SL/HL 446/346

Food Fights and Water Wars:
Sacramental Controversies in the early 16th Century

Dates: January 10-12 and 17-18, 2011
Time: 9:00am-12:00pm, 1:30pm -4:30pm
Instructor: Dr Gordon Jensen, Lutheran Theological Seminary
Office: Room 226. Phone: 966-7866
Email: gordon.jensen@usask.ca

Course Description:

As the fledgling reformation movements took root, one of the main areas of disagreement among the reformers was the understanding of the two sacraments that had not been discarded by them; Baptism and the Lord’s Supper. The different understandings of these sacraments reveal the different theological presuppositions of the reformers. In this course, we will cover the debates from the beginning of the reformation to the signing of the Wittenberg Concord of 1536.

First, we will explore the food fights (over the sacrament of the altar) between Luther, Zwingli, Oecolampadius, and Bucer, will be explored, including the major treatises beginning in 1526, written by Zwingli, Oecolampadius and Luther, and culminating in the Marburg Colloquy of 1529. The developing convergence between Bucer and Luther on the Lord’s Supper will also be explored, which led to the 1536 Wittenberg Concord. Second, we will explore some of the water fights (over the sacrament of Baptism), including the growing Anabaptist movement beginning in 1525. The primary readings will be source materials in translation, and should be completed before the seminars begin.

Student Outcomes:

By the end of this section of the course, students will be able to:

1. Describe the main points in the understanding of the sacraments according to Martin Luther, Huldrych Zwingli, Johann Oecolampadius, Martin Bucer and the Anabaptists, and articulate the implications of these views for contemporary parish ministry.

2. Explain the historical and theological reasons for the failure of the Marburg Colloquy of 1529 and the apparent original success of the Wittenberg Concord of 1536.
3. Articulate what theologians meant by ‘real presence’ and ‘spiritual’ presence and the implications for their understanding of the incarnation and what happens in the sacraments.

4. Explain the pastoral implications of the differences between the reformers over the Sacrament of the Altar, and the Sacrament of Baptism.

Required Texts:


N.B. for documents indicated with an asterisk, (*), please talk to professor about access.
Assignments:

1. **Class Participation (10%).** This course is a senior level and graduate level course, and it is designed as a seminar style course with major input by the students. Students are expected to have completed the readings before they are discussed in class, and will be able to answer basic questions at the beginning of each class period relating to the assigned readings. Students will also be graded according to their participation in class discussions.

2. **Leading a class discussion (30%).** Each student will choose a reading or a section of reading and be prepared to lead a class discussion on the material by creating either a series of theses for discussion or questions for discussion. The students should be prepared to give the historical background of the material as well as outline in some detail the arguments utilized by the author. An evaluation of the author’s argument should also be given. While the focus should be on the historical and theological material, some reflections on contemporary implications or challenges should also be offered. The student should hand in an outline of their presentation to the professor the day before their discussion is scheduled. Engaging the other students in discussions on the section is highly encouraged. *(Note: Those taking this course for graduate credit will be expected to lead 2 class period discussions, worth 25% each)*

3. **Research Paper (60%).** Those taking the course for MDiv, BTh or MTS credit should hand in a 20-25 page paper, double spaced, 12 point font, 1” (2.54cm) margins, with proper footnoting and bibliography. *(Those taking the course for graduate credit (STM) should hand in a 30 page paper following the above criteria, and it will be worth 40%. The lower weight for the paper allows for a greater focus on leading class discussion and the preparation required for two separate presentations)*.

   This paper will focus on one particular argument or historical document, and explore what was at stake, how the reformers addressed the situation, and the effectiveness of their argument. The paper should also draw out some contemporary implications and parallels and whether the reformers’ ideas are helpful in the present context. Please present your paper proposal to the professor before writing the paper. This paper is due by *March 25,-2011*.

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**Basic Working Bibliography:**


Green, Lowell C., “What was the True Issue at Marburg in 1529.” *Springfielder*, 40 (September 1976), pp. 102-106.


Class Schedule:

**NOTE**: Period 1: 9:00am-10:20am; Period 2: 10:40am-12:00noon; Period 3: 1:30pm-2:50am; Period 4: 3:10am-4:30am.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<td>January 10</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Introduction to course; Expectations</td>
<td>Dr. G. Jensen</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>History of the Sacrament of the Altar debates</td>
<td>Dr. G. Jensen</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Zwingli: “On the Lord’s Supper”</td>
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<td>Luther: “That These Words of Christ, 1527” pp. 3-78</td>
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<td>January 11</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Luther: “That These Words of Christ, 1527” pp. 78-150</td>
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<td>Discussion: Luther, Zwingli, and Oecolampadius, Round 1</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Luther: “Confession Concerning Christ’s Supper” pp. 163-252</td>
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<td>Luther: “Confession Concerning Christ’s Supper” pp. 252-360</td>
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<td>January 12</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Discussion: Luther, Zwingli, and Oecolampadius, Round 2</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Marburg Colloquy, 1529:</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Zwingli: “An Exposition of the Faith”</td>
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<td>Luther: “Part 5, Large Catechism”</td>
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<td>January 17</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Luther and Bucer: Theological development and convergence, 1530-1536</td>
<td>Dr. G. Jensen</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>The Wittenberg Concord of 1536</td>
<td>Dr. G. Jensen</td>
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<td>Discussion: The Lord’s Supper Debates: Round 4</td>
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<td>History of the Sacrament of Baptism Debates</td>
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<td>January 18</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Zwingli: “Of Baptism”</td>
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<td>Hubmaier: “On the Christian Baptism of Believers”</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Luther: “Part Four, Large Catechism” and “Concerning Rebaptism”</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Discussion: The Sacrament of Baptism Concluding Reflections</td>
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