



Course Syllabus
Winter 2013

**INTERDISCIPLINARY SEMINAR: SPIRITUAL THEOLOGY
INTD 0950**

Thursdays 6:00 PM – 10:00 PM

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To access your course material, please go to <http://mytyndale.ca>

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course engages Luther as a spiritual adviser. The emphasis is on the spiritual and pastoral side of Luther, analyzed 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 should be able to:

1. Read with understanding and reflect upon Luther's devotional and catechetical writings which are uniquely devoid of the polemics that frequent his other works.
2. Appreciate 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. Reflect theologically on practical matters in daily life in an intentional and focused manner.

III. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. REQUIRED TEXTS

1. Martin Luther. *Devotional Writings* I, vols., 42 & 43 (American editions, 55 vols: ed. J. Pelikan and H.T. Lehman; St. Louis: Concordia; Philadelphia: Fortress, 1955-67). [Hereafter cited as LW].
2. Ngien, Dennis. *Luther as a Spiritual Adviser: The Interface of Theology and Piety*. Milton Keynes: Paternoster, 2007. [Hereafter cited as Ngien] This is a companion volume to Luther's devotional writings in vols., 42 and 43.
3. Wengert, Timothy. *Martin Luther's Catechisms: Forming the Faith*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2009.

B. ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

1. Students will do the assigned readings, and provide a three-page synopsis of them for each class, except the first class. **Worth 10%**
2. Each student will take turn to present his/her topic, and lead the discussions. The presenter must prepare enough copies for the class. **Worth 20%**
3. Select one of the following readings from [*Luther: Letters of Spiritual Counsel*](#), edited and translated by Theodore G. Tappert (London: SCM Press Ltd., 1955). There are two copies of this volume, and they are put on reserve in Tyndale library. The paper should identify the theological themes behind the advices he offers on the topic of your interest, and shows how Luther applies his theological insights on the practical issues. It should not exceed 6 pages.

Deadline: Feb., 12, 2013. **Worth 30%**

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. Write a book review of Timothy Wengert, *Martin Luther's Catechisms: Forming the Faith* (Minneapolis: Fortress, 2009). The review should (a) summarize in 5 pages Wenger's exposition of Luther's catechisms; (b) then demonstrate in 7 pages how Luther's catechisms help shape evangelical spirituality. Students are required to utilize Luther's *Large Catechism* as background materials for this assignment. Granted that not all students belong or adhere to the Lutheran tradition, they are free to come up with their

constructive proposal. For example, a Reformed pastor or adviser might argue otherwise. **Deadline:** Mar., 22, 2013. **Worth 40%**

**** Note:** Non-thesis students may choose to write an extended paper of 40-50 pages on a specific topic in lieu of assignment 3 and 4. **Deadline: Apr., 15, 2011. Worth 70%**

C. GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR THE SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN WORK

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 College & Seminary takes seriously its responsibility to uphold academic integrity, and to penalize academic dishonesty.

Students should 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.

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 10.46 to 10.51 and 14.253 to 14.254.

D. SUMMARY OF ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

Evaluation is based upon the completion of the following assignments

Reports based on Readings	10 %
Presentation	20 %
Paper	30%
Book Review	40%
Total Grade	100 %

Option for non-thesis students:

Reports based on Readings	10 %
Presentation	20 %
Extended Paper	70 %
Total Grade	100 %

IV. COURSE SCHEDULE, CONTENT AND REQUIRED READING

Jan., 17 Introduction

Gabriel Biel and Late Medieval Scholasticism;

Reading: Oberman, Heiko A. *Harvest of Medieval Theology. Gabriel Biel and Late Medieval Nominalism*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1963.

Theological Themes in Luther:

Theologia Crucis vs. *Theologia Gloriam*; law and gospel; the doctrine of the Word of God; hidden God and revealed God; abstract faith vs. incarnate faith; Christ as sacrament and example; two kinds of righteousness.

Readings: (a) Lohse, Bernhard. [Martin Luther's Theology. Its Historical and Systematic Development](#). Edited and translated by Roy A. Harrisville. Minneapolis: Fortress, 1999); (b) Paul Althaus, [The Theology of Martin Luther](#), translated by Robert C. Schultz (Philadelphia: Fortress, 1966) (c) Alister E. McGrath, *Luther's Theology of the Cross. Martin Luther's Theological Breakthrough* (Oxford: Blackwell, 1985).

