

Dr. Roger Green, Reformation to the Present, Session 1, Syllabus and Introduction Resources from NotebookLM

1) Abstract, 2) Audio podcast, 3) Briefing Document, 4) Study Guide, and 5) FAQs

1. Abstract of Green, Reformation to the Present, Session 1, Syllabus and Introduction, Biblicalelearning.org, BeL

Dr. Roger Green's initial lecture for his course "Reformation to the Present" focuses on a thorough introduction to the syllabus and course expectations for the spring 2024 semester. He outlines the **course's design** to provide insight into the development of Christian beliefs from the Reformation onward, emphasizing the interplay between history and theology, particularly within the Protestant tradition. The lecture details **required texts**, including works by Dayton, Dillenberger and Welch, Noll, and Zachman, and explains the **course requirements**, such as examinations, optional extra credit term papers, and mandatory discussion group participation. Green also clarifies his policies on attendance and late submissions, providing a comprehensive overview to ensure students understand the **structure and goals of the course**.

**2. 17 - minute Audio Podcast Created on the basis of
Dr. Green, Reformation to the Present, Session 1 – Double
click icon to play in Windows media player or go to the
Biblicalelearning.org [BeL] Site and click the audio podcast link
there (Church History → Reformation to the Present).**



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3. Briefing Document: Green, Reformation to the Present, Session 1, Syllabus and Introduction

Briefing Document: Reformation to the Present Course Introduction

Overview: This briefing document summarizes the key information, themes, and expectations outlined by Dr. Roger Green in the first lecture of his church history course, "The Reformation to the Present." The lecture primarily focuses on the course syllabus, objectives, requirements, and grading system. Dr. Green also offers some introductory thoughts on the nature of the course and his teaching approach.

Main Themes and Important Ideas/Facts:

1. Course Objectives and Focus:

- The course aims to provide students with insight into the **nature and development of the basic beliefs of the historic Christian community** from the Reformation to the present.
- It will attempt to understand the **central theological affirmations of the historic Orthodox faith and deviations from those affirmations.**
- Special attention will be given to areas of **consensus and disagreement** among various Christian branches and traditions.
- The course will heavily emphasize the **interrelationship between history and theology**, particularly how historical events (both within and outside the church) have influenced the formulation of Christian doctrine.
- The course will primarily examine theological development through a **Protestant lens**, acknowledging its recurrent reinterpretation of faith in response to new needs and situations.
- **Roman Catholic thought** will also be studied, and some attention will be given to the **Eastern Orthodox tradition.**
- Dr. Green highlights the importance of "**important people, important ideas, and important events**" in shaping Christian orthodoxy during this period. He states, *"In giving attention to these areas, the course is designed to provide the student with the necessary insights and resources for pursuing the vital disciplines that shed light on the development of Christian thought."*

- The course builds upon a prerequisite course ("Development of Christian Thought") which covers the early church and the Reformation through Martin Luther. This course will begin with the Reformation and focus on the theology of **John Calvin**. Dr. Green explains, *"Because the Reformation is so central to the development of Christian thought, it is necessary to study the Reformation in both courses...in this course, the Reformation is studied through the life and theology of John Calvin."*

2. Course Requirements and Grading:

- **Required Texts:** Four books are required for the course:
- Donald Dayton, *Discovering an Evangelical Heritage* (focus on 19th-century evangelicalism and its social ministry).
- Dillenberger and Welch, [Title not fully quoted but implied as a foundational text for important people, ideas, and events]: *"If you want to know the important people, the important ideas, and the important events, this is still a great text for that. This is our primary text."*
- Mark Noll, *Turning Points* (focusing on decisive moments in Christian history, with readings from the second half of the book).
- Randall Zachman, *John Calvin's Teacher, Pastor, Theologian* (an in-depth study of Calvin, with a study sheet provided in the syllabus - Appendix 2, page 11).
- **Examinations:** There will be three in-class examinations (two-hour exams and a final exam). Makeup exams for missed hour exams are only offered on the morning of the reading day. The final exam cannot be rescheduled by the instructor.
- **Reading Assignments:** Students are expected to read all assigned textbook materials and any biblical passages referred to in the texts, understanding their immediate context. *"Where biblical passages are referred to in the text of the readings, students are expected to read and understand the biblical texts as well as the immediate context of those texts."*
- **Term Paper (Optional for Credit, Required for A/A-):** Submission is optional for extra credit (up to 10 points added to the final grade average).
- However, it is **required to earn an A or A- grade**. The highest grade without a paper is a B+.

