State in the Middle Ages.*


Paul Tillich, *The Protestant Era.*


Paul Tillich, *19th and 20th Century Protestant Theology.*

Karl Barth, *The Theology of Schleiermacher* (lectures from the 1920s period).

Karl Barth, *Theology and the Church* (selected essays of the early, pre-1932 Barth).

Karl Barth, *Protestant Theology in the 19th Century* (essays on Tholuck, Hengstenberg, Strauss, Schleiermacher, among many others).

Karl Barth, *Protestant Thought in the 19th Century* (abridged version of the above, with fewer essays).


Richard Brandt, *The Philosophy of Schleiermacher.*

H. R. McKintosh, *Types of Modern Theology* (with lengthy essays on Schleiermacher and Barth).

George H. Williams, *The Radical Reformation.*

George Marsden, *Fundamentalism and American Culture:* ... 1870-1925.

George Marsden, *The Search for Christian America.*

George Marsden, *Understanding Fundamentalism and Evangelicalism.*

George Marsden, *Reforming Fundamentalism.*

George Marsden, *The Soul of the American University.*


Anson Stokes & Leo Pfeffer, *Church and State in the United States.*


Karl Adam, *The Spirit of Catholicism* (strongly anti-Protestant).


A. G. Dickens, *Reformation and Society in 16th Century Europe.*

A. G. Dickens, *The English Reformation.*

A. G. Dickens, *The Counter Reformation.*

A. G. Dickens, *The Age of Humanism and Reformation: Europe in the 14th, 15th, and 16th Centuries.*

Henry Bettenson, *Documents of the Christian Church.*

Henry Gee & W. J. Hardy, *Documents Illustrative of English Church History.*

Charlex Maxon, *The Great Awakening in the Middle Colonies.*


Perry Miller, *Jonathan Edwards.*


Walter H. Conser, Jr., *Church and Confession.*


William O. Shanahan, *German Protestants Face the Social Question.*
Walter Bauer, *Orthodoxy and Heresy in Earliest Christianity.*
Bart Erhman, *The Orthodox Corruption of Scripture.*
Gerd Lüdemann, *Hermeneutics.*

The following encyclopedias are authoritative on all aspects of Protestantism:
*Encyclopaedia Britannica* (available online to subscribers).
*New Schaff-Herzog Encyclopedia of Religious Knowledge* (available online free, see below).

Cross Reference to English and German editions of Luther’s Works:

Some **Online Resources** are given below. The articles by Berger and the Catholic Encyclopedia are important and legitimate, and I assume the same is true of the article by Landow.


“Examining Protestantism: A Defense of the Catholic Church.”
[www.shasta.com/sphaws/mainmenu.html](http://www.shasta.com/sphaws/mainmenu.html)

History of Protestantism. By. Dr. J. A. Wylie LL.D., in 3 volumes. Dr.Wylie's Monumental History was first published in 1878. [www.reformation.org/wylie2.html](http://www.reformation.org/wylie2.html)

“Protestantism and the Quest for Certainty,” by Peter Berger.
[www.religion-online.org/cgi-bin/researchd.dll/showarticle?item_id=239](http://www.religion-online.org/cgi-bin/researchd.dll/showarticle?item_id=239)

The Doctrines of Evangelical Protestantism,” by George P. Landow, Professor, Brown University.

Selected Works of Martin Luther.

Martin Luther Resources
[http://dmoz.org/Society/Religion_and_Spirituality/Christianity/Church_History/The_Reformation/Lutheran_Reformation/Luther_Martin/Writings/](http://dmoz.org/Society/Religion_and_Spirituality/Christianity/Church_History/The_Reformation/Lutheran_Reformation/Luther_Martin/Writings/)

John Calvin Resources
There are numerous “Reformed Theology” sites on the internet which have uploaded a significant number of Calvin’s works, including the *Institutes of the Christian Religion* and freely available to the student.