

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

OBJECTIVES

1. Study the trinitarian, gospel-centered theology of the Lutheran tradition,
2. Understand and describe the doctrine of justification by grace through faith in Christ.
3. Encounter and reflect upon multiple, often conflicting, intersectional realities in the Lutheran Confessions, ourselves, our communities, and the world.
4. Build professional skills for public proclamation of the gospel, especially catechesis.

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

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

Joseph Bocko, et al., *Luther's Small Catechism with African Descent Reflections* (Augsburg Fortress, 2019)

Martin Luther, *The Freedom of a Christian*, The Annotated Luther Study Edition, edited by Timothy J. Wengert (Fortress, 2016)

Martin J. Lohrmann, For You: Luther's Small Catechism as a Spiritual Resource (unpublished pdf)

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)