Course Syllabus

FALL 2019
THEOLOGY OF JOHN CALVIN
THEO 063

SEPTEMBER 10 – DECEMBER 3
TUESDAYS: 6:45 – 9:35 PM

INSTRUCTOR: VICTOR SHEPHERD
Tel. 416 226 6380 ext.6726 or 905 821 0587
E-mail: vshepherd@tyndale.ca or victor.shepherd@sympatico.ca

Office Hours as Posted

Access course material at http://classes.tyndale.ca/
Course-related emails ONLY will be sent to your @MyTyndale.ca e-mail account.
Learn how to access and forward emails to your personal account.

The mission of Tyndale Seminary is to provide Christ-centred graduate theological education for leaders in the church and society whose lives are marked by intellectual maturity, spiritual vigour and moral integrity, and whose witness will faithfully engage culture with the Gospel.

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Examines closely Calvin’s Institutes of the Christian Religion. Topics such as the knowledge of God, Trinity, Scriptures, providence, the three-fold office of Christ, justification, faith sanctification, predestination, church, sacraments and the Christian life are addressed.

Prerequisite: THEO 0531 Systematic Theology

II. LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

1. probe in detail the doctrines that are commonly recognized as major "building blocks" of the Christian faith;
2. relate Calvin’s expositions of major doctrines to each other and apprehend how their
relationship illustrates the unity and coherence of Calvin's thought;
3. situate Calvin's theological understanding in the history of the Church, in the sixteenth century Reformation, and in Reformed developments subsequent to the Reformation;
4. grasp the variegated background (social, political, ecclesiastical) of Calvin in particular and the Reformation in general;
5. assess critically the adequacy and consistency of Calvin's theological expression.
6. perceive the pastoral sensitivity of the *Institutes*
7. examine Calvin as pastor, churchman and civic official, all with a view to informing the student's own life, ministry and witness.

III. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. REQUIRED READING


B. SUPPLEMENTARY / RECOMMENDED READING AND TOOLS


Tyndale recommends [www.stepbible.org](http://www.stepbible.org) – a free and reputable online resource developed by Tyndale House (Cambridge, England) – for word searches of original-language texts, as well as for topical searches, interlinear texts, dictionaries, etc. Refer to the library for other online resources for Biblical Studies.

C. ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

1. **Essay:** (50% of final grade), due on the same day as the examination. A *theologically* critical exposition of and commentary upon Sadoleto’s *Letter to the Genevans* and Calvin’s *Reply to Sadoleto.* (2500 – 3000 words, or 7 – 8.5 pages)

2. **Examination** (in class; 50% of the final grade; the date to be confirmed by the Office of the Registrar)

D. EQUITY OF ACCESS

Students with permanent or temporary disabilities who need academic accommodations must contact the Accessibility Services at the Centre for Academic Excellence to register and
discuss their specific needs. *New students* must self-identify and register with the Accessibility Office at the beginning of the semester or as early as possible to access appropriate services. *Current students* must renew their plans as early as possible to have active accommodations in place.

**E. SUMMARY OF ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING**

Evaluation is based upon the completion of the following assignments:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Essay</td>
<td>50 %</td>
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<tr>
<td>Examination</td>
<td>50 %</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Grade</td>
<td>100 %</td>
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**F. GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR THE SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN WORK**

For proper citation style, consult the [Chicago-Style Quick Guide](https://tyndale.edu/e-resource) (Tyndale e-resource) or the full edition of the [Chicago Manual of Style Online](https://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org), especially ch. 14. For citing scripture texts, refer to sections 10.44 to 10.48 and 14.238 to 14.241.

*The four paragraphs below should appear in every syllabus*

**Academic Integrity**

Integrity in academic work is required of all our students. Academic dishonesty is any breach of this integrity, and includes such practices as cheating (the use of unauthorized material on tests and examinations), submitting the same work for different classes without permission of the instructors; using false information (including false references to secondary sources) in an assignment; improper or unacknowledged collaboration with other students, and plagiarism. Tyndale University College & Seminary takes seriously its responsibility to uphold academic integrity, and to penalize academic dishonesty.

Students are encouraged to consult writing resources.

Students should also consult the current [Academic Calendar](https://www.tyndale.ca) for academic polices on Academic Honesty, Gender Inclusive Language in Written Assignments, Late Papers and Extensions, Return of Assignments, and Grading System.

