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
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
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/rpcs/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
   • 1st (1536) and 2nd (1566) Helvetic Confessions
   • Gallican Confession, 1559
   • 1st (1560) and 2nd (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 Presbyterianism’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

**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 16th-18th 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, CREENDA 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
- *The Presbyterian Conflict*. Edwin H. Rian 1940; reprinted by the Orthodox Presbyterian Church, 1992