

“The mission of Tyndale Seminary is to provide Christ-centred graduate theological education for leaders in the church and society whose lives are marked by intellectual maturity, spiritual vigour and moral integrity, and whose witness will faithfully engage culture with the Gospel.”

Course	LUTHER AS A SPIRITUAL THEOLOGIAN INTD 0857 / THEO 0670
Date and Time	JANUARY 14-15; 28-29; FEBRUARY 11-12, 2022 3 WEEKENDS: FRIDAYS 6:45 – 9:35 PM; SATURDAYS 9:00 – 4:00 PM
Instructor	DR. DENNIS NGIEN Telephone: 416-226-6620, ext. 2763 Email: dngien@tyndale.ca
Class Information	The classes will be a hybrid of pre-recorded video lectures and livestreams. The classes will be livestreamed on Fridays 7:00 – 8:30 PM and Saturdays 9:00 – 10:30 AM & 2:30 – 4:00 PM. Office Hours: By email for appointment
Course Material	Access course material at classes.tyndale.ca Course emails will be sent to your @MyTyndale.ca e-mail account only. For security reasons, email forwarding function will no longer be available. It is the student’s responsibility to check MyTyndale.ca e-mail account frequently.

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course engages Luther as a spiritual adviser. The emphasis is on the spiritual and pastoral side of Luther, analysed from the perspectives of his devotional and catechetical writings. Free from polemic that dominates his theological works, these writings are down-to-earth expressions of evangelical piety. Luther’s reflections on how to meditate on the cross aright, how to prepare to die, how to meditate on evils and blessings, how to receive the sacrament aright, the theology behind the practice of prayer, a method of offering spiritual advices to those who suffer, the role of a pastor in times of crises in a community, the structure and shape of Christian life, will form the substances of our discussion. This course also aims to look at the

theological underpinnings of Luther's practical advice, and then evaluate the appropriateness of his spiritual writings for today.

II. LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

1. Appreciate the need to read and reflect upon Luther's devotional and catechetical writings which are uniquely devoid of the polemics that frequent his other works.
2. Recognize the practical side of the reformer and the irenic style with which he offers his spiritual insights to people of high and low estate.
3. Identify the theological issues and themes behind Luther's practical advice.
4. Apply and reflect theologically on practical matters in daily life in an intentional and focused manner.
5. Discern and recognize the unity of theology and practice in Luther's writings.

III. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. REQUIRED READING

Luther, Martin. *Devotional Writings I*, vol., 42, American editions (55 vols): edited by Jaroslav Pelikan and Helmut T. Lehman; St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House; Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1955-67. [Hereafter cited as LW].

Luther, Martin. [*The Annotated Luther. 6 Volumes*](#). Edited by Hans J. Hillerbrand, Kirsi I. Stjerna, and Timothy J. Wengert. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2015-7.

Ngien, Dennis. *Luther as a Spiritual Adviser: The Interface of Theology and Piety*. Milton Keynes: Paternoster, 2007. (This is a companion volume to Luther's devotional writings in LW 42 and 43.)

B. SUPPLEMENTARY / RECOMMENDED READING AND TOOLS

Tyndale recommends www.stepbible.org – a free and reputable online resource developed by Tyndale House (Cambridge, England) – for word searches of original-language texts, as well as for topical searches, interlinear texts, dictionaries, etc. Refer to the library for other [online resources for Biblical Studies](#).

C. INTERACTIVE LIVESTREAM AND/OR HYBRID COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- Livestream attendance at announced times
- Headphones (preferred), built-in microphone, and web-camera
- Well-lit and quiet room
- Stable high-speed internet connection, preferably using an Ethernet cable over Wi-Fi

D. GUIDELINES FOR INTERACTIONS

Tyndale University prides itself in being a trans-denominational community. We anticipate our students to have varied viewpoints which will enrich the discussions in our learning community. Therefore, we ask our students to be charitable and respectful in their interactions with each other, and to remain focused on the topic of discussion, out of respect to others who have committed to being a part of this learning community. Please refer to “Guidelines for Interactions” on your course resource page at classes.tyndale.ca.

E. ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

1. **Short Summary and response: Due on February 17, 2022** (4-5 pages) to an assigned topic (to be listed in class). 10% of final grade

Summarize the main features of it and explain the implication of it for faith and practice. For example, how does Luther apply the theological usage of the law in the Christian life?

This relates to learning outcome #4: apply and reflect theologically on practical matters in daily life in an intentional and focused manner.

2. **Forum Posts and Discussions:** Individual Posts and Response. 15 % of final grade [3 X 5% = 15%]

There will be three forums, one for each weekend. Students must post their responses by 4 pm, the following Thursday, and comment on the posts of other students in their group by 4 pm Friday. Your post for the question should be about 250-300 words; responses should be around 150-200 words. Students are to use materials from lectures (taped lectures included) and class readings to constitute their post and responses. Aim at being concise, precise, and incisive in your answers.

Forum posts and responses will be graded by the proper understanding and usage of the materials covered. This relates to learning outcome #1: appreciate the need to read and understand Luther’s devotional and catechetical writings.

FORUM DISCUSSION GRADING RUBRIC

	A	B	C	D
Completeness of post	Addresses all parts of question; meets and did not exceed limit; comprehensive response	Addresses all parts of question; respectable length & did not exceed limit; somewhat comprehensive	Addresses some parts of question; shorter length; incomplete post	Rarely addresses question; far too short or far too long; incomplete post
Clarity of post	Clear and concise posts; grammatically correct with rare misspellings	Clear, but can be more concise; a few grammatical or spelling errors	Somewhat clear, but with significant number of errors in spelling and grammar	Unclear, poor spelling and grammar in most posts
Critical engagement with class material (lectures, readings)	Thoughtful; opinions and ideas are substantiated with class material and additional resources; active reflection & questioning; obvious integration with one's ministry context	Thoughtful; opinions and ideas are occasionally substantiated with class material; some reflection & questioning; some integration with one's ministry context	Less thoughtful; opinions and ideas are sometimes substantiated with class material; insufficient reflection & questioning; less integration with one's ministry context	Opinions and ideas are not substantiated with class material; no reflection & questioning; no integration with one's ministry context
Promptness & quality of responses	Posting on time; responds to all group members' postings in timely manner; thoughtful responses	Posting on time; responds to most postings in timely manner; somewhat thoughtful responses	Posting mostly on time; responds to postings 2-3 days after initial discussion; less thoughtful responses	Late posting; rarely responds to group members' postings; responses not thoughtful

3. Minor Paper: Due on February 28, 2022; 25% of final grade

Select one of the following readings from [Luther: Letters of Spiritual Counsel](#), edited and translated by Theodore G. Tappert, 3rd edition (Vancouver, B.C.: Regent College Publishing, 2003). In 5-7 pages and in double space, the paper should identify the theological themes behind the advices he offers on the topic of your interest and show how Luther applies his theological insights on the practical issues. This is related to the learning outcome #3 and #4 above.

Topics include:

- a. Comfort for the Sick and Dying (pp. 26-52)
- b. Consolation for the Bereaved (pp. 53-81)
- c. Cheer for the Anxious and Despondent (pp. 82-108)
- d. Instructions to the Perplexed and Doubting (pp. 109-138)
- e. Admonitions to Steadfastness and Courage (pp. 139-170)
- f. Intercessions for Those in Trouble (pp. 171-189)
- g. Encouragement to the Persecuted and Imprisoned (pp. 190-227)
- h. Advice in time of Epidemic and Famine (pp. 228-257)
- i. Counsel in Questions of Marriage and Sex (pp. 258-294)
- j. Suggestions for Problems facing Clergymen (pp. 295-317)
- k. Exhortations concerning Rulers and State (pp. 318-349)

4. Major Research Paper: Due on March 31, 2022; 50% of final grade.

The major research paper must exhibit an intrinsic connection between theology and piety, the former grounds the latter. It should demonstrate thoughtful reflection, critical analysis, and embody a conceptual argument for the exploration of the topic with fairness.

For instance, if your paper is on Prayer in Luther, you must demonstrate the theo-logic of prayer and how it affects the practice of it.

This relates to the learning outcome #5.

