

**HIST 5301 HISTORY OF CHRISTIANITY
REFORMATION TO MODERN**

INTERNET

SUMMER 2015

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I. Mission Statement

The mission of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary is to equip leaders to fulfill the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries.

II. Core Values Focus

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary has five core values: Doctrinal Integrity, Spiritual Vitality, Mission Focus, Characteristic Excellence, and Servant Leadership. This course addresses Doctrinal Integrity specifically in that the course is designed to prepare the student to grow in the understanding and interpreting of the Word of God. Characteristic Excellence is also addressed in that the student should be as prepared as possible to be ministers for Christ. Mission Focus is emphasized in that interpreting the Bible is a key element in presenting the Good News of the Gospel to the world. Proper interpretation is vital in fulfilling the Great Commission. This course addresses the competency of Biblical Exposition by preparing the student to interpret and communicate the Bible accurately. The Core Value for the academic year 2014-2015 Spiritual Vitality.

III. Curriculum Competencies Addressed

The Seminary has seven key competencies in its academic program. They are: Biblical Exposition, Christian Theological Heritage, Discipleship Making, Interpersonal Skills, Servant Leadership, Spiritual and Character Formation, and Worship Leadership. The key competency addressed in this course is Christian Theological Heritage

IV. Course Description:

This course provides a general historical survey of the Christian movement from the Protestant Reformation to the present. Attention is given to significant ideas, individuals, movements, and institutions in the development of Christianity during the Reformation and modern periods.

V. Student Learning Outcomes:

- The student demonstrates an understanding of significant individuals, movements, institutions, and theological concepts in the history of Christianity.
- The student demonstrates an ability to apply principles learned from the study of the history of Christianity to church and ministry today.
- The student demonstrates an ability to communicate understanding and application of principles learned from the study of the history of Christianity.

VI. Required Texts:

There are three required textbooks for this class:

Justo González, *The Story of Christianity*, vol. 2, *The Reformation to the Present Day*, 2d edition (2010).

Henry Bettensen and Chris Maunder, eds., *Documents of the Christian Church*. 4th ed. (New York: Oxford University Press, 2011).

Mark A. Noll, *Turning Points: Decisive Moments in the History of Christianity*. 3d ed. (Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker Academic, 2012).

There will be additional required reading from primary sources that are available on the Internet.

VII. Requirements:

- A. *Tests:* There will be six (6) unit exams, each worth 25 points, given online throughout the semester. The lowest grade will be dropped. The dates for the tests are:

Unit 1: June 10
Unit 2: June 17
Unit 3: July 1
Unit 4: July 8
Unit 5: July 15
Unit 6: July 22

- B. *Assigned Reading:* Students are expected to read the assigned pages listed for each unit. Your reading will be reported online. You will report the percentage completed (in 20% increments) of the assigned reading for each unit. Each report is worth up to 5 points.

An additional 5 point bonus will be awarded to students who have completed **all** the assigned reading by **July 24**. This allows you to catch up on reading you have missed during the semester. You will have an opportunity to report your bonus reading online.

- C. *Movie Review:* Each student will watch a movie, based on the Reformation period and write a historical review. The movie is *Luther* (2004), starring Joseph Fiennes and Peter Ustinov. *Luther* should be readily available at your neighborhood video store, or you

can purchase it inexpensively through ebay.com or amazon.com. Or, if you subscribe to Netflix, it is available through that service. Also, it is available in the NOBTS library.

Secure this movie in a timely manner to insure that you can submit this assignment on time.

In the review, include evaluations of its historical accuracy and value, including any discrepancies that you notice. The review should be 3-4 pages, single-spaced, and is worth 30 points. The movie review is due **June 15**

- D. *Major Research Project*: Each student will conduct research and prepare a major project on a significant person, movement, event or place in Christian history. This project can be a traditional Research Paper or a PowerPoint Lecture. **Due July 17.**

RESEARCH PAPERS – The Research Paper will be eight to twelve pages long and should reflect scholarly research. You should discuss the historical context and influence of your subject in church history and conclude with a summary statement about the contributions and lasting consequences of your subject to history. It will be written according to standard guidelines (Turabian; Times New Roman 12 pt. font; double-spaced; standard margins; footnotes, etc.) and include a bibliography of at least ten resources (Textbooks, reference books, and the Internet are allowed, but you must consult a minimum of five biographies, monographs, and/or church histories as well).