Note: students should acquaint themselves with readings related to Luther's major theological themes prior to the first class. No summary report is required for this.

Jan., 18

Spiritual Formation of a Theologian

Readings: (i) Luther, ["Preface to the Wittenberg Edition of German Writings \(1539\)"](#), in *Martin Luther's Basic Theological Writings*, ed., Timothy Lull. 2nd ed. (Minneapolis: Fortress, 2005), pp. 70-74. It is also in the American Editions, LW 34, 283-88; (ii) Ngien, *introduction*, xvii-xxi.

Seminar 1: Meditation on the Cross of Christ

Readings: (i) LW 42, 7-14; (ii) Ngien, pp. 1-28.

Seminar 2: Preparing to Die

Readings: (i) LW 42, 95-116; (ii) Ngien, pp. 29-47.

Jan., 19

Seminar 3: A Worthy Reception of the Lord's Supper

Readings: (i) LW 42, 167-178; (ii) Ngien, pp. 81-104.

Seminar 4: Meditations on Evils and Blessings

Readings: (i) LW 42, 117-166; (ii) Ngien, pp. 48-80.

Jan., 31

Seminar 5: A Method of Comfort in Luther's Letters

Readings: (i) LW 43, 57-80; 97-166; 243-250; (ii) Ngien, pp. 131-162.

Feb., 01

Seminar 6: Theology and the Practice of Prayer

Readings: (i) LW 42, 15-82; LW 43, 3-46; Ngien, pp. 105-130.

Feb., 02

Seminar 7: The Shape of Christian Life in Luther's Catechisms

Readings: (a) Luther, ["The Small Catechism"](#), in *The Book of Concord: The Confessions of the Evangelical Church*. Pp. 337-356. Translated by Theodore Tappert. Minneapolis: Fortress, 1959. For class interactions, the presenter will provide a summary of this document. For an elaborated study, consult Luther's ["The Large Catechism"](#), in *The Book of Concord*, pp. 357-462; (b) LW 43, 187-212.

Note: For online versions of these documents, see [Tyndale's 16th Century Reformation Reading Room](http://www.tyndale.ca/seminary/mtsmodular/reading-rooms/history/16th-century) (<http://www.tyndale.ca/seminary/mtsmodular/reading-rooms/history/16th-century>).

V. SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

1. Althaus, Paul. [*The Theology of Martin Luther*](#). Translated by Robert C. Schultz. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1966.
2. Arand, Charles P. *That I May Be His Own: An Overview of Luther's Catechisms*. St. Louis: Concordia Academic, 2000.
3. Bayer, Oswald. [*Martin Luther's Theology. A Contemporary Interpretation*](#). Translated by Thomas H. Trapp. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 2007.
4. Kolb, Robert and Charles P. Arand. *The Genius of Luther's Theology*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2008.
5. Kolb, Robert. [*Martin Luther. Confessor of the Faith*](#). Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2008.
6. Leroux, Neil R. *Martin Luther as Comforter. Writings on Death*. Leiden: Brill, 2007.
7. McKim, Donald K., ed. [*The Cambridge Companion to Martin Luther*](#). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003. (Also available [here](#)).
8. Nebe, August. *Luther as Spiritual Adviser*. Translated by C. A. Hay and C. E. Hay. Philadelphia: Lutheran Publication Society, 1894.
9. Ngien, Dennis. *The Suffering of God according to Martin Luther's Theologia Crucis*. Bern: Peter Lang, 1995; reprinted with Regent College Publishing, 2005.
10. Watson, Philip. *Let God Be God: An Interpretation of the Theology of Martin Luther*. Philadelphia: Muhlenberg, 1948.
11. Williams, Rowan. *Christian Spirituality. A Theological History from the New Testament to Luther and St. John of the Cross*. Atlanta: John Knox, 1979.
12. Zachman, Randall C. [*The Assurance of Faith: Conscience in the Theology of Martin Luther and John Calvin*](#). Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress