

THE CONTENT OF THIS DESCRIPTION IS NOT A LEARNING CONTRACT AND THE INSTRUCTOR IS NOT BOUND TO IT. IT IS OFFERED IN GOOD FAITH AND INTENDED AS A HELPFUL GUIDE TO THE STUDENT.

TITLE: Theology of Calvin

TERM: Fall 2026-2027

PROFESSOR: Kenneth Woo

CREDIT HOURS: 3

REGISTRATION: LIMITED TO: 10
AUDITORS: _____

UNLIMITED _____
NO AUDITORS x

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

An introduction to John Calvin's thought in the context of his career as a reformer, with attention to the intellectual background and socio-political realities that shaped his theology. The course will highlight Calvin's lived experience as a religious refugee whose theology was especially sensitive to the needs of fellow exiles. **This course fulfills the Historical Context Elective (HCE) requirement for M.Div. Students.**

CLASS OBJECTIVES:

1. Read a diverse selection of Calvin's writings.
2. Gain an overarching sense of Calvin's thought and his views on a variety of topics.
3. Place Calvin's writings in their particular historical context and relation to other reformers, with attention to the development of Calvin's theological positions over time.
4. Become more responsible in our use of historical sources in contemporary theology.
5. Read supplemental secondary readings to gain a sense of current Calvin scholarship.
6. Arrive at basic conclusions about Calvin's relationship to the broader Reformed tradition.

This course will meet the following Student Learning Outcomes: M.Div. SLO 2, 4; MTS SLO 1, 2

PREREQUISITES: CH110 and CH120, or permission of instructor

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS/READING:

- Calvin, John. *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, ed. J. T. McNeill, trans. by F. L. Battles, 2 vols. (Westminster John Knox Press, 2011). ISBN: 978-0664239114, \$70.66
- Woo, Kenneth J. *John Calvin, Refugee Theologian: Introducing a Reformer in Exile* (Baker Academic, 2025). ISBN: 978-1540963055, \$19.99
- Additional readings will be posted online (Canvas).

ASSIGNMENTS & GRADING: Weekly seminar discussion, occasional presentations, book review, final paper.

ATTENDANCE: Required