

**HIST-850: Persecution and Toleration in the Reformation
Fall 2025**

** Draft syllabus - subject to changes **

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Class schedule

Online: mixed asynchronous/synchronous

Synchronous time: Thursdays, 11:00 am – 12:00 pm Chicago time via Teams

Weekly assignments due: Wednesday at noon Chicago time

Required Texts

Goddard, Hugh. *A History of Christian-Muslim Relations*. New York: New Amsterdam Books, 2000. ISBN: 978-1566633406. \$39.95 on Amazon.com.

Gritsch, Eric. *Martin Luther's Anti-Semitism: Against his Better Judgment*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2012. ISBN: 978-0802866769. \$26.50 on Amazon.com.

Hsia, R. Po-Chia. *Matteo Ricci and the Catholic Mission to China, 1583-1610*. Cambridge, MA: Hackett Publishing, 2016. ISBN: 978-1624664328. \$18.00 on Amazon.com.

Kaplan, Benjamin. *Divided by Faith: Religious Conflict and the Practice of Toleration in Early Modern Europe*. Cambridge, MA: Belknap Press, 2010. ISBN: 978-0674034730. \$24.50 on Amazon.com.

Learning Outcomes

- To interpret the historical events of the Reformation via the negotiations it entailed among culturally and theologically diverse communities.
- To understand the varying theologies and worldviews of the Reformation era.
- To gain wisdom from the early attempts at toleration exercised during the Reformation.
- To connect the pluralistic, colonial, and inter-cultural histories of the fourteenth through seventeenth centuries to modern postcolonial, global, and pluralistic contexts.
- To exercise skills in critical reading, research, communication, and writing.

Weekly schedule

This is an online course with mixed asynchronous and synchronous activities. Each week, students will do the asynchronous work (assigned readings and participation in an online discussion forum on Moodle) by *Wednesday at 12pm Central Time*. The synchronous meeting (via Zoom) will be held *Thursdays, 11:00 am – 12:00 pm CT*.

Assignments & Grading

Participation: 40%

This is a participatory class! By noon Chicago time each Wednesday, you will post your reflections and responses to the readings on Moodle in the format of the Discussion Sheet. (Blank copies are available on the course Moodle page). Our class meeting time (Thursdays 11:00-12:00) will focus on the readings and Discussion Sheets, exploring the perspectives, questions and ongoing themes those readings raise. Participation grade will be based on both the discussion forums and in-class contributions to discussion.

Class Leadership: 10%

Students will take turns kicking off the discussion with a presentation and discussion questions. The presentation should follow the 3-2-1-3 model: Describing 3 main points of the reading(s), 2 aspects that the presenter found especially interesting, and 1 connection to another part of this course or another course you've had in seminary (a commonality, a contrast, a parallel aspect, etc.) To kick-off the discussion part of the class meeting, the presenter will then suggest 3 questions for discussion. The total presentation should be 15-20 minutes in length.

Final Project Presentation: 10%

Each student will give a presentation on a draft of their final project at the end of the semester. This presentation should last about 5 minutes and cover the following: topic, main question(s), sources, thesis, and remaining questions to be explored before completing the project.

Final Project Presentation Feedback for Classmates: 5%

Once students have given their presentations on their final projects, each student will offer feedback for two classmates identifying what they found insightful, interesting, unclear, and/or problematic.

Final Project: 35%

A final research paper or other related project is due on December 11. Students can choose the topic and form as long as the project interacts with course

material or engages research on course-related topics. If writing a paper, students should write 8 – 12 pages.

Final grades for the course are determined by the following scale:

A: 100-93%	B-: 80-82%	D+: 68-69%
A-: 90-92%	C+: 78-79%	D: 63-67%
B+: 88-89%	C: 73-77%	D-: 60-62%
B: 83-87%	C-: 70-72%	F: 59% & below

COURSE SCHEDULE

Course Introduction

September 3 & 4:

(Discussion sheet post due at noon on September 3 at noon; class meeting on Teams at 11am on September 4)

Reformation Review

- Lindberg, “The Reformations of the Sixteenth Century”

Reformation and the Other

- Kaplan, Introduction

Inter-confessional Interactions

September 10 & 11:

(Discussion Sheet due Tuesday, September 14; class meeting Wednesday, September 15.)

The Situation in Reformation Europe

- Kaplan, chapters 1-4

September 17 & 18:

Attempts at Toleration

- Kaplan, chapters 5-8

September 24 & 25:

Inter-personal Toleration

- Kaplan, chapters 9 & 10

October 1 & 2:

Reformation Communities and Toleration

- Naphy, "Geneva: hospitality and xenophobia"
- Zijlstra, "Anabaptism and tolerance: possibilities and limitations"
- Carlin, "Toleration for Catholics in the Puritan Revolution"

Interfaith Interactions

October 8 & 9:

Introducing Interfaith Europe

- Nirenberg, "The Historical Background"
- Kaplan, chapter 11
- Schwartz, "Conversos and Moriscos"

October 15 & 16:

Christians and Jews

- Bell, "Relations with the Other"
- Gritsch, chapters 1 & 2

October 23 - 24: Reading Days - no class or assignments

October 29 & 30:

Christians and Muslims

- Goddard, chapters 5 & 6
- Cardini, "The Ottoman Threat"
- Vitkus, "Early Modern Orientalism"

Global and Colonial Interactions

November 5 & 6:

Introducing Early Modern Globalization

- Parker, “Identities and Encounters”

Early Modern Christianity in Africa

- Johnson, “Black Atlantic Religion and Afro-European Commerce”
- Irvin and Sundquist, “African Christianity in the Sixteenth Century”

November 12 & 13:

Early Modern Christianity in the Americas

- Schwartz, “Civilizations in Conflict”
- Rivera-Pagan, “A Prophetic Challenge to the Church”
- Pestana, “Reformation and the Politicization of Religious Expansion”

November 19 & 20:

Early Modern Christianity in Asia

- Eire, “Missions to the East Indies”
- Hsia, *Matteo Ricci and the Catholic Mission to China* (selections)

November 24 - 28: Thanksgiving Break

December 3 & 4:

Wrap-up and Final Papers/Projects:

- Kaplan, chapter 12
- Present Paper/Project Proposals

December 11: Final Paper/Project Due