

Trinity College
Fall 2007
T H 1:40-2:55p
McLennan 214

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Office Hours: W F 2:15-5:05p

History / Biblical and Religious Studies 321x

American Church History

Catalog Description

A survey of the history of Christianity in America from the colonial period to the present. Special attention is paid to the Protestant evangelical tradition.

Design and Objectives

This is an upper-level course, in which significant student participation in discussions and independent research is integral to the overall learning experience. Tuesdays are generally devoted to lectures, Thursdays to seminar-style discussions.

By course's end the successful student will be able to:

1. Identify and explain the various methodological and ideological approaches to church history.
2. Sketch the main outlines of American church history and identify important individuals, institutions, and movements in that history.
3. Identify and explain the distinctive heritages of American evangelicalism, situating it in the context of American history and church history at large.
4. Identify and explain the historic differences among denominations and theological traditions in the American church, including the Reformed, Methodist, Holiness/Pentecostal, mainline liberal and neo-orthodox, Roman Catholic, and African American traditions.
5. Sketch the impact of the Enlightenment and modern science on American church history.
6. Worship God, with a sincere heart and informed mind, for the church's accomplishments in history, while recognizing the manifold failings of the human beings and human institutions that have made up his church. (Not for course assessment purposes!)

Requirements

1. *Class Participation*. This includes both attendance and active participation in class discussions.
 - a. *Attendance*. You are allowed 2 unexcused absences. After that each absence takes 10% off of your attendance grade.
 - b. *Discussion*. I will keep track of each student's contributions to class discussion, based on frequency and depth. If you are naturally reticent, please excuse me for calling on you occasionally to assess your learning. Your goal in discussion should be to offer insights and pose questions for group consideration, or to raise difficulties for clarification. Good discussion requires careful reading!
2. *Weekly Reading*. See Schedule (below) for specific weekly assignments. Note that our weekly reading is relatively light on textbook pages, heavier on primary-sources and interpretive essays. In all cases I am looking for you to read carefully and reflectively.

- a. Required Books

Douglas A. Sweeney, *The American Evangelical Story* (Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2005).

Mark A. Noll, *The Old Religion in the New World: The History of North American Christianity* (Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans, 2002).

Albert J. Raboteau, *A Fire in the Bones: Reflections on African-American Religious History* (Boston: Beacon Press, 1996).

Mark A. Noll, *The Civil War as a Theological Crisis* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2006).

Iain H. Murray, *Evangelicalism Divided: A Record of Crucial Change in the Years 1950 to 2000* (Carlyle, Pa.: Banner of Truth Trust, 2000).

- b. Reserve Reading—available at the library circulation desk

Jonathan Edwards, *A Faithful Narrative of the Surprising Work of God* (1737), in *A Jonathan Edwards Reader*, ed. John E. Smith, et al. (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1995), 57-87.

Thomas Paine, *The Age of Reason*, ed. Moncure Daniel Conway (New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1896; orig. 1795), 21-46, 75-84.

Charles Grandison Finney, *Lectures on Revivals of Religion* (Cambridge, Mass.: Belknap Press, 1960; orig. 1834), TBA

A. A. Hodge and B. B. Warfield, "Inspiration," *Presbyterian Review* 2 (1881): 225-60.
Shailer Mathews, *The Faith of Modernism* (New York: Macmillan, 1924), 1-36, 54-83, 169-82.

c. Online Reading—texts available on the Internet:

George Whitefield, “The Great Duty of Family Religion”

<http://www.ccel.org/ccel/whitefield/sermons.vi.html>

John Winthrop, “A Model of Christian Charity” (1630)

<http://religiousfreedom.lib.virginia.edu/sacred/charity.html>

The Examination of Mrs. Anne Hutchinson (1637)

<http://personal.pitnet.net/primarysources/hutchinson.html>

Jonathan Edwards, “A Divine and Supernatural Light” (1734)

