



TYNDALE

• SEMINARY •

Course Syllabus

WINTER 2019

**INTERDISCIPLINARY SEMINAR: SPIRITUAL THEOLOGY
LUTHER AS A SPIRITUAL THEOLOGIAN
INTD 0857**

**JANUARY 24 – 26; FEBRUARY 7 – 9
THURSDAYS 6:00 PM – 9:50 PM;
FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS 8:30 AM – 12:20 PM**

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Access course material at <http://classes.tyndale.ca/>

Course emails will be sent to your @MyTyndale.ca e-mail account only.

[Learn how to access and forward emails to your personal account.](#)

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.

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. 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. 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. 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. Pless, John. *Praying Martin Luther's Small Catechism. The Pattern of Sound Words*. St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 2016.

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. ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

1. Attendance and participation: **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 15%**
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. Not exceeding 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 shows how Luther applies his theological insights on the practical issues.

Deadline: Feb. 20, 2016. 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 major paper (16 pages) on the spirituality of Luther in his Catechisms – *Small* and *Large Catechism*. In addition to Luther’s works (volumes 42 and 43) and Ngien’s *Luther as a Spiritual Adviser*, students must read John Pless’s *Praying Martin Luther’s Small Catechism*, the basis for this exercise. The paper should (a) summarize in 8 pages Pless’s exposition of Luther’s catechisms; (b) then demonstrate in 8 pages how Luther’s catechisms help shape spirituality. Students are required to utilize Luther’s *Large Catechism* and *five more journal articles* on the topic. A paper should comprise at least 35 footnotes. 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 might argue otherwise. **Deadline: March 31, 2016. Worth 45 %**

D. 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.

E. SUMMARY OF ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

Evaluation is based upon the completion of the following assignments:

Attendance & Participation	10 %
Presentation	15 %
Paper	30 %
Major Paper	45 %
Total Grade	100 %

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

Students are encouraged to consult [writing resources](#).

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 approval by the [Tyndale Research Ethics Board \(REB\)](#). Check with the Seminary Office (Room B302; aa@tyndale.ca) before proceeding.

G. 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 READING

Jan. 24-25 Introduction

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) Bernhard Lohse, *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).

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.

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.

Jan., 26 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.

Feb., 07 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.

Feb., 08 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.

Seminar 6: Theology and the Practice of Prayer

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

Feb., 09 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.

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>).

V. SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

(Tyndale Library supports this course with [e-journals and e-books](#). 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. *The Suffering of God according to Martin Luther's Theologia Crucis*. Bern: Peter Lang, 1995; reprinted with Regent College Publishing, 2005.
- Ngien, Dennis. *Fruit for the Soul: Luther on the Lament Psalms*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2015.
- Watson, Philip. *Let God Be God: An Interpretation of the Theology of Martin Luther*. Philadelphia: Mühlenberg, 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.