

*“The mission of Tyndale Seminary is to provide Christ-centred graduate theological education for leaders in the church and society whose lives are marked by intellectual maturity, spiritual vigour and moral integrity, and whose witness will faithfully engage culture with the Gospel.”*

<b>Course</b>	<b>LUTHER AS A SPIRITUAL THEOLOGIAN</b> INTD 0857 1P
<b>Date, Time, and Delivery Format</b>	JANUARY 12-13; 26-27; FEBRUARY 9-10 FRIDAYS: 6:30 PM TO 9:20 PM SATURDAYS: 9 AM TO 12 NOON; 1 PM TILL 4 PM. IN-PERSON ONLY, LECTURE AND SEMINAR FORMAT
<b>Instructor</b>	<b>DENNIS NGIEN, PhD</b> Telephone/voice mail: (416) 226-6620 Ext. 2763 Email: <a href="mailto:dngien@tyndale.ca">dngien@tyndale.ca</a>
<b>Class Information</b>	The classes will be in person ONLY.  Office Hours: appointment made in advance by email.
<b>Course Material</b>	Access course material at <a href="https://classes.tyndale.ca">classes.tyndale.ca</a> or other services at <a href="#">Tyndale One</a> . Course emails will be sent to your @MyTyndale.ca e-mail account only.

## I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Offers a cross-disciplinary, advanced examination of the spiritual theology of one major theologian or movement. Topics will vary from year to year. *Exclusion: INTD 0950.*

This course engages Luther as a spiritual adviser. The emphasis is on the spiritual and pastoral side of Luther, analysed from the perspectives of his devotional and catechetical writings. Free from polemic that dominates his theological works, these writings are down-to-earth expressions of evangelical piety. Luther’s reflections on how to meditate on the cross aright, how to prepare to die, how to meditate on evils and blessings, how to receive the sacrament aright, the theology behind the practice of prayer, a method of offering spiritual advices to those who suffer, the role of a pastor in times of crises in a community, the structure and shape of Christian life, will form the substances of our discussion. This course also aims to look at the

theological underpinnings of Luther's practical advice, and then evaluate the appropriateness of his spiritual writings for today.

*Prerequisites: THEO 0531*

## II. LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

1. Examine and reflect upon Luther's devotional and catechetical writings which are uniquely devoid of the polemics that frequent his other works.
2. Recognize the practical side of the reformer and the irenic style with which he offers his spiritual insights to people of high and low estate.
3. Identify the theological issues and themes behind Luther's practical advice.
4. Examine and reflect theologically on practical matters in daily life in an intentional and focused manner.

## III. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

### A. REQUIRED READING

Martin Luther. *Devotional Writings I*, vols., 42 & 43. American editions, 55 vols: ed. J. Pelikan and H.T. Lehman; St. Louis: Concordia; Philadelphia: Fortress, 1955-67. [Hereafter cited as LW].

Ngien, Dennis. *Luther as a Spiritual Adviser: The Interface of Theology and Piety*. Milton Keynes: Paternoster, 2007. [Hereafter cited as Ngien] (This is a companion volume to Luther's devotional writings in vols., 42 and 43.)

Pless, John. *Praying Martin Luther's Small Catechism. The Pattern of Sound Words*. St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 2016.

### B. SUPPLEMENTARY / RECOMMENDED READING AND TOOLS

Tyndale recommends [www.stepbible.org](http://www.stepbible.org) – a free and reputable online resource developed by Tyndale House (Cambridge, England) – for word searches of original-language texts, as well as for topical searches, interlinear texts, dictionaries, etc. Refer to the library for other [online resources for Biblical Studies](#).

## C. GUIDELINES FOR INTERACTIONS

Tyndale University prides itself in being a trans-denominational community. We anticipate our students to have varied viewpoints which will enrich the discussions in our learning community. Therefore, we ask our students to be charitable and respectful in their interactions with each other, and to remain focused on the topic of discussion, out of respect to others who have committed to being a part of this learning community. Please refer to “Guidelines for Interactions” on your course resource page at [classes.tyndale.ca](https://classes.tyndale.ca).