For students of MTS/M.Div., write a major paper (12-15 pages) on the spirituality of Luther, with a minimum of 25 to 35 footnotes, and 8 sources (4 must be journal articles).

** ThM, write a major paper (18-20 pages) unless otherwise. ThM students are required two more books and two more journal articles, a total of 12 sources (6 must be journal articles). A paper should comprise at least 35 to 50 footnotes.

**** Note:** ThM students might choose to write a major research paper of 40-50 pages **as a fulfillment of ThM non-thesis track**. The paper should comprise at least 12 books and 12 journal articles, with a minimum of 50 footnotes.

F. EQUITY OF ACCESS

Students with permanent or temporary disabilities who need academic accommodations must contact the [Accessibility Services](#) at the [Centre for Academic Excellence](#) to register and discuss their specific needs. *New students* must self-identify and register with the Accessibility Office at the beginning of the semester or as early as possible to access appropriate services. *Current students* must renew their plans as early as possible to have active accommodations in place.

G. SUMMARY OF ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

Evaluation is based upon the completion of the following assignments:

Short Summary/response to an Assigned Topic	10 %
Forum Posts and Discussions (3 x 5% each)	15 %
Minor Paper	25 %
Major Research Paper	50 %
Total Grade	100 %

H. GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR THE SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN WORK

For proper citation style, consult the [Chicago-Style Quick Guide](#) (Tyndale e-resource) or the full edition of the [Chicago Manual of Style Online](#), especially [ch. 14](#). For citing scripture texts, refer to sections [10.44 to 10.48](#) and [14.238 to 14.241](#).

Academic Integrity

Integrity in academic work is required of all our students. Academic dishonesty is any breach of this integrity, and includes such practices as cheating (the use of unauthorized material on tests and examinations), submitting the same work for different classes without permission of the instructors; using false information (including false references to secondary sources) in an assignment; improper or unacknowledged collaboration with other students, and plagiarism. Tyndale University takes seriously its responsibility to uphold academic integrity, and to penalize academic dishonesty.

Students are encouraged to consult [Writing Services](#). Citation and other [tip sheets](#).

Students should also consult the current [Academic Calendar](#) for academic policies on Academic Honesty, Gender Inclusive Language in Written Assignments, Late Papers and Extensions, Return of Assignments, and Grading System.

Research Ethics

All course-based assignments involving human participants requires ethical review and may require approval by the [Tyndale Research Ethics Board \(REB\)](#). Check with the Seminary Dean's Office (aa@tyndale.ca) before proceeding.

I. COURSE EVALUATION

Tyndale Seminary values quality in the courses it offers its students. End-of-course evaluations provide valuable student feedback and are one of the ways that Tyndale Seminary works towards maintaining and improving the quality of courses and the student's learning experience. Student involvement in this process is critical to enhance the general quality of teaching and learning.

Before the end of the course, students will receive a MyTyndale email with a link to the online course evaluation. The link can also be found in the left column on the course page. The evaluation period is 2 weeks; after the evaluation period has ended, it cannot be reopened.

Course evaluation results will not be disclosed to the instructor before final grades in the course have been submitted and processed. Student names will be kept confidential and the instructor will only see the aggregated results of the class.

IV. COURSE SCHEDULE, CONTENT AND REQUIRED READINGS

Note:

Students are required to hear **the recorded lectures (60 mins)** and do the required readings related to the lectures before meeting on live. Pre-reading is expected prior to start of class. Late registrants are responsible for the consequences of partial preparation.

The livestream hours are as follows:

Friday evenings: 7 pm to 8:30 pm (Jan. 14, 28 and Feb. 11).

Saturday mornings: 9 am to 10: 30 am (Jan. 15, 29 and Feb. 12).

Saturday afternoons: 2:30 pm to 4:00 pm.

** On Saturday, there is an interval of 4 hrs in between morning and afternoon classes, where students could spend some time to catch up with pre-recorded lectures and readings.

Jan. 14 Theological Themes in Luther: Four Major Themes

Friday Evening: 7 pm to 8:30 pm

Luther and Scholastic Theology

Reading:

Luther, “Disputation Against Scholastic Theology,” in [Martin Luther’s Basic Theological Writings](#), eds., William R. Russell and Timothy Lull. 3rd ed. (Minneapolis: Fortress, 2012), 3-7.