The Biography/Research Paper will be evaluated as follows:

1. Grammar and style: Spelling, sentence and paragraph development; punctuation; and conformity to the 6th or 7th edition of Turabian. (20 points)
2. Clarity and Coherence: Balance; thoroughness; organization; logical development; overall sense of the paper. (20 points)
3. Research: Bibliography; type and variety of sources (primary, secondary, monographs, journal articles, websites, etc.); most bibliographic entries should be accompanied by footnote citations. (20 points)
4. Historical Awareness and Insight: Factual accuracy; awareness of historical connections (continuity/discontinuity, cause/effect, contrasts/comparisons); sensitivity to historical context; awareness of the historical impact of a person. (20 points)
5. Analysis and Evaluation: Going beyond the mere reporting of facts to include explanation, interpretation, analysis of material; evaluation of strengths and weakness of a person; demonstration that you have thought about the material that you have researched. Give strong and insightful introduction and conclusion. (20 points)

Suggested subjects are:

- Martin Luther
- Ulrich Zwingli
- John Calvin
- Michael Servetus
- Martin Bucer
- Michael Sattler
- Balthasar Hubmaier
- Menno Simons

- John Knox
- Jacob Arminius
- Henry VIII
- Thomas More
- Thomas Cranmer
- Teresa of Avila
- Ignatius Loyola
- Francis Xavier
- Matteo Ricci
- Blaise Pascal
- René Descartes
- John Locke
- Immanuel Kant
- Philipp Jakob Spener
- August Hermann Francke
- Count Zinzendorf
- Jonathan Edwards
- George Whitefield
- John Wesley
- Charles Finney
- Joseph Smith
- David Livingstone
- Friedrich Schleiermacher
- Albert Schweitzer
- Soren Kierkegaard
- Karl Barth
- Dietrich Bonhoeffer
- William and Catherine Booth
- Charles Haddon Spurgeon
- C. S. Lewis
- D. L. Moody
- Billy Sunday
- William Seymour
- Aimee Semple McPherson
- Billy Graham
- Martin Luther King, Jr.
- Mother Theresa
- Pope John Paul II

- Martin Luther's Defense of Infant Baptism
- Theology of the Cross vs. Theology of Glory
- Luther's Three Treatises of 1520 & Their Impact on the Reformation
- Luther's Attitude toward Jews & His Influence on Anti-Semitism in Germany
- Ulrich Zwingli vs. the Swiss Brethren on the Issue of Infant Baptism
- Ulrich Zwingli's Influence on the Swiss Reformed Movement
- Theology of Michael Sattler & Balthasar Hubmaier
- Anabaptist Theology of Martyrdom
- Selected Lives of Anabaptist Women
- John Calvin's Theology of the Church
- John Calvin's Sacramental Theology
- Calvinism & Its Positive Impact on Evangelism
- Calvinism & Its Negative Impact on Evangelism
- Women in the Reformation
- The Aftermath of the Wars of Religion in Europe
- The History of the English Bible from Wycliffe to King James I
- Anglican Theology, Practice & *The Book of Common Prayer*
- René Descartes & Platonic Philosophy
- John Locke & Aristotelian Philosophy
- Pietism: Its Causes & Influences
- Wesleyan Perfectionism & Its Influence on American Christianity\
- Catholicism in New Spain
- Puritans in America: The City on a Hill & the Half-Way Covenant
- Dawning of the First Great Awakening

- The Theologies of John Wesley & Jonathan Edwards
- Preaching For & Against American Independence
- Characteristics & Effects of the Camp Meetings in the Early Nineteenth Century
- Charles Finney's Arminianism & His Influence on Revivalism
- Women in Nineteenth-Century American Christianity
- American Preachers For & Against Slavery
- Revivals during the American Civil War
- Jesuit Missions
- Moravian Missions
- The Relationship of Colonialism & Missions
- The French Revolution & Its Impact on European Christianity
- Neo-Orthodoxy: Its Proponents & Opponents
- John Nelson Darby & the Rise of Dispensationalism
- The History of the Jehovah's Witnesses
- The Rise of Fundamentalism
- Presbyterians in Twentieth-Century America
- The "Scopes Monkey Trial" & Its Impact on American Fundamentalism
- The Rise of Neo-Evangelicalism
- The Religious Right & American Politics from Ronald Reagan to George W. Bush
- The Jesus Movement
- Women in Twentieth-Century American Christianity
- Vatican II & Its Impact on Catholicism

