Unit Description
Calvinism was the most dynamic form of Reformation Protestantism, taking root in, among other places, France, Scotland, the Netherlands, Hungary, Poland and Lithuania. This special subject investigates the reasons for Calvinism’s rise to pre-eminence, the manner in which this was achieved, its subsequent impact, and its longer term historical significance. While theological issues will not be ignored, greater attention will be given to the impact those ideas had on politics, culture and society, and the ways in which such factors in turn shaped the reception of these ideas. The close interconnections between religious and political history in the early modern period (as exemplified in the French Wars of Religion and the Dutch Revolt), will be stressed throughout this unit; moreover, themes such as the role of ideology, the nature and use of propaganda, and state formation and development, will allow students to draw comparisons with other periods of history.

Contact Hours and Mode of Teaching:
10 x 2 hour seminars

Methods of Assessment:
1 x 3-4000 word essay (50%), 1 x 2 hour exam (50%)

Essential Reading –
Andrew Pettegree, Alastair Duke and Gillian Lewis (Eds.), *Calvinism in Europe, 1540-1620* (1994)
Menna Prestwich (Ed.), *International Calvinism, 1541-1715* (1985)

Further Information
Unit blackboard site: [www.ole.bris.ac.uk](http://www.ole.bris.ac.uk)