Theology of the cross and glory, Hidden and Revealed God.

Readings:

Luther, “Heidelberg Disputation,” in Martin Luther, [The Annotated Luther. Volume 1, The Roots of Reform](#), eds. Hans J. Hillerbrand, Kirsi I. Stjerna, and Timothy J. Wengert (Minneapolis: Fortress, 2015), 67-120; Paul Althaus, [The Theology of Martin Luther](#), translated by Robert C. Schultz (Philadelphia: Fortress, 1966), 274-86 [Readings from Althaus’ book will be posted in the Moodle page]; Ngien, *Luther’s Theology of the Cross: Christ in Luther’s Sermons on John*, 3-8; Ngien, *Luther as a Spiritual Adviser*, 39-42.

Jan. 15

Saturday Morning: 9 am to 10:30 AM

Law and gospel Distinction

Readings: Luther on Galatians 3:23-24, in LW 26, 335-348; Althaus, [The Theology of Martin Luther](#), 251-66 [Check the Moodle page].

Two kinds of righteousness

Readings:

Luther, “Two Kinds of Righteousness,” in Martin Luther, [The Annotated Luther. Volume 2, Word and Faith](#), eds. Hans J. Hillerbrand, Kirsi I. Stjerna, and Timothy J. Wengert (Minneapolis: Fortress, 2015), 9-24; Althaus, [The Theology of Martin Luther](#), 224-42 [Check the Moodle page].

Saturday Afternoon: 2:30 pm to 4 pm

Spiritual Formation of a Theologian

Readings:

Luther, “Preface to the Wittenberg Edition of German Writings (1539),” in Martin Luther, [The Annotated Luther. Volume 4, Pastoral Writings](#), eds. Hans J. Hillerbrand,

Kirsi I. Stjerna, and Timothy J. Wengert (Minneapolis: Fortress, 2016), 474-88. It is also in the American Editions, LW 34, 283-88; Ngien, *Introduction*, xvii-xxi.

Supplemental Reading:

Bayer, Oswald. *Martin Luther's Theology. A Contemporary Interpretation*. Translated by Thomas H. Trapp. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2003, 29-37.

Meditation on the Cross of Christ

Readings: LW 42, 7-14; Ngien, *Luther as a Spiritual Adviser*, pp. 1-28.

Jan. 28

Friday Evening: 7 pm to 8:30 pm

Preparing to Die

Readings: LW 42, 95-116; Ngien, *Luther as a Spiritual Adviser*, pp. 29-47.

A Worthy Reception of the Lord's Supper

Readings: LW 42, 167-178; Ngien, *Luther as a Spiritual Adviser*, pp. 81-104.

Jan. 29

Saturday Morning: 9 am to 10:30 am.

Meditations on Evils

Readings: LW 42, 117-166; Ngien, *Luther as a Spiritual Adviser*, pp. 48-80.

Meditation on Blessings

Readings: LW 42, 117- 66; Ngien, *Luther as a Spiritual Adviser*, pp. 48-80.

Saturday Afternoon: 2:30 pm to 4:00 pm

A Method of Counsel: Luther's Letters

Readings from Martin Luther, [*The Annotated Luther. Volume 4, Pastoral Writings*](#), eds. Hans J. Hillerbrand, Kirsi I. Stjerna, and Timothy J. Wengert (Minneapolis: Fortress, 2016), 385-428.

*Whether one may flee from a Deadly Plague
Christian Should Bear His Cross with Patience
Comfort for women who suffer a miscarriage*

Readings: LW 43, 57-80; 97-166; 243-250; Ngien, *Luther as a Spiritual Adviser*, pp. 131-162.

Feb. 11

Friday Evening: 7 pm to 8:30 pm

Theology of Prayer

Readings: Personal Prayer Book (1522) in Martin Luther, [*The Annotated Luther. Volume 4, Pastoral Writings*](#), eds. Hans J. Hillerbrand, Kirsi I. Stjerna, and Timothy J. Wengert (Minneapolis: Fortress, 2016), 159-200. Also in LW 43, 3-46; Ngien, *Luther as a Spiritual Adviser* pp. 105-130.