## D. ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

### 1. Attendance and participation: Worth 10%

*Student participation will be graded on a scale of 1 to 4: 1 (or D): present, not disruptive; responds when called on but does not offer much; infrequent involvement; 2 (or C): adequate preparation, but no evidence of interpretation of analysis; offers straightforward information; contributes moderately when called upon; 3 (or B): good preparation, offers interpretation and analysis, contributes well to discussion in on-going fashion; 4 (or A): excellent preparation, offers analysis, synthesis and evaluation of material; contributes significantly to ongoing discussion.*

### 2. Presentation: Worth 20%

Each student will take turn to present his/her topic and lead the discussions. The presenter must do the assigned readings, provide a synopsis of them, and raise no more than 2 questions for discussion. He/she must prepare enough copies for the class.

### 3. Paper: Due Feb. 24, 2024. Worth 25%

Select one of the following readings from [\*Luther: Letters of Spiritual Counsel\*](#), edited and translated by Theodore G. Tappert (London: SCM Press Ltd., 1955). There are two copies of this volume, and they are put on reserve in Tyndale library. In 5 to 7 pages and double space, the paper should identify the theological themes behind the advice he offers on the topic of your interest and shows how Luther applies his theological insights on the practical issues.

Topics include:

- a. Comfort for the Sick and Dying (pp. 26-52)
- b. Consolation for the Bereaved (pp. 53-81)
- c. Cheer for the Anxious and Despondent (pp. 82-108)
- d. Instructions to the Perplexed and Doubting (pp. 109-138)

- e. Admonitions to Steadfastness and Courage (pp. 139-170)
- f. Intercessions for Those in Trouble (pp. 171-189)
- g. Encouragement to the Persecuted and Imprisoned (pp. 190-227)
- h. Advice in time of Epidemic and Famine (pp. 228-257)
- i. Counsel in Questions of Marriage and Sex (pp. 258-294)
- j. Suggestions for Problems facing Clergymen (pp. 295-317)
- k. Exhortations concerning Rulers and State (pp. 318-349)

**4. Major Paper: Due March 31, 2024. Worth 45 %**

Write a major paper (15-18 pages) on the spirituality of Luther in his Catechisms – *Small and Large Catechism*. In addition to Luther’s works (volumes 42 and 43) and Ngien’s *Luther as a Spiritual Adviser*, students must read John Pless’s *Praying Martin Luther’s Small Catechism*, the basis for this exercise. The paper should (a) summarize in 8 pages Pless’s exposition of Luther’s catechisms; (b) then demonstrate in 8 pages how Luther’s catechisms help shape spirituality. Students are required to utilize Luther’s *Large Catechism* and *five more journal articles* on the topic. A paper should comprise at least 35 footnotes.

**E. EQUITY OF ACCESS**

Students with permanent or temporary disabilities who need academic accommodations must contact the [Accessibility Services](#) at the [Centre for Academic Excellence](#) to register and discuss their specific needs. *New students* must self-identify and register with the Accessibility Office at the beginning of the semester or as early as possible to access appropriate services. *Current students* must renew their plans as early as possible to have active accommodations in place.

**F. SUMMARY OF ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING**

Evaluation is based upon the completion of the following assignments:

Attendance & Participation	10 %
Presentation: oral and written, 10% each	20 %
Paper	25%
Major Paper	45 %
Total Grade	100 %

**G. GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR THE SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN WORK**

Your work should demonstrate the following characteristics:

For proper citation style, consult the [tip sheet, “Documenting Chicago Style”](#) (Tyndale e-resource) or the full edition of the [Chicago Manual of Style Online](#), especially ch. 14. For citing scripture texts, refer to sections 10.44 to 10.48 and 14.238 to 14.241 from the Chicago Manual of Style or reference the [tip sheet, “Citing Sources in Theology”](#).

