

UNDERGRADUATE COURSE DESCRIPTION

Term: **Fall 2010**
Instructor: Dr. Mickey Mattox
Course #: THEO 4240/5240
Section: 101/101
Course Title: **Theology in the Reformation Era**

Description:

The term "Reformation" denotes broadly European history in the sixteenth century, a tumultuous era marked by a diverse series of movements aimed at the religious reform of church and society. The result of this upheaval was the establishment of a number of alternative Christian churches, each of which codified its beliefs and practices in distinctive "confessions" of faith. In short, the Reformation shattered the unity of western Christendom in the Catholic Church led to the establishment of competing and mutually exclusive confessional forms of Christianity.

This course introduces the theology of these confessional traditions. We begin with an examination of crucial theological problems in the later middle ages, problems that set the stage for the intense controversies that led to the Reformation. Afterwards, we turn to the theology of the sixteenth century reformers, including Martin Luther, Ulrich Zwingli, the so-called "Radical Reformation," John Calvin, Thomas Cranmer and others. Finally, we examine theological developments in the Catholic "Counter Reformation," focusing on significant reforming theologians who remained within the Catholic Church, as well as the theological solutions adopted at the Council of Trent (1545-62).