

THE GRADUATE SCHOOL
The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia
Telephone: 215-248-6347 or 7384

Spring Semester 2010

Intensive Session: March 15-19

HCH624G: Luther on Sanctification and Social Ethics

Investigation of Luther's perspectives on sanctification and social ethics in historical context with attention to their contributions to contemporary proclamation and engagement with social-ethical issues.

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Basic Approach: A working seminar dependent upon participant responsibility for readings, written assignments, and discussions.

Seminar Sessions: M, T, Th, F: 8:00-12:00; 2:00-5:15; W: 8-11:15; 2-5:15

Requirements:

Class attendance, participation in discussion, seminar presentation
Completion of reading assignments
Three book reviews due by February 15 (email or post)
Final paper due by end of April.

Reviews:

Reviews are to be 5 pages, typed double-space. First read the text and develop your own critical review of its content and thesis; then, when possible, at the end of your review dialogue with perspectives from reviews of the book published in theological and historical journals. If you use published reviews, you are to cite them. These books will be the basic secondary texts for the seminar. Your reviews, questions, and critiques of these texts will provide points of departure for seminar discussions.

The following books are to be reviewed:

1. Oswald Bayer, *Living By Faith: Justification and Sanctification*, Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2003.
2. Carter Lindberg, *Beyond Charity: Reformation Initiatives for the Poor*, Minneapolis: Fortress, 1993.
3. William Lazareth, *Christians in Society: Luther, the Bible, and Social Ethics*, Minneapolis: Fortress, 2001.

Final Paper:

The final paper (25-30 pages) on a topic of your choice in consultation with the instructor may either use Luther's perspectives as resources for addressing a contemporary issue or research an aspect of Luther's theological ethics. The format is to reflect your choice of audience: a sermon series, an adult church forum, an academic journal, a thesis or thesis chapter, a church committee for a social statement, a political lobby, a youth group, et al. The paper is to develop from a 15-minute presentation you will make during the last meeting(s) of the seminar. Whatever format you choose, the paper must be commensurable to graduate school research standards

(see the policies and guidelines for papers and theses in the STM and DMin manuals at the LTSP website).

Assessment: Participants' grades will depend heavily upon their written work (approximately: 25% reviews; 50% final paper; 25% class participation).

Comment: Luther's perspectives on sanctification and social ethics are dialectically related to the whole complex of his theology and are developed in specific historical contexts. Thus familiarity with a good introduction to Luther's theology and an overview of his development will be helpful. Solid introductions to Luther's theology include: Oswald Bayer, *Theology the Lutheran Way* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2007); Gerhard Ebeling, *Luther: An Introduction to His Thought* (Philadelphia: Fortress, 1970); Robert Kolb, *Martin Luther Confessor of the Faith* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009); Bernhard Lohse, *Martin Luther's Theology: Its Historical and Systematic Development* (Minneapolis: Fortress, 1999). For the historical context of Luther's developing theology of sanctification and social ethics see the pertinent sections of Carter Lindberg, *The European Reformations*, 2nd revised edition (Oxford: Wiley Blackwell, 2009).

Luther's writings are available online through the LTSP library in the critical edition, the Weimar Ausgabe (cited WA vol., page, line): *D. Martin Luthers Werke*, 58 vols. (Weimar: Böhlau, 1883-); *Briefwechsel* (WA Br), 15 vols.; and *Tischreden* (WA TR), 6 vols. Users of the WA will benefit from "Zum Verständnis der Luthersprache" and "Frühneuhochdeutsches Glossar" in *Martin Luther: Studienausgabe* (StA), ed. Hans-Ulrich Delius, 1979-; in vols. 1 & 6 respectively. The American Edition of *Luther's Works* (LW vol., page) is available on CD-ROM (Fortress Press). Kurt Aland's *Hilfsbuch zum Lutherstudium* correlates the various editions of Luther's writings.

Proposed Seminar Outline:

Monday: Orientation to seminar: "The World Turned Upside Down."

Required reading: Luther: "Preface to Romans," LW 35: 365-80; "Confession . . .," LW 37: 364-65; "Introduction," LW 44: xi-xvi; "Treatise on Good Works," LW 44: 15-114; "To the Christian Nobility," LW 44: 115-217; "Sermon on the Sum of the Christian Life," LW 51: 259-87. Vitor Westhelle, "Communication and the Transgression of Language in Martin Luther" in Timothy J. Wengert, ed., *The Pastoral Luther: Essays on Luther's Practical Theology*, Eerdmans, 2009, 59-84; originally in *Lutheran Quarterly* 17 (2003), 1-27; Eric Gritsch & Robert Jensen, *Lutheranism: The Theological Movement and Its Confessional Writings*, Fortress, 1976, 36-44.

Recommended: Oswald Bayer, *Freedom in Response: Lutheran Ethics*, Oxford University Press, 2007; Brian Cummings, *The Literary Culture of the Reformation: Grammar and Grace*, Oxford University Press, 2007, especially chapters 2 & 5; Gerhard Ebeling, "Luthers Kampf gegen die Moralisierung des Christlichen" in his *Lutherstudien*, vol. 3, 1983: 44-73. Berndt Hamm, "What was the Reformation Doctrine of Justification?" in C. Scott Dixon, ed., *The German Reformation. The Essential Readings*, Blackwell, 1999, 53-90; Christian Heck, *L'Échelle Céleste: Une Histoire de la Quête du Ciel*, Paris: Flammarion, 1999; Lindberg, "Do Lutherans Shout Justification But Whisper Sanctification?" *Lutheran Quarterly* 13 (1999), 1-20; Timothy Wengert, "Martin Luther and the Ten Commandments . . ." in Wengert, ed., *The Pastoral Luther*, Eerdmans, 2009, 131-46.