POWER POINT LECTURES & TEACHING OPPORTUNITIES – The student may choose to prepare a Power Point Lecture on a topic chosen from the research topics listed above – except that the topic must NOT be one that is given extensive treatment in the existing lectures prepared by the professor.

The Power Point Lecture should include approximately 30 slides and must be accompanied by a teaching manuscript. Footnotes are not necessary, but a bibliography must be included. This assignment will be graded on the quality of the research and the design of the Power Point lecture, and modified grading criteria listed above will be used to evaluate the student's work on this assignment.

Each student who selects this option will be expected to teach this lecture in an appropriate setting – at church, in a Sunday School or Bible study, small group, or other formal teaching opportunity. The student will send an email to the professor with an informal report on the date of the presentation, the number in attendance, and an evaluation of the lecture.

The Power Point Lecture is due on the same date as the Major Research Project, and the maximum number of points available for the Lecture alone is 90 points. The email report on the Teaching Opportunity is due by the same day of the Unit Six Exam.

You may choose a subject not on this list for your research paper, but you must have prior approval from the professor. Send me your top three choices by email. **DUPLICATIONS ARE NOT ALLOWED.** First come; first served.

Safe Assignment: Blackboard offers a service known as “SafeAssignment.” If you click on “Assignments” on the left menu, you will be directed to Major Research Papers and another link that says “View/Complete.” Follow the instructions there to submit a draft of your paper for review.

A paper submitted through this service will be compared to other papers in the database and checked for the percentage of copying from other sources. Your work will not be used for any purpose other than preventing plagiarism in the Seminary and other participating institutions. Ownership of the intellectual property contained in your written work will not be transferred to any third party.

Your paper will be assessed for the amount of material copied from other sources and returned to you. The highlighted passages do not indicate plagiarism necessarily, but they point out the percentage of your paper that can be found in other sources. You need to be sure that you properly quote and cite such passages, and you may need to put more of your paper in your own words.

By the way, you probably will find that your footnotes and bibliographical entries are highlighted. That should be expected, since the papers in the database also cite the same sources that you use.

Submit the paper to me under Assignments and post it on the Discussion Board so that your fellow students will have access to your research and writing.

- E. *Book Review:* Each student will write a book review of Mark Noll, *Turning Points*. The review should be between six to eight double-spaced typewritten pages in length and contain:

- (1) a bibliographical entry at the top of the first text page of the review;
- (2) a *brief* biographical sketch of the author;
- (3) a two to three page summary of the contents of the book, with a view to the significant individuals, movements, institutions, and doctrines in the history of Christianity;
- (4) a discussion of principles learned from the history of Christianity in this book;
- (5) an evaluation of the impact of this book and the study of Christian history on the student’s life and ministry.

All quotations and direct references to sections in the book should be indicated by page numbers within parentheses. Citations or paraphrases from other sources should be noted and documented using either footnotes or endnotes. **Due June 29**

Embedded Assignment: This assignment is an embedded assignment that will be completed by all students for all sections of this course. The rubric for grading this assignment is attached to this syllabus. Please complete the assignment according to this rubric.

VIII. Penalties:

Attendance: No student who misses more than nine classroom hours – or the equivalent of three class meetings – can receive credit for this course. Three occasions of arriving late for

class or leaving early will count as one absence. For more information, see the online Graduate Catalog: <http://www.nobts.edu/resources/pdf/GraduateCatalog.pdf>

Unit Exams & Reading Reports: Unit exams and reading reports must be completed by date of the unit completion. After the deadline, the unit exam is no longer available and will not be re-opened. One unit exam grade will be dropped.

