

HT 212 Lutheran Confessions

Dr. Martin Lohrmann

3 credit hours; letter grade or credit/no credit

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. It combines historical study of the Reformation with theological analysis. The course also connects the Lutheran confessional writings with contemporary issues of worship, spirituality, public service, and Christian witness in a religiously and culturally diverse world.

OBJECTIVES

1. To deepen knowledge and faith through study of the Lutheran Confessions
2. To understand the scriptural, theological, and historical roots of the Lutheran church
3. To connect the Lutheran Reformation of the 1500s with contemporary theological themes
4. To gain skills for sharing the Lutheran witness to the gospel in various settings

These course objectives reflect and serve the values of the "12 Pastoral-Diaconal Practices of Wartburg Theological Seminary," especially the Practice of Being Rooted in the Gospel (1), the Practice of Missio Dei in Word and Sacrament (2), the Practice of Biblical and Theological Wisdom (3), and the Practice of Evangelical Listening and Speaking the Faith to Others (10).

PROCEDURE

The course will integrate lectures, discussion, readings, and student-led catechesis to cover this subject. Three hours a week will be spent in class for lectures and discussion; another eight hours a week (approximately) should be set aside for reading and writing.

Students taking this class asynchronously will need to choose that track during Prolog Week.

EVALUATION

Learning will be evaluated through attendance and participation, a variety of writing assignments, and a catechetical journal.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Required

1. *The Book of Concord*, Kolb and Wengert, eds. (Minneapolis: Fortress, 2000)
2. Martin J. Lohrmann, *Book of Harmony: Spirit and Service in the Lutheran Confessions* (Minneapolis: Fortress, 2016)
3. Martin Luther, *The Freedom of a Christian*, The Annotated Luther Study Edition, edited by Timothy J. Wengert (Fortress, 2016)
4. One of the following books (or a similar selection, with the instructor's permission):
 - a. Alberto L. García and John A. Nunes, *Wittenberg Meets the World* (Eerdmans, 2017)
 - b. Albert Pero and Ambrose Moyo, eds., *Theology and the Black Experience* (Augsburg, 1988)
 - c. Kirsi Stjerna, *Lutheran Theology: A Grammar of Faith* (T & T Clark, 2021)
 - d. Mary Streufert, ed. *Transformative Lutheran Theologies* (Fortress, 2010)
 - e. Vítor Westhelle, *The Scandalous God: The Use and Abuse of the Cross* (Fortress 2006)