

**CHRISTIANITY’S DANGEROUS IDEA – FORMATION OF THE WESTERN WORLD (READING COURSE)**

Course Supervisor: Dr. Gabor J Lanyi	Number of Lessons per Week: 2	Course Schedule: TBA	Prerequisites: Upper-Intermediate Level English Skills	
Instructor’s Name: Dr. Gabor J Lanyi				
Consulting Hours: TBA	6 credit	Course’s Semester:  2023/2024 Spring	Recomen ded Semeste r:	Evaluation: „Gyakorlati jegy”
Language: English	Type of Course: Seminar			Method of Evaluation: see requirements below

*Course Description:*

The study of Christianity’s past is essential for anyone who seeks to understand Christianity’s present situation in the World and wants comprehend the Western tradition of culture, education, government and society. This course designed to help this comprehension by showing how the Protestant Reformation laid crucial impact on the formation of Western political thought, way of life and society in general.

The course’s guideline is Alister McGrath’s highly readable and very original analysis, titled “Christianity’s Dangerous Idea”. One chapter of the textbook will be discussed at each meetings of the course. The copy of the textbook will be provided for participants.

*Requirements:* Regular reading of the assigned chapter for each meeting. Participating students will have to give a *presentation in class about their chosen chapter*, provide *handouts, lead discussion*, and submit a 6-8 pages long *seminar paper* at the end of the course OR *give two presentations in class with handouts and discussion lead* without submitting seminar paper.

*Schedule:*

1. “The Gathering Storm” (Church, politics and society in the high middle ages)
2. “The Accidental Revolutionary” (The role and impact of Martin Luther)
3. “Alternatives to Luther” (The Diversification of the Reformation: Zwingli, Bucer and Calvin)
4. “The Shift in Power” (Calvin and the Genevian Reformation)
5. “England” (The emergence of Anglicanism)
6. “War, Peace and Disinterest” (European Protestantism in crisis, 1560-1800)
7. “Protestantism in America”
8. “The Global Expansion of Protestantism”
9. “The Bible and Protestantism”
10. “Believing and Belonging” (Some Distinctive Protestant Beliefs)
11. “The Structures of Faith” (Organization, worship and preaching)
12. “Protestantism and the Shaping of Western Culture”
13. “Protestantism, the Arts, and the Natural Sciences”

*Textbook:*

MCCRATH, ALISTER: Christianity’s Dangerous Idea, New York, HarperOne, 2007.

*Recommended Literature:*

BETTENSON, Henry - Chris MAUNDER (eds.): Documents of the Christian Church, Oxford University Press, 2011.

GONZALEZ, Justo L.: The Story of Christianity, Vol. 1: The Early Church to the Dawn of the Reformation, New York, Harper One, 2010.

GONZALEZ, Justo L.: The Story of Christianity, Vol. 2: The Reformation to the Present Day, New York, Harper One, 2010.

HASTINGS, Adrian: A World History of Christianity, Grand Rapids, Eerdmans, 1999.

RAHNER, Hugo: Church and State in Early Christianity, San Francisco, Ignatius Press, 1992.

NOLL, Mark: Turning Points. Decisive Moments in the History of Christianity. Grand Rapids, Baker, 2012.