

MB Biblical Seminary
NORTH AMERICAN RELIGIOUS HISTORY (HS-614), 3 units

Semester: Fall 2005 (Aug. 29 – Dec. 16)
 Mondays, 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is a study of the major developments in North American Church life and thought from colonial times to the present. Special attention will be given to the development of evangelicalism as an identifiable movement within North American religious life.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. To reflect on the development of the Christian tradition within a particular context, specifically Canada and the United States.
2. To identify critical themes and key individuals/movements in North American religious history.
3. To gain knowledge of the role of denominations and parachurch organizations in Canada and the United States.
4. To develop skills in historical research and writing.

RELATED DEGREE OBJECTIVES

Within the larger curriculum goals of the Seminary this course should facilitate growth in the following areas:

1. Understanding of the various cultural, political and theological influences that have shaped the Christian tradition in North America.
2. Openness to learn from the Church's past, both its successes and failures, as it has attempted to be the people of God on earth.
3. Ability to reflect theologically on the issues confronting the life of the Church in the North American context.

RESOURCES FOR THE COURSE

Required texts and visual material available at Pacific Bookshop or on reserve at Hiebert Library:

Noll, Mark A. *A History of Christianity in the United States and Canada*, Eerdmans, 1992.

DeBerg, Betty. *UnGodly Women*. Fortress Press, 1991 or Mercer Univ. Press, 2001.

Du Bois, W.E.B. *The Souls of Black Folk*, any edition.

McLoughlin, William G. *Revivals, Awakenings, and Reform*, Univ. of Chicago, 1978.

Plus ONE of the following:

Burkinshaw, Robert K. Pilgrims in Lotus Land: Conservative Protestantism in British Columbia, 1917-1981, McGill-Queens Univ., 1995.

Moore, R. Laurence. Religious Outsiders and the Making of Americans, Oxford Univ., 1986.

Raboteau, Albert J. Canaan Land: A Religious History of African Americans, Oxford Univ., 2001.

Stackhouse, John G., Jr. Canadian Evangelicalism in the Twentieth Century: An Introduction to its Character, Regent College, 1998.

A denominational history of your choice, subject to professor's approval.

NATURE OF THE COURSE

This course will survey the history of Christianity in the United States and Canada. Studying the history of two nations that share common roots provides a unique opportunity to compare and contrast developments within two particular contexts. Attention will be given to basic information, i.e., people, events and movements, but more particularly to themes in the religious history of these two nations. The course will rely on lectures, reading and writing assignments, discussion sessions, and videos to explore how Christianity has taken shape in these two cultures.

REQUIREMENTS

1. **Lectures.** Lectures will be regularly given on topics related to our study. Attendance is expected.
2. **Readings.** Students are expected to read the assigned texts in a timely fashion. PLEASE CONSIDER THIS FAIR WARNING: Because of the heavy reading load for this course percentage points have been factored into the course grade. *You will be asked to report your level of success on the reading assignments at the end of the semester.*
3. **Discussions.** Discussion periods will be used to examine assigned topics and questions that arise. Successful completion of the course will require participation and adequate preparation for the sessions by careful reading and consideration of the assigned texts.
4. **Written assignments:**
 - **Book review** - Students will write a 2-3 page review of *Revivals, Awakenings, and Reform* by William McLoughlin. The review should identify the thesis of the book and the supporting argument. You may also want to identify questions that this book raises for you, or how it helps you understand American/Canadian religious culture. **DUE DATE: September 26, 2005.**
 - **Book review/response** - Students will write a 2-3 page book review and response to *The Souls of Black Folk* by W.E.B. Du Bois. The review should reflect the student's close reading of the text as well as the student's personal interaction with the material. **DUE DATE: October 31, 2005.**
 - **Book review** – Students will write a 2-3 page book review of *Ungodly Women* by Betty DeBerg. The review should identify the thesis and supporting argument. You may also want to identify questions this raises or insights gained in understanding 20th century fundamentalism and evangelicalism. **DUE DATE: November 28, 2005.**

