

**HT775 The Theology of John Calvin**  
**Distance Section, Fall 2024**  
**Three Credits. Letter grade only**

**Faculty Information:**

**Instructor: Dr. Richard Burnett**

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**Office Hours: By appointment**

**Email responded to regularly on weekdays 8:00-5:00, Tuesday-Friday.**

**OVERVIEW/COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Prerequisite: HT 500 or HT 520 or equivalent or permission of instructor. This seminar will explore the theology of John Calvin through a reading of the *Institutes of the Christian Religion* and consideration of key secondary sources. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the main outlines of Calvin's mature theology be able to analyze and apply this theology in the contemporary church. This course is highly recommended for Presbyterian students.

This course includes optional in-person learning at Providence Presbyterian Church, Hilton Head Island, South Carolina, from Sept. 23–27, which will also be available through live-stream or by recording for those unable to attend.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

By participating fully in this class, students will be able to:

- 1) Demonstrate an understanding of the main themes of Calvin's mature theology.
- 2) Analyze a major aspect of Calvin's theology and evaluate its cohesion.
- 3) Apply Calvin's theology to issues and/or situations in the contemporary church.

**M.A.R.T. Curricular Goals Fulfilled by This Course:**

- Identify and articulate core commitments of the Christian tradition, with a focus on the Reformed tradition
- Analyze how key theological terms and concepts emerged and function within the Christian tradition and, more specifically, the Reformed tradition
- Describe and evaluate the core commitments of the catholic and Reformed tradition in conversation with historical and contemporary critics
- Explain how key theological terms and concepts have been understood and applied in Christian congregations of various times and places, and, more specifically, in congregations of the Reformed tradition

**M.Div. Curricular Goals Fulfilled by This Course:**

- Nurture habits and disciplines of study, prayer and reflection that increase their love of God and neighbor and shape their personal and professional lives.

- Be formed by, live in, and minister out of scripture and the historical and theological tradition of the church
- Interpret the Christian Scriptures through faithful exegesis and in light of the Christian tradition
- Preach the Word of God with faithfulness and clarity.
- Engage contemporary theological and ethical issues with insight and humility.
- Educate and equip individuals and congregations to live and minister joyfully and faithfully as part of their own denomination and the ecumenical church.
- Integrate theology and practice in all areas of life and ministry.

### **M.A.M.D. Curricular Goals Fulfilled by This Course**

- Articulate and reflect critically and constructively on the biblical and theological foundations of God's mission to the world.
- Develop, implement, and assess strategies for missional living in a specific cultural context.
- Develop skills and capacities for faithful and competent Christian witness.

### **M.A.M. Curricular Goal Fulfilled by This Course:**

- Articulate key theological affirmations of the church's theological tradition.

### **Course Requirements**

1. Class participation and weekly responses to questions on the assigned reading (1/3)
2. Seminar paper/presentation (1/3)
3. Final paper (1/3)

### **REQUIRED TEXTS (You must have the edition noted by ISBN. You must have a print copy unless the pagination on the digital copy is identical to the print copy.):**

John Calvin, *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, I-II. Ed. John T. McNeill. Trans. Ford Lewis Battles. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1960. ISBN 0-664-21882-2

Herman J. Selderhuis, *John Calvin: A Pilgrim's Life*. Downer's Grove. IL: IVP, 2009. ISBN 9-780830-829217