John Calvin: Thought and Legacy

Offered: 2016: Semester 1
[Unit offered alternatively as CH2028W / CH3028W]

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. Identify some 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. **Level 3**: Exhibit some independent and critical responses to the issues identified in the unit.

**Prerequisites:**

- Level 2: 15 points in CH and in CT
- Level 3: For CH credit: 45 points in CH and 30 points in CT
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**Class Time:** Three hours per week

**Assessment:**

- **Level 2:**
  - Eight critical reflections on weekly readings (approximately 200 words each) (25%)
  - One 1,500-word seminar paper (25%)
  - One 2,000-word essay (50%)

- **Level 3:**
  - Eight critical reflections on weekly readings (approximately 200 words each) (25%)
  - One 1,500-word seminar paper (25%)
  - One 3,000-word essay (50%)

**Faculty:** Jason Goroncy

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Recommended Reading:

* = set texts recommended for purchase


