

Course Description
HT775-60 The Theology of John Calvin
Distance Section (Asynchronous), Fall 2025
Three Credits. Letter grade only.

Faculty Information

Instructor: Gary Neal Hansen, Ph.D.

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Office Hours: By appointment

Email responded to regularly on weekdays 8:00-5:00 Eastern

Meeting Times

This course is offered asynchronously, meaning there are no required sessions of the class in real time. There will be a small number of optional, non-instructional, Zoom sessions. Though the course is asynchronous, work for each instructional week of the academic calendar must be completed within that week. Online work each week will include video lectures, student discussion in electronic forums, and video responses to the student discussions.

OVERVIEW/COURSE DESCRIPTION

Prerequisite: HT 500 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 theology and be able to analyze and apply this theology in the contemporary church. This course is highly recommended for Presbyterian students.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

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

- 1) Demonstrate an understanding of the main themes of Calvin's 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.

Course Requirements

1. Attendance, in terms of viewing lectures and video responses to discussions (.1)
2. Discussion, in terms of forum posts (.5)
3. Annotated Bibliography (.1)
4. Final Paper (.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: The First English Version of the 1541 French Edition*. Translated by Elsie Anne McKee. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2009. ISBN 978-0802807748.

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

Calvin's Commentaries, Calvin Translation Society Edition. Access via Christian Classics Ethereal Library: <https://ccel.org/ccel/calvin/commentaries/commentaries.i.html> (Paper copies of these commentaries, or the New Testament Commentaries edited by Torrance, may be used if the student has access to them.)