Projects: A late project assignment will be assessed a **10 percent penalty if it is submitted after the deadline and a 20 percent penalty after five days. No assignment will be accepted after one week past the deadline.**

Plagiarism: New Orleans Baptist Seminary maintains high academic standards and is not tolerant of plagiarism. If you copy another author's work and present it as your own, you will be caught, and the penalty could be failure on that assignment or the course or expulsion from the Seminary. **See the Graduate Catalog for more information on the Definition of Plagiarism and Consequences for Violations of Plagiarism.**

IX. . Submission of Assignments

1. The Unit Tests and Reading Reports will be conducted on Blackboard. Unit Tests and Reading Reports are under Course Documents and under each respective unit.
2. You will submit the Major Research Project under Assignments and on the Discussion Board. Attach your paper by clicking on the Browse button. The reasons for submitting your paper both ways are: 1) for ease in grading; and 2) to make it available to the other students. I want every student to be able to benefit from each other's research and writing.
3. Your Book Review will be submitted under Assignments. Click on the link to Book Review, click on the button to Browse My Computer, and attach your document.
4. Please do not send your assignments to me as email attachments unless I request you to do so or unless there is a compelling reason. I enjoy hearing from my students, but my Inbox fills up pretty quickly with attachments, and then I have to shift them over to the proper location.

X. Electronics:

Cell Phones: Turn off your cell phones.

Lap Tops: Use lap tops for purposes suitable for this class only.

XI. Possible Points & Grading Scale:

<u>Possible Points</u>	<u>Grading Scale</u>
Reading:	30 pts. A = 320-345 pts.
Tests (5 x 25):	125 pts. B = 295-319 pts.
Movie Review:	30 pts. C = 265-294 pts.
Major Research Project:	100 pts. D = 235-264 pts.
Book Review:	<u>60 pts.</u> F = 234 - ↓ pts.
	345 pts.

XII. Emergency Plan

In case of hurricane or any other emergency, go to the seminary web site for information: www.nobts.edu

The administration will communicate information that relates to the seminary: the nature of the emergency, instructions for responses, evacuation, contingency plans, duration of the emergency, and plans to return to campus and/or resume the schedule.

Also, check Blackboard for instructions related to this class. Because this class is available on Blackboard as well as in the classroom, there should be minimal disruption unless the emergency affects electrical power and connection to the Internet.

In any emergency, communication is important, and our best means of staying connected is through the seminary's web site and Blackboard.

XIII. Reading Schedule

G = Justo Gonzalez, *The Story of Christianity*, vol. 2.

B = Henry Bettenson, *Documents of the Christian Church*

Unit	Subject	Reading
[1]	Martin Luther's Life & Witness	G: Chapters 1-3 B: Ninety-five Theses, Leipzig Disputation, Diet of Worms
	Luther's Theology	G: Chapter 4 B: Two Treatises, Short Catechism, The Confession of Augsburg
	Ulrich Zwingli	G: Chapter 5
[2]	Anabaptists	Schleitheim Confession http://www.anabaptists.org/history/schleith.html G: Chapter 6
	John Calvin	G: Chapter 7 B: <i>Institutes of the Christian Religion</i>
	English Reformation	G: Chapter 8 B: Supremacy Act 1534, Supremacy Act 1559, Act of Uniformity
	English Dissent	G: Chapter 18 B: Westminster Confession of Faith, The Clarendon Code
[3]	Catholic Reformation	G: Chapter 12 B: The Jesuits, The Council of Trent, The Tridentine Profession
	Catholic Orthodoxy	G: Chapter 19 B: Jansenism, The Gallican Declaration

Wars of Religion		G: Chapters 9-11, 13, 14-17 B: Peace of Augsburg, Edict of Nantes, Peace of Westphalia
Lutheran & Reformed Orthodoxy		G: Chapters 20-21 B: Arminianism
[4] Age of Enlightenment		G: Chapter 22 B: Deistic Controversy
Pietism		G: Chapters 23-24
John Wesley		John Wesley's Conversion http://www.ccel.org/ccel/wesley/journal.vi.ii.xvi.html
Christianity in Early America		G: Chapter 25
First Great Awakening	Jonathan Edwards' <i>Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God</i> http://www.ccel.org/ccel/edwards/sermons.sinners.html	
[5] Religious Liberty		G: Chapters 26-27
2 nd & 3 rd Great Awakenings		
New Religions		
Global Expansion		G: Chapter 33
[6] Modern European Christianity		G: Chapters 28, 31, 35 B: Resistance in Nazi Germany
American Christianity		G: Chapter 36 Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" http://www.americanrhetoric.com/speeches/mlkihavedream.htm Billy Graham, New York Crusade, 1957 http://www.wheaton.edu/bgc/archives/exhibits/NYC57/08sample43-2.htm
Modern Roman Catholics		G: Chapters 32, 34 B: Immaculate Conception, The Syllabus of Errors, The Second Vatican Council
Eastern Orthodoxy		G: Chapter 30

