

Course Description

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Course Number: HT 212W

Course Title: Lutheran Confessions

Name of Instructor: Benjamin Taylor

Semester and Year: Fall 2021

Requirement fulfilled, who may register, indicate if limited:

Number of hours, grading option: 3 hours

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course studies *The Book of Concord: The Confessions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church*, the collection of Reformation-era writings that provides the scriptural and theological foundations for Lutheran faith and practice. Students will be introduced to the history and the theology of the *Book of Concord* through a close reading of its texts, lectures, class discussions, and secondary reading. In doing so, the course will connect the teachings of the Lutheran Confessions to the mission of the Church today as expressed in the Church's theology, worship, and public witness in a religiously and culturally pluralistic world.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. To grow in faith and leadership by studying the Lutheran Confessions together
2. To get to know the Book of Concord and its scriptural, theological and historical foundations, while also considering issues of cultural diversity and community praxis.
3. To develop and deepen skills for expressing faith in engaging and accountable ways for the sake of mission and ministry today

These course objectives reflect and serve Wartburg's 12 Pastoral-Diaconal Practices, especially Being Rooted in the Gospel (1), Biblical and Theological Wisdom (3), and Evangelical Listening and Speaking the Faith to Others (10).

PROCEDURE:

In this course, we will be introducing the hermeneutical lens and theological emphases of Lutheran theology through a close reading of *The Book of Concord*. In preparation for each class, students will be expected to have completed the assigned readings. The professor will lecture on the assigned readings from week to week; recordings of these lectures will be made available to asynchronous students. The readings and the lectures will be augmented by class discussions (synchronously or asynchronously via VoiceThred) that center on specific passages from *The Book of Concord*. Students will be encouraged to connect these specific passages to larger theological or historical themes of Lutheran thought and practice throughout the semester.

EVALUATION:

Students will be assessed based on participation, weekly writing assignments, two short essays, and a final project/paper.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Required

The Book of Concord, Robert Kolb and Timothy Wengert, eds. (Minneapolis: Fortress, 2000)

The Lutheran Confessions: History and Theology of The Book of Concord, Robert Kolb, James Nestingen, Charles Arand, eds. (Minneapolis: Fortress, 2012)

Altmann, Walter. *Luther and Liberation: A Latin American Perspective*. (Minneapolis: Fortress, 2015)

Lohrmann, Martin. *Book of Harmony: Spirit and Service in the Lutheran Confessions*
(Minneapolis: Fortress, 2016)

Stjerna, Kirsi. *Lutheran Theology: A Grammar of Faith*. (London: Bloomsbury, 2020).

Recommended