For many reasons, the name ‘John Calvin’ evokes a mixed reception. This unit is designed to help such reception to be an informed one. It provides an introduction to the theological and historical contexts of, and developments in, the reformer’s thought, and considers the legacies that his vision encourages.

Upon successful completion of this unit, it is expected that students will be able to:

1. Evaluate the political, philosophical, social, cultural and theological features that characterised Calvin’s world;
2. Articulate and evaluate Calvin’s own contribution to the movements of reform in sixteenth-century Europe, and the legacies that his ideas have encouraged globally ever since;
3. Identify and interpret distinctive themes in Calvin’s major writings, particularly The Institutes of the Christian Religion;
4. Engage critically and constructively with Calvin’s ideas, appraising their ongoing relevance for theology and church life in contemporary contexts.
5. Exhibit independent and critical responses to the theological themes and contextual realities identified in the unit.

Prerequisites: 45 points in Foundational Studies

Class Time: Three hours per week

Assessment:
- Two document studies (750 words each) (20%)
- One seminar paper (1,500 words) (30%)
- One essay (3,000 words) (50%)

Faculty: Jason Goroncy

Recommended Reading:
* = set texts recommended for purchase