- Minimum 10 pages of text (excluding front matter), double-spaced, 10-point font.
- Minimum of eight academic sources with sufficient endnotes.
- Paper should integrate research with the student's own thinking about the topic's value in contemporary Christian experience.
- Student ID number only on the first page for anonymous grading.
- Due date: Wednesday, December 4th. Late papers penalized one full grade per day.
- Suggested topics: Martin Luther and the Sacraments, Developments in Roman Catholic Theology in the 19th Century, Karl Barth's Doctrine of Election, and Women in Leadership in the Church Since the Reformation.
- Dr. Green encourages students to submit first drafts two weeks prior to the due date for feedback. *"should students wish the instructor to read the first drafts of optional papers, these drafts must be given to the instructor two weeks before the due date for these papers."*
- **Discussion Groups and Participation (10% of Final Grade):** On some Fridays, the class will meet for discussion of the reading material, focusing on questions and theological problems.
- Active involvement is encouraged and contributes to the grade.
- Students are expected to come prepared with two or three printed questions and observations from the textbook readings up to that point, submitted the Wednesday before each discussion group.
- Discussions will be held at the Lion's Den.
- **Class Attendance:** Regular attendance and active involvement are considered essential.
- More than four unexcused absences may affect the student's grade (one point deducted from the final average per absence beyond four).
- Missing a discussion group counts as two unexcused absences.
- Students involved in school-sponsored activities needing to miss class must inform the professor within the first two weeks of the course.

- Dr. Green emphasizes his belief in the importance of class attendance. *"I actually believe that college students ought to go to class...I actually think you should go to all your classes. And so, so I think you should come to this class."*

3. Course Schedule and Structure:

- Lectures will be held three times a week (Monday, Wednesday, Friday), starting with lecture one on the Friday after the syllabus introduction.
- The syllabus includes a detailed lecture outline (page 12 onwards) which Dr. Green encourages students to bring to class. *"in order to make your life a little bit easier, this is the outline that I'll be using for the lectures from day one...I think it could really be helpful to you because this is the outline that I use."*
- Suggested readings are provided for most weeks but are not required.
- The first-hour exam is scheduled for Monday, September 30th.
- An out-of-class assignment involves attending two lectures during a conference on Protestantism (November 14th-16th), which will also compensate for some missed class time due to Dr. Green's travel.
- A video on Dietrich Bonhoeffer will be shown in class on Monday, December 2nd, and Wednesday, December 4th.
- The final exam is scheduled for Tuesday, December 18th.
- Details about the material covered in each exam are provided in the syllabus (page 10).

4. Professor's Approach and Expectations:

- Dr. Green emphasizes a thorough approach to the syllabus to ensure students understand the course expectations.
- He values student engagement and encourages class discussion.
- He is available to meet with students outside of office hours, including for lunch. *"But I really like to meet people other than during office hours. But you can meet me during office hours. That's fine. But I'm glad to meet for lunch. I'm glad to meet a couple of you, even for lunch and at various times."*
- He highlights the Protestant understanding of theology as something that needs to be continually interpreted and re-understood for each generation. *"The Protestant approach to theology is that theology needs to be continually*

interpreted in every generation. Theology is not something static. It's not something that you kind of have in a box. It needs to be re-understood for every single generation. It needs to be re-interpreted for every generation."

- He aims to create a learning environment that moves beyond formal lectures through discussion groups. *"I like that because it gets us away from lecturing. So, it gets us away from the formality of the classroom. And I also like it because it's a different way of learning. It gets you into the text, gets you discussing the text, gets you asking questions about the text and discussing with each other about the text."*

Key Takeaway: This introductory lecture provides a comprehensive overview of the "Reformation to the Present" course. Students should carefully review the syllabus, especially regarding the required texts, examination schedule, the optional but highly recommended term paper, the participation component through discussion groups, and the professor's attendance policy. The course promises to explore the historical and theological developments within Christianity from the Reformation onwards, primarily through a Protestant lens while also engaging with Catholic and Orthodox perspectives.