- **Congregational introductions/histories** - Each student will choose a congregation to introduce to the class. Ideally, this will be a congregation that you are a part of or with whom you worship. During the first weeks of class each student will gather information about this congregation for presentation to the class. The purpose of this presentation is twofold: 1) to determine what can be gathered about this congregation's historical/theological tradition, and 2) to introduce the congregation to the class. These items might include church bulletins, confessional statements, published histories, or other items that furnish information about the congregation to visitors or members. (In other words, what can you pick up about this church from handouts, brochures, things posted for public display, etc.?) **DUE DATE: As assigned in class.**
- **Historical research project** - Students will write a 15-20 page research paper on a topic related to a congregation or its denominational/theological tradition and our study of Christianity in the U.S. and Canada. Ideally, this will be a topic that relates the church tradition to larger events/issues in Canadian or American church life (e.g., "Military Participation and First Mennonite Brethren Church," or "The Response to the Civil Rights Movement among Fresno Baptists, 1960-1970" etc.). Standard style and format, including footnotes or endnotes, is expected. *Alternatively*, the student may choose to write a research paper focusing on an individual, event or movement related to our study (e.g., "George Whitfield's Contribution to the First Great Awakening," "The Establishment of the United Church of Canada," or "Women and Missions in the 19th Century"). Short presentations/discussion of issues will be expected. Please be prepared to give me a topic and a preliminary bibliography establishing the availability of adequate source material by **November 7, 2005. HARD COPY OF FINAL PAPER DUE IN MY BOX BY DECEMBER 17, 2005, 5:00 P.M.**

GRADING

Participation	5%
Assigned readings	10%
Book review, McLoughlin	15%
Book review, DuBois	15%
Book review, DeBerg	15%
Research project	40%

Written work will be graded on clarity of thought, comprehensiveness, and originality. Plagiarism is unacceptable. Work deemed as such will be given a grade of F.

POLICY NOTES

MBBS academic policies are described at www.mbseminary.edu/fresno/policies. These policies provide guidance on academic integrity and plagiarism, incomplete course work, extensions, dates for changing registration, non-discriminatory and inclusive language, appeals, etc. Students are expected to be familiar with these policies and will be held responsible for adhering to them. If you have questions about how these policies relate to you or to a situation that you face in your studies, please speak to the professor or consult the Registrar or Academic Dean.

Policies specific to this course:

Late work: Percentage points will be deducted for work turned in late. “Late” is defined as any time after I have graded the class assignment.

Submission of assignments: Unless special arrangements have been made, please submit all assignments in hard copy on or before the due date.

SCHEDULE OF READING AND WRITING ASSIGNMENTS**August 29**Beginnings...**September 5**No Class

Labor Day

September 12Explorers....

Noll, chapters 1-3

September 19Awakenings....

McLoughlin, chapters 1-6

September 26Revolutionaries...

Noll, chapters 4-6

Book Review due: *Revivals, Awakenings, and Reform***October 3**Revivalists...

Noll, chapter 7

October 10-15No Class

Module Week

October 17Outsiders...

Noll, chapter 8-9

Moore, chapter 1

?

October 24Citizens...

Noll, chapter 10

October 31Evangelists...

Noll, chapter 11

Paper topic due**November 7**Foreigners...

Noll, chapter 12-13

Book Review due: *The Souls of Black Folk*

November 14
Modernists...

Noll, chapters 14-15

November 21
Fundamentalists...

November 28
Fundamentalists...

Noll, chapter 16
Book Review due: DeBerg, *UnGodly Women*

December 5
Regrouping...

Noll, chapter 17-18, 20

December 12
Students...

Research project presentations/discussion
Research paper due

SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY

REFERENCE

- Gaustad, Edwin S.
Historical atlas of religion in America,
1976.
- Noll, Mark A.
Eerdmans' handbook to Christianity in
America, 1983.
- Reid, Daniel G.
Concise dictionary of Christianity in
America. 1995.
- Ruether, Rosemary Radford, , ed.
Women and religion in America, 1981.

