

COURSE SYLLABUS

Reformation Church History

Course Lecturer: W. Robert Godfrey, PhD
President and Professor of Church History at Westminster Seminary
California

Course Description

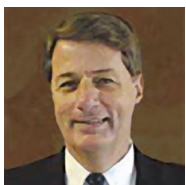
The Reformation changed the world spiritually, socially, and even politically. In this course, learners trace the historic development of the Protestant Reformation from its 16th century background to its impact on the world and church today. The course examines the lives and teachings of the leading Reformers (Luther, Zwingli, Calvin, and Knox) and traces the Reformation movement in various nations. In addition, students study the rise of the major Protestant movements (Lutheranism, Calvinism, Anabaptism, and Puritanism) and the Roman Catholic reactions to those movements. The goal of the course is to apply the Reformation battle cries of faith alone, grace alone, and Christ alone to life and ministry.

Course Objectives

Upon completion of the course, you should be able to do the following:

- Understand the origin, history, and doctrines of the Protestant Reformation.
- Interpret the state of the western world and church today.
- Appreciate the Lord's providential care of His Church.
- Recognize dangers that have faced the Church in order that past mistakes not be repeated.

Course Lecturer



W. Robert Godfrey, PhD

Education:

- Stanford University, MA and PhD
- Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, MDiv
- Stanford University, BA

Teaching Career:

- President, Westminster Seminary California
- Professor of Church History, Westminster Seminary California

- His church history courses, including his specialty on the Protestant Reformation, have gained national acclaims
- Professor, Westminster Theological Seminary in Philadelphia (1974-1981)
- Professor, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary (1968-1970)
- Professor, Stanford University (early 1970s)
- Visiting professor, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School and Reformed Theological Seminary

Other Career Highlights:

- Ordained minister in the United Reformed Churches
- Pastor of several churches in Pennsylvania and California
- Elder delegate to multiple Synods
- Preacher and lecturer in Europe and Asia
- Honorary key speaker in Geneva, Switzerland for the 500th anniversary of John Calvin's birth
- Speaker at many conferences, including those sponsored by the Lausanne Committee for World Evangelization, the Philadelphia Conference on Reformed Theology, and Ligonier Ministries
- Editor of the *Westminster Theological Journal*

Publications:

- Numerous books, including *An Unexpected Journey*, *Reformation Sketches*, *Pleasing God in Our Worship*, and *God's Pattern for Creation*
- Contributor to numerous other books and journals and author of journal articles on John Calvin and Martin Luther, among others

Recommended Reading

Though not required, you may choose to read the textbooks shown below to supplement your learning.

Calvin, John. *Institutes of the Christian Religion*. 2 vol. Edited by J. T. McNeill. Translated by Ford Lewis Battles. Philadelphia: The Westminster Press, 1960.

Luther, Martin. *The Bondage of the Will*. Translated by J.I. Packer and O.R. Johnston. Grand Rapids: Fleming H. Revell, 1990.

Schaff, Philip. *History of the Christian Church*. vol. 6. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 2002.

Spitz, Lewis. *The Renaissance and Reformation Movements Chicago: Revised Edition Volume 2*. St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1987.

In addition, students should consult the following confessions:

- The Augsburg Confession
- The Decrees of the Council of Trent
- The Remonstrance of 1610
- The Canons of Dort
- The Westminster Confession of Faith

Textbooks can be ordered through your local bookstore, various online bookstores, or through your preferred eReader when available.

Course Methods

The lecture content for each lesson is provided in two easy-to-use formats: audio and PDF text (if available). Students can choose the medium (or combination of media) that most closely aligns with their individual learning styles.

Course Assessment and Requirements

To earn a Certificate of Completion, you must complete the course requirements. Course requirements include:

1. Listening to all 24 audio lectures.
2. Completing a final self-assessment form in which you will reflect on the content in the course and evaluate your life in light of what you have learned. The specifics of this assessment are provided in the course materials.

Course requirements noted in this syllabus will be validated before a Certificate of Completion is awarded to any student.