

## PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH HISTORY

### COURSE PURPOSE

Survey the origin, history, and distinctive doctrines of the Presbyterian churches; special attention given to the issues facing the separatist Presbyterian churches.

### READINGS

Due  
Jan. 1

1) EITHER read only ONE of the following books from James A. Wylie, *History of Protestantism*: Books 14,16,17,18,19,20, or 24 (available as eBook at <http://www.doctrine.org/history/>) OR read a different book covering some segment of the Reformed Church in Reformation Europe like *Fair Sunshine* by Jacques Purves or *The French Huguenots* by Janet Gray

Due  
April 30

2) *Seeking a Better Country* by Hart & Muether, or approved alternate reading like *Reformed Theology in America* by David Wells

3) One work on the Modernist-Fundamentalist dispute within American Presbyterianism

Suggested titles are:

- *The Presbyterian Controversy*. Bradley Longfield
- *The Presbyterian Conflict*. Edwin Ryan
- *With Crossed Fingers*. Gary North (you may skip reading #2 if you read this text)
- *Defending the Faith: J. Gresham Machen and the Crisis of Conservative Protestantism in Modern America*. Daryl G. Hart
- *Princeton Seminary: The Majestic Testimony* Vol. 2. David Calhoun
- *History Behind the RPCES*. George Hutchinson, pp. 109-298

Available at <http://pcahistory.org/findingaids/rpces/history/index.html>

### REPORTS

1) Present an oral report on one Reformed Confession: 6-10 minutes of presentation & two page outline on background of times and predecessors, authors, scheme and organization, emphases and tone, etc.; Powerpoint slides/pictures are welcome. Will be presented in class in May 2015.

- Zwingli's 67 Articles, 1523
- 1<sup>st</sup> (1536) and 2<sup>nd</sup> (1566) Helvetic Confessions
- Gallican Confession, 1559
- 1<sup>st</sup> (1560) and 2<sup>nd</sup> (1581) Scotch Confessions
- Belgic, 1561
- 42 Articles (1552) vs. 39 Articles (1571)
- Heidelberg Catechism, 1563
- Dort, 1619
- Westminster, 1647
- Waldenses Confession, 1655
- Savoy Declaration, 1658
- Philadelphia Confession, 1688
- London Confession, 1690
- Saybrook Platform, 1708
- Confession of 1967
- Book of Confessions, 1983

2) Biography on the Presbyterian/Reformed leader of your choice. Should be 4-5 typed (double-spaced) pages. Due by March 31.

3) Topical Paper on an aspect of Presbyterian history from the time of the early church to the present. Should be 4-5 typed (double-spaced) pages. Due by April 30.

**Suggested topics are:**

- How Presbyteranism's representative government dovetails with its emphasis on the sovereignty of God
- The Covenanters and Covenanting
- Cultural Impact of Presbyterianism on the New World
- Northern vs. Southern Presbyterianism
- Planting and development of Presbyterianism outside of Europe and North America
- Modernist-Fundamentalist dispute within American Presbyterianism
- Short history of the BPC or other Reformed denomination
- Developments behind the "Auburn Avenue" Federalist Vision within Presbyterianism
- You pick

## GRADING

2 Exams: 56%

Reports: 24%

Readings: 20%

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## WRS Select Bibliography

- *A Brief History of Presbyterianism* by Lefferts Loetscher
- *A Brief History of the Presbyterians* by James H. Smylie
- *Dictionary of the Presbyterian and Reformed Tradition in America* by D.G. Hart
- *The Emergence of Liberty in the Modern World: the Influence of Calvin on Five Governments from the 16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> Centuries* by Douglas Kelly
- *German Calvinism in the Confessional Age* by Lyle Bierma
- *History of Protestantism* by J.A. Wylie
- *A Presbyterian Bibliography* by Harold Prince
- *Reformed Confessions Harmonized* by Beeke & Ferguson
- *Seeking a Better Country: 300 Years of American Presbyterianism* by Hart & Muether

## Out of Print Books

- *Constitutional History of the PCUSA* by Charles Hodge
- *Our Presbyterian Heritage* by Paul Carlson
- *Presbyterians: A Popular Narrative of Their Origins, Progress, Doctrines, and Achievements* by George P. Hays
- *Presbyterians: Their History and Beliefs* by Lingle and Kuykendall
- *The Presbyterians* by Balmer & Fitzmier
- *The Presbyterians* by William Hanzsche
- *Pressing toward the Mark: Essays Commemorating Fifty Years of the OPC* by Dennison & Gamble
- *Reformed Theology in America: A History of Its Modern Development* by David Wells, ed.
- *Studies in Southern Theology* by Morton Smith
- *Theonomy: A Reformed Critique* by Barker & Godfrey

## The Presbyterian Controversy in America

- "A Bibliographical Essay" by Chris Schlect, CREDENDA AGENDA 10:1
- *Collected Writings; - vol. 4 – Ecclesiastical*. James Henley Thornwell 1873; reprinted by Banner of Truth
- *Christianity and Liberalism*. J. Gresham Machen 1923; reprinted by Eerdmans, 1990
- *Defending the Faith: J. Gresham Machen and the Crisis of Conservative Protestantism in Modern America*. Daryl G. Hart, Johns Hopkins University Press, 1994
- *J. Gresham Machen: A Biographical Memoir*. Ned B. Stonehouse 1954; reprinted by Banner of Truth
- *The Presbyterian Controversy*. Bradley J. Longfield Oxford University Press, 1991
- *The Presbyterian Conflict*. Edwin H. Rian 1940; reprinted by the Orthodox Presbyterian Church, 1992
- *Protestant Reformed Theological Journal*, ([prca.org/prtj/](http://prca.org/prtj/)), Eugene Case. "Survey of Southern Presbyt. History (1-2)" (=November 2008 & April 2009). "Southern Presbt Doctrine of the Spirituality of the Church (=Nov 2010).