HISTORY 330
REFORMATIONS:
FAITH, POLITICS, AND THE WORLD

Prof. Alexander Bevilacqua

SPRING 2020

Defaced Romanesque Capital from St. Pons-de-Thomieres. Limestone, c. 1140.
Williams College Museum of Art.

Monday and Wednesday, 11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.
Sawyer 501
Office: 225 Hollander Hall
Phone: 413-597-5023
ab24@williams.edu
Office hours: Monday, 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.
The Protestant Reformation has long been understood as the first salvo of modernity. By opposing the faith of the individual believer to the authority of the established Church, Martin Luther and his followers sparked a series of transformations that created not just Protestantism in all its varieties but, it has been argued, the state as we know it, the modern self, capitalism and even, as an unintended consequence, secularism. While considering these classic interpretations, this seminar will also probe more recent investigations of the plural Reformations: not just Protestant but also Catholic, and not solely the elite movement of Luther and John Calvin but also the less orthodox Reformation of non-elite believers such as tradesmen, artisans, and peasants. Moreover, in this same period, European missionaries traveled to the Americas, Africa and Asia, making Christianity a global religion. We will ask: what was at stake in these sweeping transformations of what it meant to be a Christian? To what extent was the Reformation a step towards the disenchantment of the world? And how did Reformations of the faith unfold beyond Europe? Historical developments to be considered include theological debates about human agency, the changing relationship of religion and the state, female mysticism, religious warfare, and overseas missions. Authors to be read include Luther, Calvin, Teresa of Ávila, John Hooper, Ignatius of Loyola, and others.

**Writing Assignments.** You will write three papers for this seminar, two of which will be 5–7 pp. and one 10–12 pp. long. All papers will engage with the primary materials of the course or with other primary texts chosen in consultation with the instructor. Use of secondary sources in papers is always encouraged; it is required for the final paper. Free online reference works (such as Wikipedia, Britannica, etc.) are *not* permitted secondary sources for these assignments. For guidance, please take a look at the [Harvard Writes](https://www.harvardwrites.com) website and make use of the [Writing Workshop](https://writingcenter.harvard.edu).
ATTENDANCE. You are permitted a maximum of two absences in the course of the semester with no detriment to your participation grade. You do not need to present an excuse or documentation, though e-mailing the instructor is a good idea. Frequent absences can lead to failure in the course.

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS VISITS. We will visit Special Collections three times as a seminar in order to work with a variety of primary materials, from books of hours to Bibles and liturgies. You will also be expected to work with some of these materials outside of class time. Our point people will be Lisa Conathan (lc7@williams.edu), head of special collections, and Anne Peale (aep3@williams.edu), special collections librarian.

SPECIAL GUESTS. On April 20, Hannah Tager ’20 will discuss a chapter of her senior thesis, a study of conversas (Jewish converts to Christianity) in sixteenth-century Spain and the Inquisition. On Monday April 27, Madeline McMahon (Princeton) will discuss her research with us.

CITATION PRACTICES. I expect you to be familiar with the Williams Honor Code, but if you have questions about how it applies to your work in this class, I’d be delighted to discuss that with you. In general, collaboration on presentations is fine, whereas you have to produce your papers by yourself.

If this is your first time writing with historical sources, you should meet with Lori DuBois at the Sawyer Library. (You can schedule an appointment with her here.) You might also find it useful to consult the online resource Writing with Sources as well as the Williams guide to academic integrity.

Please do everything in your power to cite sources correctly and avoid plagiarism. Plagiarism is an equally serious offense whether committed by design or by mistake. The Honor Committee does not care about intention; the standard penalty is failure in the course. Consider that getting a bad grade on one assignment is infinitely better than failing the course, which is the standard penalty at Williams.

OFFICE HOURS. Office hours are times when I am regularly available for you to come and see me. We can meet to discuss anything relating to the course, whether intellectual or practical. You can sign up through Glow. If you have a conflict with my office hours, e-mail me and we will find a time to meet. In addition to regular office hours, at the start of the term we will schedule individual meetings; my goal is to meet individually with everyone well ahead of the first paper deadline.
HEALTH AND ACCESSIBILITY. Students with disabilities of any kind who may need accommodations for this course are encouraged to contact Dr. G.L. Wallace (Director of Accessible Education) at 597-4672. Also, anyone who is experiencing mental or physical health challenges is encouraged to contact me at any time and to speak with a dean. The deans can be reached at 597-4171.

ELECTRONICS POLICY. No laptops or tablets are allowed in class. Please switch off your phones or put them in airplane mode, and keep them out of sight.