GENERAL

- Ban, Joseph D.
In the great tradition : in honor of
Winthrop S. Hudson : essays on
pluralism, voluntarism and revivalism,
1982.
- Brauer, Jerald C.
Reinterpretation in American church
history, 1968.
- Dayton, Donald W.
The Variety of American
evangelicalism, 1991.
- Gaustad, Edwin S.
A religious history of America, 1990.
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Dissent in American religion, 1973.
- Grant, John Webster
The church in the Canadian era, 1988.
- Handy, Robert T.
A history of the churches in the United
States and Canada, 1977.

- Koch, Gustav Adolf.
Republican religion : the American
Revolution and the cult of reason, 1964.
- Marty, Martin E.
Pilgrims in their own land : 500 years of
religion in America, 1984.
- Moore, R. Laurence
Religious outsiders and the making of
Americans, 1986.
- Silcox, Claris Edwin
Church union in Canada : its causes and
consequences, 1933.
- Sweet, William Warren
Religion on the American frontier,
1964.
- Weber, Timothy P.
Living in the shadow of the Second
Coming : American premillennialism,
1875-1925, 1979.

AFRICAN-AMERICAN

- Raboteau, Albert J.
A fire in the bones : reflections on
African-American religious history,
1995.
- Johnson, Paul E.
African-American Christianity : essays
in history, c1994.
- Lincoln, C. Eric
The Black church in the
African-American experience, 1990.

FUNDAMENTALISM/MODERNISM

- DeBerg, Betty A.
Ungodly women : gender and the first

wave of American fundamentalism.
1990.

Geffre, Claude

The debate on modernity, 1992.

Hutchison, William R

The modernist impulse in American
Protestantism, 1976.

Marsden, George M

Fundamentalism and American culture :
the shaping of twentieth century
evangelicalism, 1870-1925, 1980.

Sandeen, Ernest Robert

The roots of fundamentalism; British
and American millenarianism,
1800-1930, 1970.

MENNONITES IN US AND CANADA

Epp, Frank H.

Mennonites in Canada, 1786-1920 : the
history of a separate people, 1974.

Epp, Frank H

Mennonites in Canada, 1920-1940 : a
people's struggle for survival, 1982.

Juhnke, James C.

Vision, doctrine, war : Mennonite
identity and organization in America,
1890-1930, 1989.

MacMaster, Richard K.

Land, piety, peoplehood : the
establishment of Mennonite
communities in America, 1683-1790,
1985.

Schlabach, Theron F.

Peace, faith, nation : Mennonites and
Amish in nineteenth-century America,
1988.

Toews, Paul

Mennonites in American society,
1930-1970 : modernity and the

persistence of religious community,
1996.

MISSIONS

Elsbree, Oliver Wendell

The rise of the missionary spirit in
America, 1790-1815, 1980.

Hutchison, William R.

Errand to the world : American
Protestant thought and foreign missions,
1987.

Moir, John S.

Canadian protestant and Catholic
missions, 1820s-1960s : historical essays
in honour of John Webster Grant, 1988.

PENTECOSTALISM

Wacker, Grant

Heaven below: early Pentecostals and
American culture, 2001.

UNITARIANISM

Miller, Perry

The Puritans, 1938.

Morgan, Edmund Sears

Visible saints; the history of a Puritan
idea, 1963.

REVIVALISM

- Dieter, Melvin Easterday
The holiness revival of the nineteenth century, 1996.
- Rawlyk, George A.
Wrapped up in God : a study of several Canadian revivals and revivalists, 1988.
- Smith, Timothy Lawrence
Revivalism and social reform : American Protestantism on the eve of the Civil War, 1976.

SOCIAL GOSPEL

- Curtis, Susan
A consuming faith : the social gospel and modern American culture, 1991.
- Handy, Robert T.
The Social Gospel in America, 1870-1920, 1966.

- Luker, Ralph
The social gospel in black and white : American racial reform, 1885-1912, 1991.

WOMEN

- Brasher, Brenda E.
Fundamentalism & Female Power, 1998.
- Epstein, Barbara Leslie
The politics of domesticity : women, evangelism, and temperance in nineteenth-century America, 1981.
- Hardesty, Nancy
Women called to witness : evangelical feminism in the 19th century, 1984.