### **Academic Integrity**

Integrity in academic work is required of all our students. Academic dishonesty is any breach of this integrity, and includes such practices as cheating (the use of unauthorized material on tests and examinations), submitting the same work for different classes without permission of the instructors; using false information (including false references to secondary sources) in an assignment; improper or unacknowledged collaboration with other students, and plagiarism (including improper use of artificial intelligence programs). Tyndale University takes seriously its responsibility to uphold academic integrity, and to penalize academic dishonesty. Please refer to the [Academic Integrity website](#) for further details.

Students are encouraged to consult [Writing Services](#). Citation and other [tip sheets](#).

Students should also consult the current [Academic Calendar](#) for academic polices on Academic Honesty, Gender Inclusive Language in Written Assignments, Late Papers and Extensions, Return of Assignments, and Grading System.

### **Research Ethics**

All course-based assignments involving human participants requires ethical review and may require approval by the [Tyndale Research Ethics Board \(REB\)](#). Check with the Seminary Dean’s Office ([aa@tyndale.ca](mailto:aa@tyndale.ca)) before proceeding.

## **I. COURSE EVALUATION**

Tyndale Seminary values quality in the courses it offers its students. End-of-course evaluations provide valuable student feedback and are one of the ways that Tyndale Seminary works towards maintaining and improving the quality of courses and the student’s learning experience. Student involvement in this process is critical to enhance the general quality of teaching and learning.

Before the end of the course, students will receive a MyTyndale email with a link to the online course evaluation. The link can also be found in the left column on the course page. The evaluation period is 2 weeks; after the evaluation period has ended, it cannot be reopened.

Course Evaluation results will not be disclosed to the instructor before final grades in the course have been submitted and processed. Student names will be kept confidential and the instructor will only see the aggregated results of the class.

#### IV. COURSE SCHEDULE, CONTENT AND REQUIRED READINGS

##### Jan. 12-13 Introduction

###### Theological Themes in Luther:

*Theologia Crucis* vs. *Theologia Gloriam*; law and gospel; the doctrine of the Word of God; hidden God and revealed God; abstract faith vs. incarnate faith; Christ as sacrament and example; two kinds of righteousness.

Readings:

- (a) Bernhard Lohse, *Martin Luther's Theology. Its Historical and Systematic Development*, edited and translated by Roy A. Harrisville (Minneapolis: Fortress, 1999).
- (b) Paul Althaus, [\*The Theology of Martin Luther\*](#), translated by Robert C. Schultz (Philadelphia: Fortress, 1966).
- (c) Sterna, Kirsi. *Lutheran Theology. A Grammar of Faith*. London: T & T Clark, 2021.
- (d) Malysz, Piotr J. and Derek R. Nelson, eds. *Luther Refracted. The Reformer's Ecumenical Legacy*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2015.

Note: students should acquaint themselves with readings related to Luther's major theological themes prior to the first class. The afore-mentioned books are good recourses to begin with. No summary report is required for this.

###### Spiritual Formation of a Theologian

Readings:

- (i) Luther, ["Preface to the Wittenberg Edition of German Writings \(1539\)"](#), in *Martin Luther's Basic Theological Writings*, ed., Timothy Lull. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. (Minneapolis: Fortress, 2005), pp. 70-74. It is also in the American Editions, LW 34, 283-88;
- (ii) Ngien, *introduction*, xvii-xxi. See also Bayer, *Martin Luther's Theology*, chapter 2.

##### Jan. 26 Seminar 1: Meditation on the Cross of Christ

Readings:

- (i) LW 42, 7-14; (ii) Ngien, pp. 1-28.

##### Seminar 2: Preparing to Die

Readings: (i) LW 42, 95-116; (ii) Ngien, pp. 29-47.

