

Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago

Course Profile - Spring Term 2008

H-360B Lutheran Confessional Heritage - Instructor: Peter Vethanayagamony

STATEMENT OF GOALS:

1. To examine the Lutheran confessional heritage through a careful reading and analysis of the sixteenth-century confessional writings.
2. To recognize the contextual and normative natures of those writings.
3. To evaluate the ecumenical significance of the Lutheran confessions.
4. To clarify the role of the confessional heritage in their own theological development and convictions.
5. To explore the meaning of the Lutheran identity.
6. To elucidate their understanding of confessional subscription and the significance of their ordination/consecration vows.

OUTLINE AND CONENT OF THE COURSE:

1. The Sixteenth-Century Context
2. The Confessions: Their Character and Authority Word of God
3. Doctrine of God
4. Christology
5. Justification and Salvation
6. Sacraments
7. Political Ethics/Theology: Christian Life and Two Governances
8. Ministry
9. Church
10. Predestination and Adiaphora
11. Modern Confessions
12. Ecumenism and Lutherans

WORKS TO BE REQUIRED:

- A. Careful reading of assigned materials.
- B. Regular attendance and participation in class.
- C. A reflection paper on confessional authority and subscription.
- D. A research paper on a particular theological theme.
- E. Successful completion of scheduled test.
- F. Class Presentation to initiate class discussion

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Braaten, Carl E. Principles of Lutheran Theology. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1983.

Ecumenical Documents of the ELCA:

Gassman, Gunther, and Scott Hendrix. *Fortress Introduction to the Lutheran Confessions*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1999.

Gritsch, Eric W. and Robert W Jenson. *Lutheranism: The Theological Movement and its Confessional Writings*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1976.

Kolb, Robert, and James A Nestingen. Eds. *Sources and Contexts of the Book of Concord*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2001.

Kolb, Robert, and Timothy J Wengert. eds. *The Book of Concord*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2000.

Leith, J.H., ed. *Creeeds of the Churches*. 3rd ed. Atlanta: John Knox Press, 1982.