**Research Ethics**

All course-based assignments involving human participants requires ethical review and approval by the [Tyndale Research Ethics Board (REB)](https://www.tyndale.ca). Check with the Seminary Office (Room B302; aau@tyndale.ca) before proceeding.

**G. COURSE EVALUATION**

Tyndale Seminary values quality in the courses it offers its students. End-of-course evaluations provide valuable student feedback and are one of the ways that Tyndale
Seminary works towards maintaining and improving the quality of courses and the student’s learning experience. Student involvement in this process is critical to enhance the general quality of teaching and learning.

Before the end of the course, students will receive a MyTyndale email with a link to the online course evaluation. The link can also be found in the left column on the course page. The evaluation period is 2 weeks; after the evaluation period has ended, it cannot be reopened.

Course Evaluation results will not be disclosed to the instructor before final grades in the course have been submitted and processed. Student names will be kept confidential and the instructor will only see the aggregated results of the class.

IV. COURSE SCHEDULE, CONTENT AND REQUIRED READINGS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Chapters/Sections</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sep 10</td>
<td>Introductions, Requirements; Calvin Biography</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sep 17</td>
<td>Knowledge of God</td>
<td>Book I: chapters 1-5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sep 24</td>
<td>Scripture</td>
<td>I: 6,7,9,10</td>
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<td>Oct 1</td>
<td>Providence</td>
<td>I: 16,17,18</td>
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<td>Oct 8</td>
<td>Trinity</td>
<td>I: 13</td>
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<td>Oct 15</td>
<td>Law and Gospel</td>
<td>II: 7,9-11</td>
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<td><strong>Oct 22</strong></td>
<td><strong>No Class: Reading Week</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 29</td>
<td>The Mediator and His Work</td>
<td>II: 6,12,13,15,16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 5</td>
<td>The Holy Spirit and Faith</td>
<td>III: 1,2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 12</td>
<td>Justification</td>
<td>III: 11,14</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 19</td>
<td>Predestination</td>
<td>III: 21,22 (omit sections 6-9), 23,24</td>
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<td>Nov 26</td>
<td>Church and Ministry</td>
<td>IV: 1,8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec 2</td>
<td>Lord's Supper</td>
<td>IV: 17: sections 1-10, 18, 26, 31-32</td>
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<tr>
<td>TBC</td>
<td>Examination (date to be confirmed by the Office of the Registrar)</td>
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V. SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

(Tyndale Library supports this course with e-journals and e-books. See the Library FAQ page.)

The Different Aspects of Calvin’s Theology

I. Calvin’s Life and Times


II. Calvin’s Works

A. Works and Selections


Calvin, John.

_____. *Calvini Opera Database 1.0*. Edited by Herman J. Selderhuis et al. Apeldoorn: Institut voor Reformatieonderzoek, 2005. DVD Database.


Short Treatise on the Lord’s Supper; Summary of the Doctrine Concerning the Ministry of the Word and Sacrament; Confession of Faith Concerning the Eucharist. Edited and translated into Arabic by George Sabra. Beirut: Near East School of Theology, [2006].


**B. Critique**


**III. Calvin’s Theology**

**A. Overview**


**B. Doctrine of God**


**C. Doctrine of Christ**


**D. Doctrine of the Holy Spirit**


Revised: May 6, 2019

**E. Doctrine of Salvation**


**F. Doctrine of Humanity**


**G. Doctrine of the Christian Life**


Revised: May 6, 2019


**H. Ecclesiology**


**I. Worship**


J. Revelation


**K. Apocalypticism (and Eschatology)**


**IV. Calvin and Social-Ethical Issues & V. Calvin and Political Issues**


VI. Calvinism

A. Theological Influences

1. Overview


2. Christian Life


3. Covenants
4. Discipline
5. Dogmatics


6. Ecclesiology
7. Education
8. Grace
9. God
10. Justification
11. Predestination


12. Revelation
13. Sacraments


14. Salvation


15. Worship

B. Cultural Influence

1. Arts


2. Literature


C. Social, Economic, and Political Influence


D. International Influence

1. England


2. Europe

3. France


4. Geneva

5. South Korea


6. Latin America

7. The Netherlands


8. South Africa

9. Sweden

10. United States


E. Critique


F. Doctrine of Scripture


G. Bibliographies