



CH 5060 – American Church History (3 cr.)

Madison Extension

Spring Semester 2012

Jan. 20-21; Feb. 24-25; Mar. 16-17; Apr. 20-21

6:30 PM – 9:30 PM Fri., 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM Sat.

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Course Description:

This course will acquaint the student with the major movements, persons, and leading theological developments in American church history from the colonial period to the present day. Particular attention will be paid to the transition of European churches to America and their involvement with theological, liturgical, social, and political issues; the nature of Puritanism; separation of church and state; awakenings and revivals; social concern; liberalism, fundamentalism, and neo-orthodoxy; and contemporary evangelicalism. Throughout, students will be encouraged to understand their own religious backgrounds and appreciate the distinctive contributions of other Christian traditions; likewise, students will be challenged to integrate insights from the course into their theological system, personal lives, and ministries.

Required Texts:

1. M. Noll, *A History of Christianity in the United States and Canada*
2. George Marsden. *Fundamentalism and American Culture*
3. Jonathan Edwards, *Religious Affections*

Course Objectives

1. To acquaint the student with the major personalities, the schools of thought, and the political, social, and cultural trends which characterize our period of study.
2. To familiarize the student with the current religious scene.
3. To increase the student's understanding of the factors that have shaped contemporary evangelicalism.

Course Requirements:

Class attendance is considered mandatory. Grading will be based on the following:

1. Midterm Exam - 35%;
2. Non-Cumulative Final Exam - 35%;
Both exams will be an essay format and the students will submit sample short answer and essay questions for the exams. In essence, the students will write their own tests. The final will be a take home due 3 weeks after the end of class.
3. Paper - 30%; each student will write a 10 page paper on a subject to be cleared with the professor in advance. The paper is due along with the final exam.

Lecture Schedule and Reading Assignments:

It would be best to complete readings prior to start of the course.

Weekend 1: Introduction; England's Arrival in the `New' World; Puritanism in Colonial America
The Great Awakening: Conversion, Calvinism, and Controversy; A Christian Nation?

Weekend 2: Christianity in the New Republic; The Second Great Awakening: Revival, Renewal, and
Reaction;

Weekend 3: Expansion and Dissension: Protestantism before the Civil War; Protestantism Under Siege:
Catholicism, Darwinism, and Liberalism; Dispensationalism, Pentecostalism, and the Holiness
Movement.

Weekend 4: The Battle for Biblical Christianity: Fundamentalism and Modernism; American Christianity
between the Wars; Evangelical Recovery; American Christianity and the New Millennium.