4. Study Guide: Green, Reformation to the Present, Session 1, Syllabus and Introduction

Reformation to the Present: Study Guide

Quiz:

1. What was the primary reason Dr. Green mentioned his eye surgery at the beginning of the lecture?
2. According to Dr. Green, what is the central question Jesus posed in Matthew 16:15, and why is it significant for this course?
3. What is the main difference in focus between this course (Reformation to the Present) and its counterpart course, Development of Christian Thought (305)?
4. Explain the "Protestant approach to theology" as described by Dr. Green.
5. What are the three "important" elements that Dr. Green emphasizes as being central to understanding the history of the church in this course?
6. Why does the course study both Martin Luther and John Calvin in relation to the Reformation?
7. What is the purpose of the required textbook by Donald Dayton, "Discovering an Evangelical Heritage"?
8. Explain the optional term paper assignment and what the highest grade a student can earn without submitting a paper is.
9. Describe the format and purpose of the discussion groups that will take place before each examination.
10. What is Dr. Green's stated belief regarding class attendance, and what is the consequence of excessive unexcused absences?

Answer Key:

1. Dr. Green mentioned his eye surgery to explain why he would be switching his reading glasses on and off during the first month of the course until he received his new glasses after cataract surgery.
2. The central question is "Who do you say that I am?" This question is significant because Peter's response was the first Christian proclamation or confession,

demonstrating the early need for doctrine and setting the stage for the course's exploration of theological development.

3. The Development of Christian Thought course (305) specifically examines the creeds and doctrines that arose during the first seven ecumenical councils, while this course emphasizes how doctrines have developed since the 16th century in a more diverse church tradition.
4. The Protestant approach to theology, according to Dr. Green, is that theology is not static but needs to be continually interpreted and re-understood for every generation in response to new needs and situations.
5. The three important elements are important people, important ideas, and important events. Dr. Green believes that the interaction of these three aspects significantly shapes the history of the church.
6. The course studies both Luther and Calvin because the Reformation is central to the development of Christian thought. The counterpart course (305) studies the Reformation through Luther, while this course focuses on Calvin, allowing students taking both courses a more comprehensive understanding.
7. Donald Dayton's book reminds readers of the heritage of evangelicalism in the 19th century, especially its social ministry, and challenges contemporary evangelicals to remember and apply this heritage.
8. The term paper is optional for extra credit but is required for an A or A- grade. The highest grade a student can earn without submitting a paper is a B+.
9. Discussion groups will be held on two Fridays before each exam in a less formal setting (the Lion's Den). Students are expected to bring questions and observations from the textbook readings to discuss with the instructor and each other, promoting deeper engagement with the material.
10. Dr. Green believes that college students ought to attend class regularly. More than four unexcused absences may affect a student's grade, with one point deducted from the final grade average for each absence beyond four, and missing a discussion group counts as two unexcused absences.

Essay Format Questions:

1. Discuss the significance of the Reformation as a pivotal period in the development of Christian thought, as highlighted by its inclusion in both this course and its counterpart. How does the focus on different key figures (Luther and Calvin) in each course contribute to a more complete understanding of this era?
2. Analyze Dr. Green's emphasis on the interrelationship between history and theology in this course. Provide examples of how historical events, both within and outside the church, have influenced the formulation of Christian doctrine from the Reformation to the present.
3. Evaluate the "Protestant approach to theology" as described in the lecture. What are the strengths and potential weaknesses of the idea that theology must be continually reinterpreted for each generation? Consider the concepts of continuity and change in Christian doctrine.
4. Consider the role of "important people, important ideas, and important events" in shaping Christian orthodoxy from the Reformation to the present. Choose one significant person, idea, or event discussed (or that could be relevant to the course's scope) and analyze its impact on the development of Christian thought.
5. Reflect on the purpose and value of studying church history, particularly the period from the Reformation to the present, for contemporary Christians. How can understanding the historical development of Christian beliefs and practices inform our understanding of faith and the church today?

Glossary of Key Terms:

- **Doctrine:** A belief or set of beliefs held and taught by a church, political party, or other group. In this context, it refers to the established teachings of the Christian faith.
- **Dogma:** A principle or set of principles laid down by an authority as incontrovertibly true. In Christian theology, this often refers to core beliefs considered essential to the faith, often defined by church councils.
- **Orthodox Faith:** The historically accepted and traditional beliefs of the Christian church, particularly those aligned with the early church creeds and councils.
- **Reformation:** A 16th-century movement for the reform of abuses in the Roman Catholic Church, leading to the establishment of the Reformed and other Protestant churches.
- **Ecclesiastical Traditions:** The distinct practices, customs, and theological understandings that have developed within different branches or denominations of Christianity.
- **Secular History:** History concerned with non-religious subjects or not connected with the church or religion.
- **Protestant Tradition:** The branch of Christianity that originated with the Reformation, characterized by doctrines emphasizing justification by faith alone and the authority of Scripture.
- **Roman Catholic Thought:** The theological perspectives and doctrines of the Roman Catholic Church.
- **Eastern Orthodox Tradition:** The branch of Christianity that developed primarily in Eastern Europe and the Middle East, maintaining distinct theological and liturgical traditions from Western Christianity.
- **Evangelicalism:** A diverse Protestant movement emphasizing the experience of conversion, the authority of Scripture, and the importance of sharing the Christian message.
- **Fundamentalism:** A conservative Protestant movement that arose in the early 20th century in reaction to modernism, emphasizing the literal interpretation of the Bible and the defense of traditional Christian doctrines.

