Course description: Lectures and discussion of the principal figures, trends and issues in religious thought in the Western world from the early Reformation period into the contemporary era.

Course outline:

I. Background, Introduction: The Breakdown of the Scholastic Synthesis.

II. The Early Reformation: The Thought of Martin Luther.

III. Integrating Reformation Affirmations: The Institutes of John Calvin.

IV. A Critique of Orthodoxy: Kant's Religion within Reason's Limits.

V. A Quest for the Locus of Religion: Schleiermacher's Theology of Feeling

VI. The Existentialist Intrusion: The Thought of Soren Kierkegaard.

VII. Contemporary Trends: Neo-orthodoxy, Naturalism, Process Phenomenology.

Class Assignment:

1. Attendance at all lectures and class meetings.

2. Readings, as assigned, in Luther, Calvin, Kant, Schleiermacher, Kierkegaard.

3. Examinations (one hour, in class) following the completion of Sections III and IV in the course outline.

4. A short paper (8 to 12 pages, due May 24) in lieu of the final exam, on the following topic: "Is Existentialism a return to the Reformation? An escape from Kant's critical work? A new stance?" Discuss one or more of these comparative alternatives.

*In place of "Existentialism," one could substitute the term "Karl Barth" and/or "Neo-orthodoxy," or other contemporary positions as approved by your instructor.

Book Reports:

1) Luther - Erik Erikson. Young man, luther. - Overbeck

   see review in Journal for Scientific Study of Religion


2) Kant - Kromer, Kant's Weltanschauung.

3) Zwingli -

4) Richard Hooker -