

HT615 Presbyterian History and Confessions
Distance Section, Summer 2025
Three Credits. Letter grade only
Prerequisites: HT500 and HT502 are helpful but not required

Faculty Information:

Instructor: Dr. Bradley Longfield

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Office Hours: By appointment

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

OVERVIEW/COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will examine the development of the Presbyterian/Reformed tradition with a special emphasis on the history and *Book of Confessions* of the Presbyterian Church (USA).

COURSE OBJECTIVES

By participating fully in this class, students will:

1. Be able to tell the story of the Presbyterian Church (USA) and many of its predecessor denominations.
2. Be able to identify and analyze major theological and ethical teachings as articulated in the *Book of Confessions* of the Presbyterian Church (USA).
3. Be able to use the *Book of Confessions* of the Presbyterian Church (USA) as a theological resource for church leadership.
4. Grow in the ability to be led by the confessions as you lead the people of God.
5. Develop an eager curiosity for further study of church history and the confessions.

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.*
- *Educate and equip individuals and congregations to live and minister joyfully and faithfully as part of their own denomination and the ecumenical church.*

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

- *Develop a sympathetic grasp of the history and core commitments of the Christian tradition, particularly as articulated in the Reformed tradition . . .*

- Develop the ability to engage critically and constructively with the contents of the Christian tradition, *especially as reflected in the Reformed tradition . . .*
- Nurture an appreciative understanding of the rich diversity of the catholic faith, and *a particular expression of that faith in the Reformed tradition . . .*

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 (1000 points total)

1. Conscientious attendance, reading, and participation in discussions. (360 points)
2. A “lecture” or “lesson plan” addressing the Reformed tradition. (300 points)
3. Open book final exam. (340 points)

REQUIRED TEXTS (You must have the edition noted by ISBN or, if no ISBN, publisher. You must have a print copy unless the pagination on the digital copy is identical to the print copy.):

Book of Confessions Study Edition Revised, PC(USA) ISBN: 9780664262907

John Burgess, *Confessing Our Faith* ISBN: 9780664503116

Bradley Longfield, *Presbyterians and American Culture: A History* ISBN: 9780644231569

Either the Oxford Annotated NRSV Bible or the CEB Study Bible

RECOMMENDED TEXTS

Book of Order 2019/2023, PC(USA) (No ISBN)

Rand McNally Historical Atlas of the World, 6th edition ISBN: 9780528014475

Milton Coalter et al., eds., *The Confessional Mosaic* ISBN: 9780664251512

John Leith, ed., *Creeds of the Churches* ISBN: 9780804205269

Bradley Longfield, *The Presbyterian Controversy* ISBN: 9780195086744

William Placher and David Willis-Watkins, *Belonging to God* ISBN: 9780664252960

Joseph Small, ed., *Conversations with the Confessions* ISBN: 9780664502485

Gary Scott Smith and P. C. Kemeny, eds., *The Oxford Handbook of Presbyterianism* ISBN: 9780190608392

William Strunk and E. B. White, *Elements of Style* ISBN: 9780205313426

Kate Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers* ISBN: 978-0226494425

