

History and Theology of the Lutheran Confessions

Mrs. Christa Petzold (MA-Theology)
2025-2026

[DATES ARE TENTATIVE – OFFICIAL SCHEDULE COMING IN AUGUST]

Textbook: *Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions: A Reader's Edition of the Book of Concord*, Concordia Publishing House, 2007.

https://www.amazon.com/Concordia-Lutheran-Confessions-Readers-Concord/dp/0758613431/ref=sr_1_1?dchil_d=1&keywords=reader%27s+edition+book+of+concord&qid=1619106779&sr=8-1

Schedule:

Class Meets Monday Afternoons for 1 - 1.5 hours, 2:00-3:30pm Central Time on Zoom.
Handouts and homework assignments will be moderated through Google Classroom.

Fall Semester		Spring Semester	
Date	Topic	Date	Topic
9/8	Historical Overview	1/19	Treatise on the Power & Primacy of the Pope
9/15	Scripture vs. Tradition	1/26	Luther's Small Catechism
9/22	History of the Creeds	2/2	Luther's Large Catechism
9/29	Augsburg Confession & Apology – 4-5 articles per week	2/9	Historical Overview – 1540-1580
10/6		2/16	
10/13		2/23	
10/20		3/2	
10/27		3/9	
11/3	Writing Assignment Due 11/12	3/16	NO CLASS 3/30 - HOLY WEEK
11/10	Purgatory & Indulgences	3/23	
11/17	Smalcald Articles	3/30	
11/24	NO CLASS - Thanksgiving	4/6	Formula of Concord
12/1	Review for Test	4/13	Review for Test
12/8	Test #1 Due - No Class	4/20	Test #2 Due - No Class

Assessment	% of Final Grade
Weekly Reading Quizzes (5 simple questions on reading assignment, 22 @ 10pts ea.)	24%
Participation in Discussion (22 weeks @ 5pts ea.)	12%
Tests (2 @ 150 pts. ea.)	32%
Writing Projects (1 @ 100 pts., 1 @ 200 pts.) (The first one will be a response paper on the Augsburg Confession, the second will be a choice of either 3-5 page paper or interviewing a pastor/called church worker)	32%

Notes:

- This class will have roughly 20-40 pages of reading per week. Some weeks might be more or less, but I aim for about 30.
- We will read the entire Book of Concord, as well as some historical material included in the *Reader's Edition*, and the occasional additional article that I will provide to supplement the reading.
- While the class is open to any high school students, I expect the difficulty level of the readings, discussion, and assignments will be around the 11th-12th grade level. I will not discourage younger students from signing up, but this is the difficulty level of the reading and topics.
- Through the lens of the Book of Concord, we will cover a good deal of systematic theology. Topics covered will include:
 - o The source of authority for doctrine – Scripture vs. Tradition (including the process of canonization and the trustworthiness of the Bible)
 - o Original Sin, Justification, Repentance, Sanctification
 - o The Church and the Sacraments
 - o Controversies with Rome, including monastic vows, transubstantiation, penance, purgatory, indulgences, etc.
 - o Controversies within Lutheranism after Luther's death and the setting for the Formula of Concord
 - o Free Will, the three uses of the Law, Election
 - o Controversies between Lutherans and Calvinists, including differing views on the Lord's Supper and baptism
 - o Any questions students have!

Two Ways to Take the Class

Option #1 – Full Class (High School Students)

\$475

- This option is a traditional class model. Students will attend zoom classes, complete assignments, and will receive grading and feedback as well as a final grade and evaluation for the class.
- Each week class will begin with a discussion of the reading assignment followed by a lecture delivering content that will prepare students for the upcoming week's reading.
- My desire is to foster the kind of environment where students can ask not only questions about the material, but any questions regarding their faith and real-life application that may come up.

Option #2 – Video Lectures & Readings Only

\$175

- Please ask for details about this option if it interests you. Availability may vary.

Register Here →

