All precourse work for this class is due at the beginning of class on October 5, 2013.

Course Description
This course is a critical reflection upon the individuals, decisive events, and theological developments during the period of the Protestant Reformation. Utilizing the categories of grace and faith as focusing lenses, the student appropriates the Reformation heritage and enters into the church’s ongoing task of interpreting and enacting the gospel for contemporary life. Attention will be given to selected primary sources.

Course Objectives
1. Reflection upon movements and events in the period prior to the beginning of the Protestant Reformation (for example, mysticism, nominalism, the Renaissance, the Papal Schism, and the martyrdom of Huss and Savonarola)
2. Examination of the Reformation on the European continent, with due attention to the theologies of Luther, Zwingli, Calvin, and the Anabaptists
3. Engagement with pivotal theological concerns in their historical context, including the relationship of faith and reason, justification by grace through faith, sacramental theology, ecclesiology, and Christology
4. Analysis of the Catholic Reformation as reflected in the Council of Trent and such figures as Ignatius Loyola, Teresa of Avila, John of the Cross, and Blaise Pascal
5. Analysis of the English Reformation of the sixteenth century and the rise of Puritanism in the seventeenth century
6. Understanding and appreciating the historical development and context of Christian theology
7. Continued growth and development of the pastor’s identity as theologian

Required Textbooks

Note: Both of these books were originally published in the 1980s but have recently been revised and updated. Please be sure to acquire the most recent editions – the ones listed above – not earlier versions.

Precourse Assignments
1. Reading
By the time of our first class meeting on October 5, you will be expected to have read the following portions of the assigned textbooks:
   - Gonzalez, Part I (pp. 1-166)
   - McGrath, chapters 1-3, 5-10, 12 (pp. 1-58, 75-206, 223-240)
This is a substantial amount of reading, so it is important that you start early. However, you don’t want to finish the reading so early that you have forgotten it by the time of our first class! You may find it helpful to read carefully through the text several weeks in advance and then skim through it once again shortly before our class begins in October.

2. Timeline
Based on what you have read in the textbooks, construct a timeline featuring what you believe to be the ten most important events of the Reformation period. Please include the following three components in your timeline: 1) the date that the event occurred; 2) a brief description of the event; 3) A sentence or two that explains why this event is significant.

For example:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Significance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1516</td>
<td>Erasmus publishes his edition of the Greek New Testament</td>
<td>This edition became an important resource for reformers like Luther and Calvin, because it allowed them to have easier access to the Greek text of the New Testament, rather than relying on the Latin Vulgate translation.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Additional guidelines:
- All of your dates should be between the years 1450 and 1650
- No more than two events on your timeline should list a person’s birth or death

Please be prepared to hand in this assignment at the beginning of our first class meeting on October 5.

3. Essay
Finally, using our textbooks as your main resource, write a 3-4 page essay that answers these two related questions: What caused the Protestant Reformation? What were the goals of the Reformers?

In answering the first question, please identify at least three factors that help to explain why the Reformation occurred. In answering the second question, please discuss the goals of both Martin Luther and at least one other reformer from the sixteenth-century.

Additional guidelines for the essay:
- Please use 12-point Times New Roman font and one-inch margins.
- Quotations should be kept to a minimum. If you wish to quote McGrath or Gonzalez, be sure to use quotation marks and to cite the author and page number in parentheses; no footnotes are necessary when citing these books.
- For example: Reformers who were influenced by humanism sought to “return to the sources of the Christian faith” (Gonzalez, 9)
- If you quote someone other than Gonzalez or McGrath, please do use a footnote to indicate the source of the quotation.
- Apart from direct quotations, the entire paper is to be written in your own words and your own voice. It is not acceptable to “summarize” or closely copy someone else’s writing, simply changing a word here and there (and it is usually not hard for instructors to tell when this is happening).
- The content of your essay is what matters most, but spelling, grammar, and general neatness will play a role in your evaluation as well. Be sure to proofread your writing before submitting the assignment – or, better yet, have someone else proofread it.

Please be prepared to hand in this assignment at the beginning of our first class meeting on October 5.

If you have any questions about these assignments, please do not hesitate to email me. I look forward to meeting you in the fall.