

LUTHERAN SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY AT CHICAGO

Course Profile

Quarter: Spring, 2008

Instructor: Hendel

Course: H-360 Lutheran Confessional Heritage

STATEMENT OF GOALS: That the students:

1. examine the Lutheran confessional heritage through a careful reading and analysis of the sixteenth-century confessional writings.
2. recognize the contextual and normative natures of those writings.
3. clarify the ecumenical significance of the confessions.
4. evaluate the role of the confessional heritage in their own theological development.
5. understand the meaning and significance of confessional subscription.
6. enhance their ability in written and oral communication.

OUTLINE AND CONTENT OF THE COURSE:

1. The Sixteenth-Century Context
2. The Confessional Writings: Their Character and Authority
3. The Doctrine of God
4. The Doctrine of the Word
5. Christology
6. Justification
7. The Sacraments and the Keys
8. The Ministry
9. The Church
10. Ethics and the Two Governances
11. Predestination and Adiaphora
12. Modern Confessions
13. The Unity of the Church
14. The Ecumenical Scene

WORK TO BE REQUIRED:

1. Careful reading of the material
2. Regular attendance and participation in class
3. Reflection papers on confessional subscription and on ecumenical commitments
3. A research paper or project on a particular theological theme
4. Scheduled tests

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Braaten, Carl. Principles of Lutheran Theology, revised edition

Ecumenical Statements of the ELCA

“Ecumenism: The Vision of the ELCA”

Gassmann, Günther and Hendrix, Scott. Fortress Introduction to the Lutheran Confessions

Gritsch, Eric W. and Jenson, Robert W. Lutheranism: The Theological Movement and its Confessional Writings

Kolb, Robert and Nestingen, James. Sources and Contexts of the Book of Concord

Kolb, Robert and Wengert, Timothy, editors. The Book of Concord

Leith, J.H., ed. Creeds of the Churches