

**The Age of Reformation**  
Department of History  
Rutgers University

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**Course Description –**

The Protestant Reformation is considered one of the most significant turning points in western civilization. What began as a philosophical disagreement among clerics and scholars ended by transforming the political, social, and economic foundations of Early Modern Europe. The course will examine the complex theological arguments that began the Reformation and then treat the consequences as they manifested themselves throughout all facets of European society.

**Required Texts –**

Hans Hillerbrand, Ed. *The Protestant Reformation*. (Harper, 1968).  
Carter Lindberg, *The European Reformations*. (Blackwell, 1996).  
Carter Lindberg, *The European Reformations Sourcebook*. (Blackwell, 2000).  
Steven Ozment, *The Burgermeister's Daughter*. (Harper, 1997)

All texts have been ordered through the Rutgers University Book Store and New Jersey Books.

**Assignments –**

Grades will be assigned on the basis of one mid-term examination (20%), one final examination (30%), one analytic book review (30%), one short analytic paper (10%) and participation/preparation (10%). The midterm and final examinations will test your knowledge of both lecture material and assigned readings from the texts. They will be divided into two sections. The first section (Identifications) will require you to identify and describe the historical significance of a selection of people, places, or concepts. This section is designed to test the level of detailed knowledge you have acquired in the course. The second part of the examination (Essay) will require you to answer essay questions that deal with a general theme in the course. In answering such a question, you should be able to display independent, analytic thought about broad historical developments in the period covered by the course. You should also be able to integrate material from lectures and assigned readings and develop a consistent argument that addresses the issues raised in the essay question.

The analytic book review is designed to allow you to analyze historical arguments in a systematic fashion. This will require a critical perspective of the book you are reading that focuses both on the strengths and weaknesses of the text, Steven Ozment's, *The Burgermeister's Daughter* and various historiographical interpretations of the book. This will require a critical perspective of the primary sources you are reading that will help you analyze the complexities of the arguments raised by Reformation writers. More detailed descriptions of both the analytic book review assignment and the short paper will be provided.

### **Class Meetings-**

I will provide a class outline for each of our meetings that contains a variety of information to help you assimilate the lecture and readings for that day. These outlines as well as the power points and primary source documents will also be posted to the class Sakai site. Class discussion is an essential part of the course, and will focus on broadening and clarifying your understanding of the various themes of medieval history that we will discuss.

### **Attendance-**

Regular and punctual attendance is required. Missing more than one class will result in the loss of credit towards your final grade. Exceptions will be made only for extended medical or personal problems that can be satisfactorily documented. Therefore, students are expected to attend all classes; if you expect to miss one or two classes please use the University absence reporting website: <https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/> to indicate the date and reason for your absence. An email will automatically be sent to me.

### **Schedule of Lectures and Required Reading**

|               |  |
|---------------|--|
| September 4-  | An introduction to church history  |
| September 8-  | The Threshold of the Reformation<br>Reading : Lindberg, <i>The Late Middle Ages</i>  |
| September 11- | The <i>Devotio Moderna</i><br>Reading: Lindberg (Sourcebook);<br>-Ludolph of Saxony, <i>Vita Jesu Christi</i><br>-Thomas a' Kempis, <i>The Imitation of Christ</i> |

- September 15- The World of the Humanists  
 Reading: Lindberg (Sourcebook);  
 - Francois Rabelais, *On Education*  
 - Lorenzo Valla, *The Donation of Constantine*  
 - Desiderius Erasmus, *Praise of Folly*
- September 18- Indulgences and the Path to Salvation  
 Reading: Hillerbrand;  
 -John Tetzel, *A Sermon*  
 -Frederick the Wise, *The Wittenberg Book of Holies*
- September 22- The Luther Affair  
 Reading: Lindberg; *The Dawn of a New Era*  
 Hillerbrand; Martin Luther, *The Freedom of a Christian*
- September 25- Luther's Reforms  
 Reading: Lindberg; *Wait for No One*  
 Lindberg (Sourcebook)  
 -Martin Luther, *The Estate of Marriage*  
 -Martin Luther, *Against the Heavenly Prophets*
- September 29- Peasants and Princes in Luther's Germany  
 Reading: Hillerbrand;  
 -Martin Luther, *Concerning Governmental Authority*  
 -Martin Luther, *Friendly Admonition to Peace*  
 Lindbergh (Sourcebook)  
 -Martin Luther, *Against the Robbing and Murdering Hordes of Peasants*
- October 2- Debate: Faith and Works, Free Will and Bondage, Luther and Erasmus.
- October 6- The Diet of Worms  
 Reading: Lindberg, *Augsburg 1530 to Augsburg 1555*
- October -9 Zwingli and the Swiss Reformation  
 Reading: Lindberg, *The Swiss Connection*
- October 13- Midterm Examination
- October 16- Calvin and the Institutes  
 Reading: Lindberg, "*The Most Perfect School of Christ*"
- October 20- Calvinism and the Capitalist Experience  
 Reading: Hillerbrand; John Calvin, *Ecclesiastical Ordinances of Geneva*

- October 23- The Most Hated Radicals  
Reading: Lindberg, "*The Sheep Against the Shepards*"  
Hillerbrand, Elizabeth, *A Letter*
- October 27- Paris is Worth A Mass  
Reading: *Refuge in the Shadow of God's Wings*
- October 30- The Printing Press, Propaganda, and Art During the Protestant Reformation
- November 3- Analytic Book Review Due: Steven Ozment, *The Burgermeister's Daughter*
- November 6- Field Trip to Gardner Sage Library – New Brunswick Theological Seminary
- November 10 - The King's Great Matter  
Reading: Lindberg, *The Reformations in England and Scotland*
- November 13- The Tudors  
Reading: Lindberg (Sourcebook)  
*The Act of Supremacy*  
*The Thirty Nine Articles*  
*Eyewitness Account of the Execution of Mary Stuart*
- November 17/20- Film: *Elizabeth* (1998) director, Michael Hirst  
Reading: Hillerbrand: *The Six Articles Act*
- November 24- The Dutch Republic  
Reading: Lindberg, *The Dutch Experiment*
- November 25- The Reformation in the Americas  
Reading: on Sakai
- December 1- The Counter Reformation  
Reading: Lindberg, *Catholic Renewal and the Counter Reformation*
- December 4- St. Ignatius of Loyola  
Reading: Lindberg, *Spiritual Exercises*
- December 8- Modern Interpretations of the Reformation

December 16

Final Examination (12:00-3:00 p.m.)