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) Reformed Theology in America by David Wells, or approved alternate reading

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
   • 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

ORAL REPORTS
1) Report on one Reformed Confession: 8 minutes of presentation & two page outline on background of times and predecessors, authors, scheme and organization, emphases and tone, etc. Due by end of October.
   • 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

Due at Midterm
Due at Final

Western Reformed Seminary
Fall 2011
Christopher Lensch, Prof.
2) Biography on the Presbyterian/Reformed leader of your choice. Should be five typed pages. Due by December 5.

As an ALTERNATIVE to reports one and two, you may substitute a longer term paper of eight pages (due December 5). Suggested topics are:

- How Presbyterianism’s representative government dovetails with its emphasis on the sovereignty of God
- Cultural Impact of Presbyterianism on the New World
- 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: 60% Reports: 15% Readings: 20% Attendance: 5%

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

Out of Print Books

- The Broadening Church by L. Loetscher
- 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
- The Presbyterian Way of Life by John A. MacKay
- 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
- The Presbyterian Conflict. Edwin H. Rian 1940; reprinted by the Orthodox Presbyterian Church, 1992