SYLLABUS FOR STMA 578
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST HISTORY AND THOUGHT
Instructor: Rev. Jon M. Luopa

Purpose of Course

This course will begin by introducing students to the development of Unitarian and Universalist theological ideas from the early patristic period of the Church, through the time of the European Renaissance, and especially as alternative understandings of Reform Christianity in Europe beginning in the 16th C. Unitarianism and Universalism had distinctively different developments in America beginning in the 17th C. We shall trace these roots over the more than 300 years preceding the merger of these two denominations in 1961.

Course Schedule

This course will meet on ten consecutive Thursday afternoons from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. beginning on January 8, 2008 and concluding on March 12, 2008.

January 8	Instructors' introduction to course, logistics and expectations. Introduction of participants. Early Christian and European Antecedents Italian Reformation and Polish Socinianism
January 15	Transylvania, Holland and English Reformation
January 22	American Unitarianism
January 29	American Unitarianism
February 5	American Unitarianism
February 12	American Universalism
February 19	American Universalism
February 26	American Universalism
March 5	Merger of the Unitarians and Universalists
March 12	Class Conversation on Themes from Paper

Course Requirements

Students will be expected to attend all class sessions and participate in class discussion. They will also be expected to do all of the required reading, and as much of the suggested reading as personal motivation dictates. Each student will write a twenty-page paper due no later than March 16. The instructor will distribute a set of reflection questions, probably four in total, to the class no later than February 12. Each student is to answer all (four) questions in this paper (not to exceed a total of 20 pages).

Required Reading

All of these required books can be purchased at cost through the instructor during first class.

For the January 8 and 15 sessions the text will be:

Charles A. Howe, FOR FAITH AND FREEDOM: A SHORT HISTORY OF UNITARIANISM IN EUROPE, Skinner House, Boston, 1997.

For the January 22 and 29 and February 5, 12, 19 and 26 sessions the text will be:

David Robinson, THE UNITARIANS AND THE UNIVERSALISTS, Greenwood Press, Connecticut, 1985.

This book is out of print and hard to find. Copies of this important text will become available through the instructor.

For the January 22 and 29 and February 5 session the text will be:

David B. Parke, editor, THE EPIC OF UNITARIANISM: ORIGINAL WRITINGS FROM THE HISTORY OF LIBERAL RELIGION, Skinner House, Boston, 1985.

For the February 12, 19 and 26 sessions the text will be:

Ernest Cassara, UNIVERSALISM IN AMERICA: A DOCUMENTARY HISTORY OF A LIBERAL FAITH, Beacon Press, Boston, 1971.

For the March 5 session the text will be:

Warren R. Ross, THE PREMISE AND THE PROMISE: THE STORY OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ASSOCIATION, Skinner House, Boston, 2001.

Suggested Reading

For European antecedents:

Roland Bainton, HUNTED HERETIC

Phillip Hewett, RACOVIA

George Huntston Williams, THE RADICAL REFORMATION

For Unitarianism:

Conrad Wright, A STREAM OF LIGHT: A SHORY HISTORY OF AMERICAN UNITARIANISM.

THE UNITARIAN CONTROVERSY: ESSAYS ON AMERICAN UNITARIAN HISTORY.

Philip Gura, AMERICAN TRANSCENDENTALISM

Charles Lyttle, FREEDOM MOVES WEST

Mason Olds, AMERICAN RELIGIOUS HUMANISM

For Universalism:

George Huntston Williams, AMERICAN UNIVERSALISM

Charles A. Howe, THE LARGER FAITH: A SHORT HISTORY OF AMERICAN UNIVERSALISM.

Russell E. Miller, THE LARGER HOPE, Vol. I The First Century of the Universalist Church in America, 1770-1870; Vol. 2, The Second Century of the Universalist Church in America, 1870-1970.

Charles A. Howe,ed., THE ESSENTIAL CLARENCE SKINNER: A brief introduction to his life and writings.

For UUA:

Mark Morrison-Reed, BLACK PIONEERS IN A WHITE DENOMINATION

Kathleen Parker, SACRED SERVICE IN CIVIC SPACE

Cynthia Grant Tucker, THE PROPHETIC SISTERHOOD