

Course title: Reformed Theology in Central and Eastern Europe	Credit number: 4
Type of lessons: lecture/seminar format	
Number of lectures/seminars: 1+1 (=2) hours per week	
Type of evaluation: academic paper	
Place in curriculum: 2 nd / spring term	
Course prerequisites: none	
Course description:	
<p>Course content:</p> <p>This course intends to provide the students with a basic, yet profound overview of Reformed Theology in Central and Eastern Europe focusing mainly on Hungarian Reformed Theology which appears not only in Hungary proper but also in Romania, Slovakia, Ukraine, Serbia and Croatia. It also demonstrates how Reformed Theology appeared and developed amongst other nations mentioned above as well as in Poland and the Baltic states. Therefore, Hungarian Reformed theology is placed into a larger historical and geographical context as well as into a political and social one. This introductory course starts with the Reformation and arrives at modern theologies and issues of the post-communist region.</p> <p>Learning objectives:</p> <p>Students are required to gain a good and solid knowledge of the theology and history of Reformed faith and should be able to relate the material learned to the Western European, Asian and African respective contexts.</p>	
<p>Required and optional reading (The 3-5 most important required and optional pieces):</p>	
<p>Required reading:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Maag, K. (ed.), <i>The Reformation in Eastern and Central Europe</i> (Aldershot, Ashgate, 1997). 2. Müller, R. A., "Protestant Confessionalisation in The Towns of Royal Prussia and the Practice of Religious Toleration in Poland-Lithuania" in O. Grell and R. Scriber, (eds) <i>Tolerance and Intolerance in European Reformation</i> (Cambridge: Cambridge, University Press, 1996), 231-249. 3. Balogh, F., <i>History of the Reformed Church of Hungary</i> ([S.l.]: [S.n.], 1906). 4. Gonda, L., <i>The Service of Evangelism, the Evangelism of Service. The Impact of John R. Mott, Hendrik Kraemer, Johannes C. Hoekendijk, Willem A. Visser 't Hooft on the Development of the Understanding of Mission in the Reformed Church in Hungary, 1910-1968</i>, (Zoetermeer, Boekencentrum, 2008). 5. Füstí-Molnár, Sz., <i>Ecclesia sine macula et ruga: donatist factors among the ecclesiological challenges for the Reformed Church of Hungary especially after 1980/90: academisch proefschrift ... aan de Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam; [publ. by the Sárospatak Reformed Theological Academy]. – (Sárospatak: Sárospatak Reformed Theol. Acad., 2008).</i> <p>Optional reading:</p> <p>Murdock, G., <i>Calvinism on the Frontier 1600-1660</i>, (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 2000).</p>	

Murdock G., *Beyond Calvin. The Intellectual, Political and Cultural World of Europe's Reformed Churches* (London, Palgrave, 2004).

Daugirdas, K., *The Origins of the Reformed Church in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania and its Struggle for Theological Identity*, in: Ábrahám Kovács (ed.), *Calvinism on the Peripheries: Religion and Civil Society in Europe*, (Budapest, L'Harmattan, 2009), 93-110.

Prestwich, M. (ed.) *International Calvinism 1541- 1715* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1985).

Bauhofer, G., *History of the Protestant Church in Hungary. From the beginning of Reformation to 1850* CRAIG, John (transl.) (London: James Nisbet, 1854).

Ewans R. and Weston G. (eds.), *Crown, church and estates: Central European politics in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries* (Basingstoke: Macmillan in association with the School of Slavonic and East European Studies, 1991).

Kool, A-M., *God Moves in a mysterious way* (Boekencentrum: Zoetermeer, 1993).

Course syllabus:

- **Week 1.** Reformation in Central Europe. Its history and theological trends I.
 - Ethnicity and religion
 - Politics and religion
 - Calvinist bishops? A peculiar development
 - Doctrinal orientations. Christology
- **Week 2.** Reformation in Central Europe. Its history and theological trends II.
 - Covenant people. Jews and Hungarians
 - Eschatology. Turks as Anti-Christ, Anti-Popism
 - National characters of Reformed Faith
 - Anti-trinitarianism
 - Tolerance. An model of religious peace
- **Week 3.** Reformation in Hungarian Kingdom
 - Transylvanian Reformation (today Romania)
 - Upper Hungary (today Slovakia)
 - Sub-Carpathian Hungary (today Ukraine)
 - Mission to the Orthodoxy. Encounter with Eastern Christianity
- **Week 4.** Reformation in Bohemia and Poland
 - Early Reformation movement
 - Spread of Protestant faith
 - Counter Reformation
- **Week 5.** Reformation in the Baltic States
 - Ethnicity and Religion
 - Theological trends
- **Week 6.** Counter Reformation in Central and Eastern Europe. Hungarian Kingdom, Polish Kingdom, Germany, Baltic States
 - Standing for the true faith and Reformed identity
 - Persecution and a struggle for survival
 - Ministers as slaves of Roman Catholic powers on galleys
- **Week 7.** Puritanism in Central Europe I. The Hungarian Kingdom
 - Spiritual revival
 - Hebraic Patriotism and Apocalyptic Belief
 - Mission: Orthodoxy and Islam
- **Week 8.** Enlightenment and Calvinist Faith I. and the longest Counter Reformation of Europe
 - History, places and special issues

- The “Magyar” religion. Calvinism as an opposing worldview to Catholicism
- **Week 9.** Enlightenment, Liberalism and Calvinist Faith II.
 - Theology and its special features
 - Transplanting Western European Reformed faith.
- **Week 10.** Before Higher Criticism and Mediatorial Theology
 - German Pietist Impact (Zinzendorf)
 - Scottish Evangelical Impact
- **Week 11.** Liberal Theology and its response: Neo Orthodoxy of Reformed faith
 - Declaration of faith in Debrecen (1875)
- **Week 12.** Development of Home Mission and Foreign Mission of the Reformed Church of Hungary
- **Week 13.** Communism and Christianity. A Persecuted or a Collaborating Church?

Course instructor in charge: Dr. habil. Ábrahám Kovács, university associate professor

Additional course instructor(s): –