

HI242-30 Reformation, Politics & Rebellion in Sixteenth-Century Germany

24/25

Department

History

Level

Undergraduate Level 2

Module leader

Beat Kümin

Credit value

30

Module duration

20 weeks

Assessment

100% coursework

Study location

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

Description

Introductory description

The Reformation triggered the single most significant set of transformations in early modern Europe. Religion and confessional allegiance shaped the social, economic and political culture of the Continent for centuries to come. The protagonist of the German Reformation, Martin Luther, is universally recognised as one of the outstanding historical figures of all times.

'Reformation, Politics & Rebellion in Sixteenth-Century Germany' allows in-depth engagement with one of the prominent issues raised in the early modern core module students take in Year 1. It prepares them for more advanced early modern options in the third year and assumes no knowledge of other languages (although German materials are available).

At the close of the Middle Ages, the Holy Roman Empire experienced an age of unrest. Luther's new doctrines provided the catalyst for fundamental changes. This module focuses on the socio-cultural impact of the Reformation. Particular attention is given to dissemination processes (role of print; visual / ritual propaganda; forging Protestant Churches and identities), the effect on different social groups (Urban / Rural Reformation; Peasants' War; gender relations) and confessional

tensions (Radical Reformation; Catholics; Jews). The course concludes with an assessment of the long-term legacies of the German Reformation.

[Module web page](#)

Module aims

This module highlights the key role of religion in pre-industrial society. It provides an in-depth survey of the country which proved seminal for the development of the European Reformation. Students will examine the roots as well as the dramatic socio-cultural effects of changes in theology and ecclesiastical organization. The Reformation divided sixteenth-century communities and affected each social / gender group in particular ways. The module draws on extensive primary and secondary materials to illustrate how the people of Germany experienced and in turn shaped these fundamental transformations.

Outline syllabus

This is an indicative module outline only to give an indication of the sort of topics that may be covered. Actual sessions held may differ.

Autumn Term

Week 1: [No classes for Year 2 options]

Week 2: Introduction and Organization

Part I: GERMANY ON THE EVE OF THE REFORMATION

Week 3: Politics and Tensions

Week 4: Living in Late Medieval Germany

Week 5: Religious Beliefs and Practices

[Reading Week]

Week 7: Debate - An Age of Reform or Decline?

Part II: REFORMATION CULTURE

Week 8: Luther - Man and Myth

Week 9: Luther's Message

Week 10: Communication and Media

Spring Term

Week 11: The Reformed

Week 12: Reformation Writing - Issues and Resources

Part III: SOCIAL IMPACT

Week 13: The Peasants' War

Week 14: The Kingdom of Münster

Week 15: Extended essay surgery

[Reading Week]

Week 17: Deciding on Faith in Sixteenth-Century Cities

Week 18: Debate - Was the Reformation 'Good for Women'?

Week 19: Institutionalizing the Reformation

Part IV: LEGACIES

Week 20: Confessional Identities

Summer Term

Week 21: Charles V - a failure?

Week 22: Conclusion

Week 23 or 24: Revision session

Learning outcomes

By the end of the module, students should be able to:

- Analyse and evaluate the contributions made by existing scholarship, including consideration of different historical sub-disciplines and historiographical debate.
- Demonstrate a detailed knowledge of the importance of religion in early modern society and the socio-cultural impact of confessional change.
- Communicate ideas and findings, adapting to a range of situations, audiences and degrees of complexity.
- Generate ideas through the analysis of a broad range of primary source material, including visual sources and electronic materials, as well as secondary literature.
- Act with limited supervision and direction within defined guidelines, accepting responsibility for targeted research, independent writing and achieving deadlines.

Indicative reading list

Primary sources

- 'German History in Documents and Images' [online source collection]
- Luther's Works (55 vols, 1955-)
- T. Scott & R. Scribner eds, *The Peasants' War: A History in Documents* (1991)

Secondary works

- D. Bagchi, 'Germany', in: A. Ryrie (ed.), *Palgrave Advances in the European Reformations* (2005)
- Th. Brady, *German Histories in the Age of Reformations, 1400-1650* (2009)
- N. Burnett and E. Campi (eds), *A Companion to the Swiss Reformation* (2016)
- E. Cameron, *The European Reformation* (1991) [recommended for the general European context]
- J. Dewald (ed.), *Europe 1450-1789: Encyclopaedia of the Early Modern World* (2004)
- H. J. Cohn, 'The Long Reformation: Lutheran', in: B. Kümin (ed.), *The European World* (3rd edn, 2018) [a concise introduction]
- S. Dixon (ed.), *The German Reformation: Essential Readings* (1999)
- Scott Dixon, *The Reformation in Germany* (2002) [strongly recommended textbook purchase]
- ", *Protestants: A History from Wittenberg to Philadelphia 1517-1740* (2009)
- ", *Contesting the Reformation* (Oxford, 2012) [a helpful survey of scholarly debates on the Reformation]