REQUIRED BOOKS. All books are available at the Williams Bookstore. If you are buying them elsewhere, please be sure to procure the same editions that are on sale there. The following books are required:

Carlos Eire, Reformations: The Early Modern World, 1450–1650
978-0300240030

Martin Luther, Selections From His Writings. Ed. by John Dillenberger
978-0385098762

Holy Bible: King James Version. 1611 Edition
978-1565638082

All other readings will be available in a course reader, which you can collect from the Class of ’37 House at 51 Park Street (open M-F 9:00 to 3:30.)
Part I: The Age of Schism, 1517–1546

Week 0. Introduction

Wednesday, February 5
“The Reformation” and Reformations

By the end of the week: Carlos Eire, Reformations, preface, chs. 1–3, pp. 1–63 [63 pages]

Week 1. Before the Deluge: Late Medieval Christianity

Monday, February 10
A Critique of Late Medieval Christianity

“The Shipwreck;” “A Pilgrimage for the Sake of Religion”

Wednesday February 12
Late Medieval Piety
* Meet in Chapin Rare Books Library * [1]

Jacopo da Voragine, Golden Legend, excerpt

In class: Books of hours

By the end of the week: Eire, Reformations, chs. 4–6 [64–129]

* Wednesday February 12, 7-10PM Transcribe-A-Thon in Sawyer Library *

Week 2. Martin Luther and the Unexpected Reformation

Monday February 17
Luther the Monk

Paul, Romans
Martin Luther, “The Freedom of a Christian” (1520; Dillenberger)
Idem, “Preface to Paul’s Epistle to the Romans” (1522; Dillenberger)
Revised Version

➢ First Paper Prompt Handed Out in Class
➢ Handout: Mark Kishlansky, “How To Read a Document”

Wednesday February 19
The Politics of Luther’s Reformation

Luther, “An Appeal to the Ruling Class of German Nationality as to the Amelioration of the State of Christendom” (1520; Dillenberger)

Eire, Reformations, chs. 7, 8

Week 3. The German Reformation

Monday February 24
Luther’s Radical Critics

Andreas von Karlstadt, “Whether One Should Proceed Slowly” (1524)
Thomas Müntzer, “A Highly Provoked Defense” (1524)
Luther, “Eight Sermons at Wittenberg” (1522)

Eire, Reformations, ch. 9

➢ Handout: Jill Lepore, “How To Write a Paper for this Class”

Wednesday February 26
The Peasants’ War, 1525-1526

* Meet in Chapin Rare Books Library * [2]

“Twelve Articles of the Peasants” (1525)
Luther, “Admonition to Peace Concerning the Twelve Article of the Peasants;” and “Against the Robbing and Murdering Hordes of Peasants” (1525)

Clip from Luther (2003) [in class]

In class: Printed matter from the German Reformation

Friday February 28: First Paper (Primary Source Paper) Due

PART II: THE AGE OF CONFESSIONS, 1543–1618

Week 4. John Calvin: Geneva and Beyond
Monday, March 3
Geneva, The City of God

Augustine, *City of God*, Book XI, ch. 1; Book XIV, chs. 1-4, 11-15
Augustine, *On Grace and Free Choice*

John Calvin, *Institutes*, I.16-17: on divine providence; II.1-4: on free will and grace

*Eire, Reformations*, ch. 12

Wednesday, March 5
Calvin and Predestination

John Calvin III.21 on predestination; IV.20: on civil government

*Week 5. The Reformed Faith Afield*

Monday, March 10
The French Monarchomachs

Anon., *Vindiciae Contra Tyrannos* (“Defense of Liberty Against Tyrants”) (c. 1579)
Jean Bodin, *Six Books of the Republic* (1576), Book II, ch. 5

*Eire, Reformations*, ch. 13

Wednesday, March 12

* Meet in Chapin Rare Books Library * [3]
Reformation in the British Isles

John Knox, “Exhortation to his Beloved Brethren”
John Hooper, “Sermons upon the Prophet Jonah,” Epistle and First Sermon
John Foxe, “The Death of Hooper”

*Eire, 533–542*

In class:
Tyndale New Testament (1526)
Great Bible (1531)
Bishops Bible (1568)
Geneva Bible (1560)
Week 6. Minorities in the Reformation

Monday, March 17
Women in the Reformation

—— Paul, 1 Corinthians

“Katharina von Bora, Luther’s wife” in *Luther on Women: A Sourcebook*


Mid-term evaluation

Wednesday, March 19
“Judaizing” Women in Renaissance Iberia—Hannah Tager ’20, guest speaker

Hannah Tager, “Sisters María González and Inés de Mérida: Understanding the ‘essentially Jewish’ Community of Ciudad Real in the early 16th century”
(to be circulated)

Spring Break
SYLLABUS FOR REMOTE HALF OF HIST 330

In the second half of the seminar, we will meet once a week for one hour in small groups, except for the two weeks with an additional Monday meeting (Weeks 9 and 10). The deadline each week for completing all reading assignments will be Wednesday (again, the only exception are the readings for our two Monday sessions).