5. FAQs Green, Reformation to the Present, Session 1, Syllabus and Introduction, Biblicalelearning.org (BeL)

Frequently Asked Questions: Reformation to the Present Course

1. What is the primary focus of this course, "Reformation to the Present"? This course is designed to provide students with an understanding of the nature and development of core beliefs within the historic Christian community from the Reformation period to the present day. It will explore the central theological affirmations of Orthodox Christian faith, as well as significant deviations. Special attention will be paid to areas of agreement and division among different Christian traditions. The course emphasizes the crucial relationship between historical events, both within and outside the church, and the formulation of Christian doctrine.

2. How does this course relate to the "Development of Christian Thought" course (305)? While both courses examine the development of Christian thought, they focus on different historical periods. The "Development of Christian Thought" course (305) primarily examines the creeds and doctrines that emerged during the first seven ecumenical councils of the early church, ending with the Reformation. This course ("Reformation to the Present") begins with the Reformation and emphasizes how doctrines have developed in a more diverse church tradition since the 16th century. Notably, the Reformation is studied through the lens of Martin Luther in the 305 course and through the lens of John Calvin in this course, offering students who take both a more comprehensive understanding of this pivotal period.

3. What is the pedagogical approach of this course, and what are the key components of learning? The course employs a mixed pedagogical approach, including classroom lectures, assigned readings from four required texts, and discussion groups. Lectures will cover important people, ideas, and events that have shaped Christian orthodoxy. Class discussion is encouraged during lectures, and dedicated discussion groups will be held before each exam to delve deeper into the reading material and address questions. Active involvement in these discussion groups is encouraged and contributes to the final grade.

4. What are the required texts for this course? The four required texts for this course are:

- Donald Dayton's *Discovering an Evangelical Heritage*

- Dillenberger and Welch's (title not fully specified but understood to be a key text on the period)
- Mark Noll's *Turning Points*
- Randall Zachman's *John Calvin's Teacher, Pastor, Theologian*

Students are expected to read the assigned portions of these texts and to engage with any biblical passages referenced within them, understanding both the verses and their immediate context.

5. Are there any optional assignments for extra credit or required for a specific grade?

Yes, the submission of a term paper is optional for those seeking extra credit. However, it is a requirement for earning an A or A- grade in the course. Students who do not submit a paper can achieve a maximum grade of B+. The paper should be a minimum of 10 pages and utilize at least eight sources, adhering to specific formatting and content guidelines provided in the syllabus and on Blackboard. Drafts submitted at least two weeks before the due date can receive instructor feedback.

6. How are exams structured and what is the policy on missed exams? There will be three exams: two in-class hour exams during the semester and a final exam. Students should avoid missing exams except in cases of extreme emergencies. If a student misses the first or second hour exam, a makeup exam will be scheduled on the morning of the reading day. The final exam cannot be rescheduled by the instructor, according to college policy.

7. What is the instructor's philosophy on class attendance and participation? The instructor believes that regular attendance and active participation are crucial elements of the learning process in college. Attendance is taken, and more than four unexcused absences may negatively impact the final grade. Missing a discussion group counts as two unexcused absences. Students involved in school-sponsored activities that require missing class must inform the professor within the first two weeks of the course.

8. What opportunities are there for out-of-class learning and engagement with broader theological discourse? Students are required to attend two lectures during a campus conference sponsored by the Center for Faith and Inquiry, titled "Protestantism, a Reflection in Advance of the 500th Anniversary of the Protestant Reformation." This out-of-class assignment serves to make up for some class time due to instructor absences and provides exposure to prominent scholars in the field. Additionally, the course will feature a video presentation on Dietrich Bonhoeffer, offering another avenue for learning beyond traditional lectures and readings.