

University of Arkansas - Fort Smith
5210 Grand Avenue
P. O. Box 3649
Fort Smith, AR 72913-3649
479-788-7000

General Syllabus

HIST 3143 The Protestant Reformation

Credit Hours: 3

Lecture Hours: 3

Laboratory Hours: 0

Prerequisite: HIST 1133 Civilizations of the World since 1500

Effective Catalog: 2019-2020

I. Course Information

A. Catalog Description

The study of the Protestant Reformation and its impact on Europe, beginning in Germany and spreading to England, along with the responses of the Roman Catholic Church and subsequent national conflicts through the Thirty Years' War.

II. Student Learning Outcomes

A. Subject Matter

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Identify the background and causes of the Protestant Reformation and the reforms instituted by Martin Luther, along with the reaction of the Catholic Church.
2. Analyze how the spread of the reform movement in the church impacted the lives of everyone in Europe and began to reshape not only the religious but political direction of Western Civilization.
3. Explain the new teachings of the Protestant Reform Movement in contrast to the doctrine of the Catholic Church and how these teachings stimulated the building of the modern nation state.

B. University Learning Outcomes

This course enhances student abilities in the following areas:

Analytical Skills

Critical Thinking Skills

Students will draw conclusions and solve problems.

Communication Skills (written and oral)

Students will communicate effectively with a variety of audiences in any setting.

Global and Cultural Perspectives

Students will reflect upon cultural differences and their implications for interacting with people from cultures other than their own.

III. Major Course Topics

- A. The roots of corruption in the Western Church
- B. Martin Luther's Thesis
- C. Papal reaction to call for reform
- D. Political intervention on the side of reform
- E. Zwingli and the Swiss reformation
- F. John Calvin and the Geneva reformers
- G. Anabaptists and radical forms of Protestantism
- H. The outbreak of religious wars—heretical responses
- I. The English Reformation—Henry VIII and John Knox
- J. Reforms in the Catholic Church
- K. The Counter-Reformation
- L. Nation States prosecute religious wars—1562-1598