##### Jan. 27 Seminar 3: A Worthy Reception of the Lord's Supper

Readings: (i) LW 42, 167-178; (ii) Ngien, pp. 81-104.

##### Seminar 4: Meditations on Evils and Blessings

Readings: (i) LW 42, 117-166; (ii) Ngien, pp. 48-80.

**Feb. 09 Seminar 5: A Method of Comfort in Luther's Letters**

Readings: (i) LW 43, 57-80; 97-166; 243-250; (ii) Ngien, pp. 131-162.

**Seminar 6: Theology and the Practice of Prayer**

Readings: (i) LW 42, 15-82; LW 43, 3-46; Ngien, pp. 105-130.

**Feb. 10 Seminar 7: The Shape of Christian Life in Luther's Catechisms**

Readings: (a) Luther, "[The Small Catechism](#)," in *The Book of Concord: The Confessions of the Evangelical Church*. Pp. 337-356. Translated by Theodore Tappert. Minneapolis: Fortress, 1959. For class interactions, the presenter will provide a summary of this document. For an elaborated study, consult Luther's "[The Large Catechism](#)," in *The Book of Concord*, pp. 357-462; (b) LW 43, 187-212.

For online versions of these documents, see [Tyndale's 16<sup>th</sup> Century Reformation Reading Room](#).

## V. SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

([Tyndale Library](#) supports this course with [e-journals](#), [e-books](#), and the [mail delivery of books](#) and circulating materials. See the [Library FAQ page](#).)

Althaus, Paul. [The Theology of Martin Luther](#). Translated by Robert C. Schultz. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1966.

Arand, Charles P. *That I May Be His Own: An Overview of Luther's Catechisms*. St. Louis: Concordia Academic, 2000.

Bayer, Oswald. [Martin Luther's Theology. A Contemporary Interpretation](#). Translated by Thomas H. Trapp. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 2007.

Kolb, Robert and Charles P. Arand. *The Genius of Luther's Theology*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2008.

Kolb, Robert. [Martin Luther. Confessor of the Faith](#). Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2008.

Leroux, Neil R. *Martin Luther as Comforter. Writings on Death*. Leiden: Brill, 2007.

Lohse, Bernhard. [Martin Luther's Theology. Its Historical and Systematic Development](#). Edited and translated by Roy A. Harrisville. Minneapolis: Fortress, 1999.

Malysz, Piotr J. and Derek R. Nelson, eds. *Luther Refracted. The Reformer's Ecumenical Legacy*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2015.

McGrath, Alister E. [Luther's Theology of the Cross. Martin Luther's Theological Breakthrough](#). Oxford: Blackwell, 1985.

McKim, Donald K., ed. [The Cambridge Companion to Martin Luther](#). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003. (Also available [here](#)).

- Nebe, August. *Luther as Spiritual Adviser*. Translated by C. A. Hay and C. E. Hay. Philadelphia: Lutheran Publication Society, 1894.
- Ngien, Dennis. *The Suffering of God according to Martin Luther's Theologia Crucis*. Bern: Peter Lang, 1995; reprinted with Regent College Publishing, 2005.
- Ngien, Dennis. *Fruit for the Soul: Luther on the Lament Psalms*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2015.
- Ngien, Dennis. *Grace and Law in Galatians: Justification in Luther and Calvin*. Oregon: Cascade Books, 2023.
- Ngien, Dennis. *Paragon of Excellence: Luther's Sermons on I Peter*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2023.
- Watson, Philip. *Let God Be God: An Interpretation of the Theology of Martin Luther*. Philadelphia: Muhlenberg, 1948.
- Williams, Rowan. *Christian Spirituality. A Theological History from the New Testament to Luther and St. John of the Cross*. Atlanta: John Knox, 1979.
- Zachman, Randall C. [\*The Assurance of Faith: Conscience in the Theology of Martin Luther and John Calvin\*](#). Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress, 1993.