Your weekly to-do list:

1. Do the readings and annotate them on Perusall
2. Watch the lecture videos.
3. Post to the weekly discussion forum.
4. Participate in the small-group meetings on Wednesday.
5. [Weeks 9 and 10 only] Attend the all-person seminar on Mondays at 11 am.

Week 7. The English Bible & Women in the Reformation

1. Wednesday April 8 (sections at 9, 10, and 11 am)

Making the English Bible & Women in the Reformation

WATCH:
Mini lectures: #1 The English Bible; #2 Women in the Reformation

READ:
Genesis 1-3; Matthew 1:18–21; 1 Corinthians 13–14 [in your 1611 facsimile Bibles]

Norton, King James Bible, 1-53

Jeffrey Alan Miller, “Fruit of Good Labours: The Earliest Known Draft of the King James Bible,” The Times Literary Supplement (16 October 2015), 14-15

“Katharina von Bora, Luther’s wife” in Luther on Women: A Sourcebook

CONSULT:
--> Consult 1611 King James Bible digital edition at the Schoenberg Center for Electronic Text & image (University of Pennsylvania) and transcribe the following three passages: Genesis 3:7; 1 Corinthians 13:13; First Epistle of John 5:7–8
Week 8. The Reformation of Things

2. Wednesday, April 15 (sections at 9, 10, and 11 am)

Objects of Worship & Iconoclasm

**WATCH:**
Mini lectures: #3 Iconoclasm; #4 Doing History with Things

**READ:**

Alexandra Walsham, *The Reformation of the Landscape: Religion, Identity, and Memory in Early Modern Britain and Ireland*, ch. 2

*DEADLINE SATURDAY APRIL 18 AT 11:59 PM: THE REFORMATION OF THINGS: EXHIBITION WALL TEXT (250 WORDS) + EXPLANATION OF YOUR SELECTION*

Week 9. Catholic Reformation

3. Monday, April 20 at 11 am (full seminar meeting)

“Judaizing” Women in Renaissance Iberia

Hannah Tager ’20, guest speaker

**WATCH:**
Mini lecture: #5 Catholic Reformation

**READ:**
Hannah Tager, “The Threat of Inés de Herrera and the Children of Herrera del Duque” (to be circulated) [Please read by Monday at 11 am]

4. Wednesday April 22 (sections at 9, 10, and 11 am)

Jesuits and Carmelites
READ:
Ignatius, “Spiritual Exercises” (1522–24), First Week, and “Rules for a True Attitude of Mind Within the Church” (1541)
Teresa, Autobiography (before 1567), chs. 28–29
Eire, Reformations, chs. 14–17

PART III: OUTCOMES, 1618–PRESENT

Week 10. Catholic Reformation Cont’d and the Reformation in New England

5. Monday, April 27 at 11 am (full seminar meeting)
Sanctifying Cities in the Italian Catholic Reformation

Madeline McMahon (Princeton), guest speaker

READ:
Giambattista Casale, Diary, excerpts [Please read by Monday at 11 am]

6. Wednesday April 29 (sections at 9, 10, and 11 am)
New England: A City on a Hill

READ:
John Winthrop, “A Model of Christian Charity” (1630)

Perry Miller, “Errand into the Wilderness” (1952)

FINAL PAPER PROPOSAL AND SHORT BIBLIOGRAPHY DUE ON FRIDAY MAY 1 AT 11:59 P.M.

Week 11: Reformation and Enlightenment, I: The Bible

6. Wednesday, May 6 (sections at 9, 10, and 11 am)

WATCH:
Mini lectures: #6 Macronarratives of the Reformation; #7 Biblical Criticism

The Enlightenment Bible

READ:

This week: individual meetings with instructor to discuss research papers.

**Week 12. Reformation and Enlightenment, II: Toleration**

8. **Wednesday, May 11** (sections at 9, 10, and 11 am)

Toleration in Theory and Practice

**READ:**
Benjamin J. Kaplan. *Divided by Faith: Religious Conflict and the Practice of Toleration in Early Modern Europe* (2007), introduction, chs. 5, 7–8, 14

John Locke, *Letter Concerning Toleration* (1689), excerpt (introduction)


**Overview of Deadlines**

**Week 8 – Object Assignment**

**Week 10 - Final Paper Proposal and Short Bibliography**

**Week 12 – Video Presentation**

**Week 13 (Reading Period) – Final paper**