XIV. Bibliography

General History

Baker History of the Church.

- Davidson, Ivor. *The Birth of the Church: From Jesus to Constantine, AD 30-312*. 2004.
 _____ . *A Public Faith: From Constantine to the Medieval World, AD 312-600*. 2005.
 Heinze, Rudolph. *Reform and Conflict: From the Medieval World to the Wars of Religion, AD 1350-1648*. 2005.
 Pearse, Meic. *The Age of Reason: From the Wars of Religion to the French Revolution, 1570-1789*. 2006.

Brown, Harold O. J. *Heresies: Heresy and Orthodoxy in the History of the Church*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1998.

The Cambridge History of Christianity. New York / Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2005- .

Cross, Frank and E. Livingstone. *Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church*. 3d ed. Oxford University Press, 2005.

Duffy, Eamon. *Saints and Sinners: A History of the Popes*. 2d ed. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2001.

Ferguson, Everett. *Church History*. 2 volumes. Zondervan, 2005-2006.

Gonzalez, Justo. *A History of Christian Thought*. 3 volumes.

Latourette, Kenneth Scott. *A History of Christianity*. 2 volumes.

Leith, John H., ed. *Creeds of the Churches: A Reader in Christian Doctrine From the Bible to the Present*. 3d ed. Louisville: John Knox Press, 1982.

Library of Christian Classics. Edited by John Baillie, John T. McNeill, and Henry P. Van Dusen. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1950s.

Neill, Stephen. *A History of Christian Missions*. 2d ed. Penguin, 1991.

Olson, Roger. *The Story of Christian Theology*. InterVarsity Press, 1999.

Pelikan, Jaroslav. *The Christian Tradition: A History of the Development of Doctrine*. 5 volumes. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1971-1989.

Walker, Williston, et al. *A History of the Christian Church*, 4th ed. Scribner's, 1985.

Reformation

- Bainton, Roland. *Here I Stand: A Biography of Martin Luther*. 1950; reprint: Hendrickson, 2009.
- Brecht, Martin. *Martin Luther: His Road to Reformation, 1483-1521; Martin Luther: Shaping and Defining the Reformation, 1521-1532; and Martin Luther: the Preservation of the Church, 1532-1546*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1990-1994. Biggest and best Luther bio
- Chadwick, Owen. *The Early Reformation on the Continent*. Penguin, 1990.
- _____. *The Reformation*. Penguin, 1990.
- Dickens, Arthur G. *The English Reformation*. Rev. ed. University Park, PA: Pennsylvania State University Press, 1991.
- George, Timothy. *Theology of the Reformers*. Nashville: B&H Academic, 1999.
- Lindberg, Carter. *The European Reformations*. Blackwell, 1995.
- _____. *The Reformation Theologians: An Introduction to Theology in the Early Modern Period*. Blackwell, 2002.
- Lohse, Bernhard. *Martin Luther's Theology: Its History and Systematic Development*. Trans. Roy A. Harrisville. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1999.
- McGrath, Alister. *A Life of John Calvin: A Study in the Shaping of Western Culture*. Cambridge: Blackwell, 1990.
- _____. *Reformation Thought*, 3d ed. Blackwell, 1999.
- McNeill, John T. *The History and Character of Calvinism*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1954.
- MacCulloch, Diarmaid. *The Reformation*. New York: Viking, 2004.
- O'Malley, John. *The First Jesuits*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1993.
- _____. *Trent and All That: Renaming Catholicism in the Early Modern Era*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2000.
- Ozment, Steven. *Protestants: The Birth of a Revolution*. Doubleday, 1992.
- Parker, T.H.L. *Calvin: An Introduction to His Thought*. Nashville: Westminster John Knox, 1995.
- Steinmetz, David C. *Reformers in the Wings: From Geiler von Kaysersberg to Theodore Beza*, 2d ed. New York: Oxford University Press, 2000.

