

WITTENBERG SUMMER COURSE 2026

The Bible in the Sister Reformations of the sixteenth century

July 13–August 8, 2026

The sixteenth-century Reformation rediscovered the Bible, establishing it as the standard for church organization and Christian existence. Building on late medieval developments, it employed humanistic methods and tools. Different patterns emerged in how the Bible was understood and used. The 2026 Summer Course of the *Wittenberg Center for Reformation Studies* explores the continuities and discontinuities between the late Middle Ages and the Reformation, showing the unity and diversity of understanding and use of the Bible in the European Sister Reformations. Through a mixture of lectures, source studies, student presentations, and excursions the course, running from **July 13 to August 8, 2026**, traces this story. Participants will be introduced to the latest Reformation research, both in Germany and England. Distinguished scholars will come to Wittenberg to present a topic related to their research for seminar discussion. Visits to the Reformation sites in Wittenberg and excursions to Northern Germany as well as to Nuremberg will be included in the course.

Ten Student Fellows from across the globe will be chosen from current or future PhD students who would benefit from in-depth discussions about the message of the Reformation in context. In addition, Research Fellows will be able to pursue their own academic projects in the libraries and archives in and around Wittenberg. Each Student Fellow will make a presentation on a research project of his/her choice. They will also have the opportunity to discuss their research project not only with the whole group but in face-to-face meetings with the Directors of the Wittenberg Center for Reformation Studies and the Research and Teaching Fellows. The Summer Course seminars will be held in the classrooms of the old Wittenberg University (Leucorea).

The course program includes study days and a free weekend. While in Wittenberg, student participants will live in the Johanniterhaus in single rooms and will have the exclusive use of the building and its facilities at their disposal. Those chosen to participate will have their program expenses covered: course fee, airfare, visa application, single room accommodation with breakfast, excursions, and a per-diem for lunch and dinner.

If you are interested in participating in the Wittenberg Summer Course 2026 please contact us: Wittenberg Center for Reformation Studies, Dr. Andreas Stegmann, Dunckerstrasse 34, 10 439 Berlin, Germany, stegmann@wittenbergcenter.de

If you would like to have more information about who we are and what do we do, please visit our website at www.wittenbergcenter.net.



Schedule

Week 1: The Bible around 1500

<i>Monday</i>	Wittenberg in past and present
<i>Tuesday</i>	The Bible in medieval Christianity
<i>Wednesday</i>	Study day
<i>Thursday</i>	The Bible in Modern Devotion and Humanism
<i>Friday/Saturday</i>	The Bibel in Basle: From Erasmus to Oecolampad

Week 2: The Wittenberg Reformation and the Bible

<i>Monday</i>	Luther's sola scriptura
<i>Tuesday</i>	Translating the Bible into the vernacular
<i>Wednesday</i>	Study day
<i>Thursday</i>	The Bible in church art: St. Mary's, Wittenberg
<i>Friday</i>	William Tyndale and the Wittenberg Bible translation of the 1520s

Week 3: The Zurich and Genevan Reformation and the Bible

<i>Monday</i>	The Bible in the Zurich Reformation
<i>Tuesday</i>	The Bible in the Geneva Reformation
<i>Wednesday</i>	Study day
<i>Thursday</i>	The Reformed culture of the Bible
<i>Friday to Sunday</i>	Weekend excursion to Nuremberg: Osiander, Cranmer and the Bible

Week 4: The English Reformation and the Bible

<i>Monday</i>	Late medieval piety in England
<i>Tuesday</i>	The Bible in the evangelical movement of the 1520s and 1530s
<i>Thursday</i>	Thomas Cranmer and the Bible
<i>Wednesday</i>	Study day
<i>Friday</i>	The Bible in the Elizabethan Church
<i>Saturday</i>	Wrap-up of the Summer Course