

**Renewal and Reforms: Chapters in Reformation History and Theology in
the Anglican Tradition**
Offered by the Center for Anglican Learning and Leadership
Summer 2008

I. Instructor's Information

Thomas Ferguson, Ph.D. telephone: 212.716.6128
email: tferguson@episcopalchurch.org

A little about myself: I graduated in 2002 from the Graduate Theological Union/Church Divinity School of the Pacific with a Ph.D. in the History of Christianity. The emphasis in my doctoral work has been how Christianity both influences and is influenced by its surrounding culture as it develops doctrine.

I am currently the Associate Deputy for Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations for the Episcopal Church. The ecumenical relations office deals with the Episcopal Church's relationship with every Christian denomination, the Muslim and Jewish communities, and bodies such as the National Council of Churches and the World Council of Churches. Needless to say, it's a busy and entertaining job. It allows me to apply my historical work in church history to the needs of modern society.

II. Course Objectives

This course covers the history of the Reformation period, from 1500-1700, with particular attention given to the English Reformation and the formation of Anglicanism. By the end of the course, students will

- have an overall understanding of the major teachings of the reformers
- be able to articulate major theological, liturgical, and ecclesiological issues involved in the Reformation period
- be aware of broader social, political, historical, and cultural aspects of the Reformation period
- be introduced to the unfolding of the Reformation in England and its impact on the formation of Anglicanism

III. Course Requirements

There are two levels of participation in this course: everybody registered for the course will need to fulfill the requirements under Section A. Those taking the course as a diocesan requirement will be asked to complete an additional set of requirements in Section B.

A. Requirements for all students

Online Participation: All students will be expected to do the reading and participate in discussion online.

Each class session will begin on a Sunday when I post my lecture notes. For the next several days you should do the assigned reading from the textbook and go over my notes. On Wednesday evening I will post a discussion question. Over the next several days all students are expected to contribute to the discussion.

B. Additional Requirements

If you are taking this course an **ordination** requirement or wish to earn **Continuing Education Units** you will also need to complete a **writing assignment** due at the end of the course. The writing assignment will be a short (1000 words), open-book essay based on the material covered and will be emailed to you well in advance. You will return the writing assignment by email (**not through the Blackboard drop box**).

III. Texts

Our textbook for this course is:

Carter Lindberg, European Reformations (Blackwell). ISBN 978-1557865755

IV. Class Schedule

There are readings assigned for each class session. My lecture notes, which I will post each Sunday, will provide the background to that reading.

June 16: Week 1: Background to Reformation

Read: Lindberg, Chapter 2

June 23: Week 2: Luther and Lutheranism

Read: Lindberg, Chapters 3-4

June 30-July 5: no class, 4th of July

July 7: Week 3: Calvin and Zwingli

Read: Lindberg, Chapters 7, 10

July 14: Week 4: Radical Reformation

Read: Lindberg, Chapters 6, 8

July 21: Week 5: English Reformation I

Read: Lindberg, Chapter 13

July 28: Week 6: English Reformation II

Read: Instructor's lengthy lecture notes

August 4: Week 7: Catholic Reformation/Reformation Legacies

Read: Lindberg, Chapter 14-15

Writing assignment emailed to you on August 4. Due to me by email August 17.