For images and notes on the "Standebaum," "The world turned upside down," and the "ladder of virtues," see Heck (above), Lindberg, *European Reformations*, 154, 206, 65-67; <http://religious-studies.blogspot.com> and <http://home.infionline.net/~ddisse/herrad.html>.

Tuesday: Marriage

Required reading: Luther, "Address to the Christian Nobility," LW 44: ; "The Estate of Marriage," LW 45: 13-49; "On Marriage Matters," LW 46: 259-320; "That Parents Should neither Compel nor Hinder the Marriage of their Children . . .," LW 45: 381-93; Large Catechism,

Recommended: Scott Hendrix, "Luther on Marriage" in Wengert, ed., *Harvesting Martin Luther's Reflections on theology, Ethics, and the Church*, Eerdmans, 2004, 169-84; originally in *Lutheran Quarterly* 14 (2000), 335-50; Susan Karant-Nunn & Merry Wiesner-Hanks, eds., *Luther on Women: A Sourcebook*, Cambridge University Press, 2003; Lindberg, "The Future of a Tradition: Luther and the Family" in Dean Wenthe, et al., eds., *All Theology is Christology*, Concordia Theological Seminary Press, 2000, 133-51; John Witte, *From Sacrament to Contract: Marriage, Religion, and Law in the Western Tradition*, Westminster John Knox, 1997, ch. 2: "Marriage as Social Estate in the Lutheran Reformation;" John Witte, *Law and Protestantism: The Legal Teachings of the Lutheran Reformation*, Cambridge University Press, 2002;

Wednesday: Social Welfare

Required reading: Luther, "The Blessed Sacrament of the Holy and True Body of Christ, and the Brotherhoods," LW 35: 47-73; "Fraternal Agreement on the Common Chest . . . Leisnig," LW 45: 176-94; "Ordinance of a Common Chest, Preface," LW 45: 161-76; "Trade and Usury," LW 45: 233-310; Large Catechism: "Seventh Commandment."

Recommended: Susan Holman, *God Knows There's Need: Christian Responses to Poverty*, Oxford, 2009; Lindberg, "No Greater Service to God than Christian Love: Insights from Martin Luther" in Foster McCurley, ed., *Social Ministry in the Lutheran Tradition*, Fortress, 2008, 50-68; Samuel Torvend, *Luther and the Hungry Poor*, Fortress, 2008; Hans-Jürgen Prien, *Luthers Wirtschaftsethik*, Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 1992; Idem, "'Lieber mit Gott arm denn mit dem Teufel reich sein' Reflexionen zu Luthers Wirtschaftsethik im Zeitalter der Globalisierung" in Peter Freybe, ed., *Wach auf, Wach auf du deutsches Land' Angst und Zuverzicht in der Zeitenwende*, Wittenberger Sonntagsvorlesungen 2000, 86-108; *"Wer nit arbeitet, soll auch nit essen. . . ."? Die neue Frage nach der Arbeit*, Wittenberger Sonntagsvorlesungen 2007, chapters by Bräuer, Zschoch, Huber, and Oehmig.

Thursday: Political Realm

Required reading: Luther, "Commentary on Psalm 82," LW 13: 39-72; "On War against the Turk," LW 46: 155-205; "Whether Soldiers Too Can Be Saved," LW 46: 87-137; "Temporal Authority: To What Extent it Should be Obeyed," LW 45: 77-129; "Sincere Admonition . . . against Insurrection and Rebellion," LW 45: 53-74; "Admonition to Peace, A Reply to the Twelve Articles of the Peasants," LW 46: 3-43; "Against the Robbing and Murdering Hordes of Peasants," LW 46: 45-55;

Recommended: Johannes Ehmann, "Türken und Islam – Luthers theologisches Unterscheidung," *Luther* 2 (2007), 89-94; Gregory Miller, "Fighting Like a Christian: The Ottoman Advance and the Development of Luther's Doctrine of Just War," in David Whitford, ed., *Caritas et Reformatio*, Concordia, 2002, 41-57; Idem, "Luther on the Turks and Islam" in Wengert, ed., *Harvesting Martin Luther's Reflections on Theology, Ethics, and the Church*, Eerdmans, 2004, 185-203, originally in *Lutheran Quarterly* 14 (2000), 79-97; Viggo Mortensen, ed., *Krieg, Konfession, Konziliarität/War, Confession and Conciliarty*, Lutherisches Verlagshaus/LWF, 1993; Gary Simpson, *War, Peace, and God*, Fortress, 2007; Michael Stelmachowicz, ed., *Peace and the Just War Tradition: Lutheran Perspectives in the Nuclear Age*, Concordia, 1986; David Whitford, *Tyranny and Resistance: The Magdeburg Confession and the Lutheran Tradition*, Concordia, 2001.

Friday: Carryover of previous discussions, and seminar presentations