

HT 212 Lutheran Confessions

Dr. Martin Lohrmann, with Dr. Samantha Gilmore
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 and cross-cultural perspectives. The course also connects the Lutheran confessional writings with contemporary issues of faith and practice, especially preaching and other forms of gospel proclamation.

OBJECTIVES

1. To deepen personal knowledge and faith through study of the Lutheran Confessions
2. To understand the scriptural, theological, and historical roots of the Lutheran church in ways that support healthy communities of faith today
3. To build skills for proclaiming the Lutheran witness to the gospel in various settings
4. To interpret and reflect upon the Lutheran Reformation of the 1500s in light of contemporary religious issues, global perspectives, and theological challenges

PROCEDURE & EVALUATION

- The course will integrate readings, lectures, discussions, catechesis, and journaling
- Learning will be evaluated through attendance and participation, a variety of assessed assignments, and a catechetical journal.
- Three hours a week will be spent in class for lectures and discussion; another six hours a week (approximately) should be set aside to complete readings and assignments.
- If the assigned readings cannot be completed in that amount of time, then students are strongly encouraged to read selectively for comprehension: it is more important to learn some of the material well than try to read it all.
- Students taking this class asynchronously will choose that track during Prolog Week.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Required

1. *The Book of Concord*, Kolb and Wengert, eds. (Minneapolis: Fortress, 2000)
2. Martin Luther, *The Freedom of a Christian*, The Annotated Luther Study Edition, edited by Timothy J. Wengert (Fortress, 2016)
3. *Luther's Small Catechism with African Descent Reflections*, by Joseph Bocko, et al. (Augsburg Fortress, 2019)
4. Kirsi Stjerna, editor, *Women Reformers of Early Modern Europe: Profiles, Texts, and Contexts* (Fortress, 2022)

Recommended

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