Practice of Prayer

Readings: A simple way to pray (1535), in Martin Luther, [*The Annotated Luther. Volume 4, Pastoral Writings*](#), eds. Hans J. Hillerbrand, Kirsi I. Stjerna, and Timothy J. Wengert (Minneapolis: Fortress, 2016), 201-52; LW 43, 3-46; Ngien, *Luther as a Spiritual Adviser* pp. 105-130.

Feb. 12 The Structure and Spirituality of Luther's Small and Large Catechisms

Saturday Morning: 9 am to 10:30 am

Ten Commandments (Law)

Creed (Gospel)

Lord's Prayer (appropriation of the Credal benefits)

Saturday Afternoon: 2:30 pm to 4 pm.

Sacramental Forms of the Word: Holy Baptism

Confession & Absolution, and Sacrament of the Altar

House Liturgy

Table of Responsibilities

Readings: (a) Luther, "[*The Small Catechism*](#)," in *The Book of Concord: The Confessions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church*, translated and edited by Theodore Tappert (Philadelphia: Fortress, 1959), pp. 337-356. For an elaborated study, consult Luther's "[*The Large Catechism of Dr. Martin Luther*](#)," in *The Book of Concord: The Confessions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church*, pp. 357-462; (b) LW 43, 187-212. See Martin Luther, [*The Annotated Luther. Volume 4, Pastoral Writings*](#), eds. Hans J. Hillerbrand, Kirsi I. Stjerna, and Timothy J. Wengert (Minneapolis: Fortress, 2016), 201-52.

For online versions of these documents, see [Tyndale's 16th Century Reformation Reading Room](#).

V. SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

([Tyndale Library](#) supports this course with [e-journals](#), [e-books](#), and the [mail delivery of books](#) and circulating materials. See the [Library FAQ page](#).)

- Althaus, Paul. [*The Theology of Martin Luther*](#). Translated by Robert C. Schultz. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1966.
- Arand, Charles P. *That I May Be His Own: An Overview of Luther's Catechisms*. St. Louis: Concordia Academic, 2000.
- Bayer, Oswald. [*Martin Luther's Theology. A Contemporary Interpretation*](#). Translated by Thomas H. Trapp. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 2007.
- Kolb, Robert and Charles P. Arand. *The Genius of Luther's Theology*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2008.
- Kolb, Robert. [*Martin Luther. Confessor of the Faith*](#). Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2008.
- Leroux, Neil R. *Martin Luther as Comforter. Writings on Death*. Leiden: Brill, 2007.
- Lohse, Bernhard. [*Martin Luther's Theology. Its Historical and Systematic Development*](#). Edited and translated by Roy A. Harrisville. Minneapolis: Fortress, 1999.
- McGrath, Alister E. [*Luther's Theology of the Cross. Martin Luther's Theological Breakthrough*](#). Oxford: Blackwell, 1985.
- McKim, Donald K., ed. [*The Cambridge Companion to Martin Luther*](#). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003. (Also available [here](#)).
- Nebe, August. *Luther as Spiritual Adviser*. Translated by C. A. Hay and C. E. Hay. Philadelphia: Lutheran Publication Society, 1894.
- Ngien, Dennis. *Fruit for the Soul: Luther on the Lament Psalms*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2015.
- Ngien, Dennis. *Luther's Theology of the Cross: Christ in Luther's Sermons on John*. Oregon: Cascade Books, 2018.
- Pless, John. *Praying Martin Luther's Small Catechism. The Pattern of Sound Words*. St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 2016.
- Watson, Philip. *Let God Be God: An Interpretation of the Theology of Martin Luther*. Philadelphia: Muhlenberg, 1948.
- Williams, Rowan. *Christian Spirituality. A Theological History from the New Testament to Luther and St. John of the Cross*. Atlanta: John Knox, 1979.
- Zachman, Randall C. [*The Assurance of Faith: Conscience in the Theology of Martin Luther and John Calvin*](#). Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress, 1993.