

Lutheran Heritage

Orientation conference call: Thursday January 30 at 8:30 PM Central Time

Class Sessions January 31-April 10, 2020

Course facilitator: Dr. Russell Vardell, Pastor of First United Lutheran Church (Dallas, Texas)

About this course:

This course explores the Lutheran heritage in the contexts of the sixteenth-century Reformation and the subsequent development of Lutheranism in America. The video resources for the course are the 12-session “Reformation Roots” and the 6-session “‘We Must Plant the Church’: The Story of Lutherans in America” DVDs. The textbooks for the course are *The Story of Christianity, Volume II*, by Justo Gonzalez and *The Lutherans* by L. DeAne Lagerquist.

Orientation:

You will be enrolled in the course site the weekend of orientation week. Please take this time to explore the course site. There are several tasks to do during the orientation time: update your profile, introduce yourself in the “Getting to Know You” forum, and indicating your choice about “Why are you taking this course?” You can’t hurt anything, so click around the course homepage and explore!

There will also be **an orientation call with the course facilitator on Thursday January 30 at 8:30 PM Central Time**. Instructions for the call will be in the class website. You will be using the tool Zoom.

Covenant

Since the quality of the class is dependent on your level of participation you will be asked to covenant with each other about participation and communication. We will use the orientation conference call for you to establish together the content of your covenant. Each of you is important to the learning process of the whole group, and you are missed when you cannot be there! The covenant will give you the opportunity to establish the type of communication protocol you wish to establish with each other when those inevitable conflicts arise and someone will be late or missing.

Weekly course guide:

Sometime Friday-Monday of each week

- Read the assigned readings in the textbook.
- Watch the assigned video sessions.
- Post your discussion essay by Monday evening.

Tuesday-Wednesday

- Respond with a brief paragraph to at least 2 of your classmates’ essays. (Please respond first to those with no responses or the fewest responses.)

Thursday-Friday

- Post to the key question forum based on the week’s assignment.
- Respond with a brief paragraph to at least 2 of your classmates.

Variation: Sessions 4 and 8

During these two weeks, instead of posting to the second (key question) forum there will be a live small group discussion for 1 hour on **Thursday evenings at 8:30 PM Central Time.**

Course Schedule

- February 1 **Session 1 The Need for Reform**
Readings: Gonzalez, chapter 1
Video: Reformation Roots, # 1
- February 8 **Session 2 Rediscovering Grace**
Readings: Gonzalez, chapter 2
 Martin Luther's "95 Theses" (link on Select course webpage)
Video: Reformation Roots, # 2 and 3
- February 15 **Session 3 Growing Conflict**
Readings: Gonzalez, chapters 3 and 4
Video: Reformation Roots, # 4 and 5
- February 22 **Session 4 Expanding Vocations: Church, Society, and Family Life**
Readings: None
Video: Reformation Roots, # 6
 Mosaic video on "Katie Luther: The Morning Star of Wittenberg" (link on Select course webpage)
- March 1 **Session 5 From Reforming Movement to Established Church**
Readings: Gonzalez, chapter 9
Video: Reformation Roots, # 7 and 8
- March 8 **Session 6 Other Developments: Swiss Reformation and Radical Reformation**
Readings: Gonzalez, chapters 5-7
Video: Reformation Roots, # 9 and 10
- March 15 **Session 7 Other Developments: English Reformation and Catholic Reformation**
Readings: Gonzalez, chapters 8 and 12
Video: Reformation Roots, # 11 and 12
- March 22 **Session 8 Lutheran Beginnings in "the New World"**
Readings: Lagerquist, chapters 1-3
Video: "We Must Plant the Church," #1
- March 29 **Session 9 Growth and Development in American Lutheranism**
Readings: Lagerquist, chapters 4-5
Video: "We Must Plant the Church," #2 and 3
- April 5 **Session 10 Lutheran Unity and Diversity**
Readings: Lagerquist, chapters 6-7
Video: "We Must Plant the Church," #4, 5, and 6
- May 3 Final paper due