- S. Ehrenpreis; U. Lotz-Heumann, Reformation und konfessionelles Zeitalter (2002)
- M. Greengrass, The Longman Companion to the European Reformation (1998)
- H. J. Hillerbrand (ed.), The Oxford Encyclopaedia of the Reformation, 4 vols (1996)
- M. Hughes, Early Modern Germany, 1477-1806 (1992)
- Lindberg, The European Reformations (1996)
- " , Reformation Theologians (2002)
- R. D. Linder, The Reformation Era (2007)
- P. Matheson (ed.), Reformation Christianity (2007)
- New Cambridge Modern History, vol. XIV, Atlas, 118-26
- S. Ozment, A Mighty Fortress: A New History of the German People (2005)
- Pettegree (ed.), The Early Reformation in Europe (1992)
- " (ed.), The Reformation World (2000)
- " , Reformation and the Culture of Persuasion (2005)
- R. Po-Chia Hsia (ed.), The German People and the Reformation (1988)
- " , A Companion to the Reformation World(2003)
- U. Rublack, Reformation Europe (2005)
- " (ed.), The Oxford Handbook of Protestant Reformations (Oxford, 2016)
- L. Scales and J. Whaley (eds), 'Rewriting the History of the Holy Roman Empire' [Special Issue], German History 36 (3/2018), 331-414 (includes an editorial introduction: 331-48)
- T. Scott, The Early Reformation in Germany: Between Secular Impact and Radical Vision (2013)
- R. W. Scribner, The German Reformation (1986) [2nd edn, ed. C. Scott Dixon, 2000]
- " et al. (eds), The Reformation in National Context (1994)
- J. Whaley, Germany and the Holy Roman Empire, vol. I: Maximilian I to the Peace of Westphalia 1493-1648 (2012)

[View reading list on Talis Aspire](#)

Subject specific skills

See learning outcomes.

Transferable skills

See learning outcomes.

Study

Study time

Type	Required
Lectures	20 sessions of 1 hour (7%)
Seminars	20 sessions of 1 hour (7%)
Total	300 hours

Type	Required
Tutorials	2 sessions of 1 hour (1%)
Other activity	2 hours (1%)
Private study	256 hours (85%)
Total	300 hours

Private study description

History modules require students to undertake extensive independent research and reading to prepare for seminars and assessments. As a rough guide, students will be expected to read and prepare to comment on three substantial texts (articles or book chapters) for each seminar taking approximately 3 hours. Each assessment requires independent research, reading around 6-10 texts and writing and presenting the outcomes of this preparation in an essay, review, presentation or other related task.

Other activity description

Revision seminar

Costs

No further costs have been identified for this module.

Assessment

You do not need to pass all assessment components to pass the module.

Students can register for this module without taking any assessment.

Assessment group A2

	Weighting	Study time
Seminar contribution	10%	
Reflective essay of max. 1000 words		
1500 word essay	10%	
3000-word essay	40%	
7 day take-home essay with citations and a bibliography	40%	

Feedback on assessment

written feedback on essay and exam cover sheets; student/tutor dialogues in one-to-one tutorials

Availability

Courses

This module is Core optional for:

- Year 2 of UENA-VQ32 Undergraduate English and History
- Year 2 of UHIA-V1V5 Undergraduate History and Philosophy

This module is Optional for:

- Year 2 of UENA-VQ32 Undergraduate English and History
- Year 2 of UENA-VQ34 Undergraduate English and History (with a term in Venice)
- UHIA-V100 Undergraduate History
 - Year 2 of V100 History
 - Year 2 of V100 History
- Year 2 of UHIA-V102 Undergraduate History (Renaissance and Modern History Stream)
- Year 2 of UHIA-V1V5 Undergraduate History and Philosophy
- UHIA-VM11 Undergraduate History and Politics
 - Year 2 of VM11 History and Politics
 - Year 2 of VM11 History and Politics
 - Year 2 of VM11 History and Politics
- Year 2 of UHIA-VM13 Undergraduate History and Politics (with a term in Venice)
- Year 2 of UHIA-VL13 Undergraduate History and Sociology
- Year 2 of UHIA-VL15 Undergraduate History and Sociology (with a term in Venice)

This module is Option list A for:

- UHIA-V100 Undergraduate History
 - Year 2 of V100 History
 - Year 2 of V100 History
- Year 2 of UHIA-V1V5 Undergraduate History and Philosophy
- Year 2 of UHIA-V1V7 Undergraduate History and Philosophy (with a term in Venice)
- UHIA-VM11 Undergraduate History and Politics
 - Year 2 of VM11 History and Politics
 - Year 2 of VM11 History and Politics
 - Year 2 of VM11 History and Politics
- Year 2 of UHIA-VM13 Undergraduate History and Politics (with a term in Venice)
- Year 2 of UHIA-VL13 Undergraduate History and Sociology
- Year 2 of UHIA-VL15 Undergraduate History and Sociology (with a term in Venice)

This module is Option list B for:

- UHIA-V100 Undergraduate History
 - Year 2 of V100 History
 - Year 2 of V100 History
- Year 2 of UHIA-V102 Undergraduate History (Renaissance and Modern History Stream)

- Year 3 of UITA-R3V2 Undergraduate History and Italian
- UHIA-VM11 Undergraduate History and Politics
 - Year 2 of VM11 History and Politics
 - Year 2 of VM11 History and Politics
 - Year 2 of VM11 History and Politics

This module is Option list C for:

- Year 2 of UHIA-VL13 Undergraduate History and Sociology

This module is Option list G for:

- USX2-Y202 Undergraduate Social Studies [2 + 2]
 - Year 3 of Y202 Social Studies [2 + 2]
 - Year 3 of Y202 Social Studies [2 + 2]
 - Year 3 of Y202 Social Studies [2 + 2]