Stephens, W.P. *Zwingli: An Introduction to His Thought*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1994.

van't Spijker, Willem. *Calvin: A Brief Guide to His Life and Thought*. Trans. Lyle D. Blerma. Westminster John Knox, 2009.

Modern

Byrne, James M. *Religion and the Enlightenment: From Descartes to Kant*. Westminster John Knox Press 1997.

Chadwick, Owen. *The Church in the Cold War*. Penguin, 1993.

Cragg, Gerald R. *The Church and the Age of Reason, 1648-1749*. Rev. ed. Penguin, 1990. Vidler, Alec R.

The Church in an Age of Revolution. Rev. ed. Penguin, 1990.

McLeod, Hugh. *The Decline of Christendom in Western Europe, 1750-2000*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2003.

The Oxford Illustrated History of Christianity. Edited by John McManners. New York: Oxford University Press, 2001.

North American

Gaustad, Edwin. *A Documentary History of Religion in America*. 2 volumes, 1993.

Finke, Roger and Rodney Stark. *The Churching of America, 1776-2005: Winners and Losers in Our Religious Economy*. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 2005.

Marsden, George M. *Fundamentalism and American Culture*. 2d ed. New York: Oxford University Press, 2006.

Marty, Martin E. *Pilgrims in Their Own Land: 500 Years of Religion in America*. 1984. Noll, Mark

A. *A History of Christianity in the United States and Canada*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans Publishing, 1992.

Olmstead, Clifton E. *History of Religion in United States*. Englewood Cliffs: Prentice-Hall, 1960.

Synan, Vinson. *The Holiness-Pentecostal Tradition: Charismatic Movements in the Twentieth Century*. 2nd Edition. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans, 1997.

**Embedded Assignment Assessment Rubric for HIST5301 History of Christianity:
Reformation-Modern**

Student Name _____

Semester _____

Section _____

DOMAIN	LEVEL	INADEQUATE (0 PTS)	BASIC (5 PT)	COMPETENT (10 PTS)	GOOD (15 PTS)	EXCELLENT (20 PTS)
UNDERSTANDING	Able to Understand significant individuals, movements, institutions, and theological concepts in the history of Christianity					
APPLICATION	Able to apply principles learned from the study of the history of Christianity to church and ministry today					
COMMUNICATION	Able to communicate understanding and application of principles learned from the study of the history of Christianity					

The Teaching Company: History of Christianity in the Reformation Era 18 Audio Cds with Course Outline Booklet (The Great Courses). ISBN. 1565853709 (ISBN13: 9781565853706). Those who are interested in church history and especially with the beginning of the modern era will enjoy these lectures a lot. Those who enjoy studying the Reformation would also benefit greatly from these lectures though it isn't a historical theology course per se. The series title is accurate: it is on history during the era of the Reformation and not just Reformation history. When you think about Christian history, you might think of the first thousand years—the events of Jesus' life, the acts of the apostles, the establishment of the church, and the various councils that established theological doctrine. But the history of Christianity from the Reformation to the present is equally dramatic and profoundly relevant. Reflect on the Counter-Reformation and the role of orders like the Dominicans and the Jesuits in the spread of European empire. See how the "social gospel" movement connected with a broader push for social services and political reform in the 19th century. One thing is certain: from Galileo to Darwin, the rise of modern science has altered religious debate around the world. Revivals & Awakenings: What makes a good preacher? Explore a watershed period in history as you examine the people, ideas, and events that transformed Western Christianity at the dawn of the modern age. This course is designed to give you a balanced, historical overview of the complex and dramatic events of the Reformation era during the epoch-making years between Luther's 95 Theses in 1517 and the end of the Thirty Years' War in 1648. This experience is optimized for Internet Explorer version 10 and above. Please upgrade your browser. Send the Gift of Lifelong Learning! History of Christianity in the Reformation Era. Professor Brad S. Gregory, Ph.D. University of Notre Dame.