

ST540 OL — Creeds and Catechisms: An Introduction to Theological Thinking (Lutheran Focus)

Fall 2017

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Description

An introduction to the content and structure of the Christian faith through a close study of the Ecumenical Creeds and Martin Luther's Small and Large Catechisms. Historical issues will be considered, but the central focus of the course will be the role of creed and catechism as summary, confession, and rule of the church's faith, guiding and forming preaching, teaching, and biblical interpretation.

Texts

1. Robert Kolb and Timothy J. Wengert (eds.). *The Book of Concord: The Confessions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church*. Fortress, 2000. ISBN 9780800627409.
2. Robert W. Jenson. *Canon and Creed*. Fortress, 2010. ISBN 9780664230548.
3. Christopher R. Seitz (ed.). *Nicene Christianity: The Future for a New Ecumenism*. Brazos, 2004. ISBN 9781587430213.
4. Carl R. Trueman. *The Creedal Imperative*. Crossway, 2012. ISBN 9781433521904.

Other assigned reading will be made available by the instructor.

Design

Reading is assigned for every week in the semester, with comments on the reading due weekly. Toward the end of each week, a lecture on the topic for the following week will be made available via Google Classroom. Three papers, two shorter and one longer, will be submitted at roughly equal intervals. The instructor will be in regular communication with students individually, and we may schedule occasional group discussions.

Grading

Reading comments	15%
Dialogue with instructor	15%
Paper 1	20%
Paper 2	20%
Final paper	30%