<http://www.ccel.org/ccel/edwards/works2.iii.i.html>

Hannah Whitall Smith, *The Christian’s Secret of a Happy Life* (1875), chs. 1-5, 7, 9

http://www.ccel.org/s/smith_hw/secret

J. Gresham Machen, *Christianity and Liberalism* (1923), chs. TBA

<http://www.biblebelievers.com/machen/index.html>

4. *Papers*. Each student will research and write three papers. Specific guidelines to follow.
 - a. Church Standards Paper (7-8 pages)
 - b. Denominations Paper (7-8 pages)
 - c. Research Paper (12-15 pages)
5. *Quizzes*. To keep you current in your reading, you will take a ten-question multiple-choice quiz on Moodle every two weeks (plus the last week).
6. *Final Exam*. This will consist of several short-answer identifications and a long essay, which will be distributed a week ahead of the exam date.

Communication via GroupWise

Students are responsible to check email daily for any late-breaking notifications I may find it necessary to send. Your GroupWise account is your official Trinity College email conduit. If you prefer using a private account, set up GroupWise to forward your mail there. I will hold you responsible to read any GroupWise communication from me within 24 hours of my sending it, Sundays excluded.

Lateness and Make-Up Policies

1. I will take attendance at the very beginning of each class, *before* the prayer/devotional. Students who come in later are welcome to stay and learn, but will be counted as absent.
2. Quizzes are available on Moodle from 7a Monday to 5p Friday of the week in which they are offered. There should therefore be no problem with lateness or makeups! Take your quiz in the computer lab (either McLennan or the Library), showing the lab assistant your photo ID so that he or she can enter the quiz password for you.

- Late papers will be docked 5% per day, excluding Sundays. I reckon days to midnight; if turned in by midnight of the date due, there is no penalty. Slide the paper under my office door, noting date and time. If no date and time are noted, I will date the paper according to the time I find it.

Cell Phones

Cell Phones are not permitted in class, during quizzes, or during exams. Please turn them OFF (not on vibrate or ring) and put them out of sight.

Cheating and Plagiarism

- Any student caught cheating on any assignment or test will receive an automatic zero for that component, subject to the professor's judgment. Cheating includes such things as copying from another student's work, giving or receiving illicit advance information about the test, using a crib sheet, looking up quiz answers on the Internet, etc.
- Plagiarism (the presentation of someone else's written work as your own) is a serious offense, and will be punished with an automatic zero for that assignment, at the very least. Students guilty of plagiarism may also face punishment from the Academic Dean's office. Be especially careful about paraphrasing without attribution—that too is plagiarism. To be safe, always footnote your sources.

Grading

1. Proportions

Attendance	5%
Discussion	20%
Church Standards Paper	10%
Denominations Paper	10%
Research Paper	20%
Quizzes (combined)	15%
<u>Final Exam</u>	<u>20%</u>
TOTAL	100%

2. Scale

97-100 = A+	87-89 = B+	77-79 = C+	67-69 = D+
93-96 = A	83-86 = B	73-76 = C	63-66 = D
90-92 = A-	80-82 = B-	70-72 = C-	60-62 = D-
			0-59 = F

Moodle

Visit the course website on Moodle (<http://webapps.tiu.edu/moodle>) in order to:

- Print Reading Guides, Study Guides, and Discussion Questions
- Link to online readings
- Take quizzes.

SCHEDULE—NOT YET FINAL

(R) = Reserve reading, available at the library circulation desk.

(O) = Online reading. Use link provided on Moodle. Print out the selection and bring it to class.

ORNW = Noll, *The Old Religion in the New World*

CWTC = Noll, *The Civil War as a Theological Crisis*

	<i>Tuesdays (Lecture)</i>		<i>Thursdays (Discussion)</i>
		8/23	Introductions <i>ORNW, ch. 9 or 12 (you choose)</i>
8/28	Discussion: Otherness and Continuity <i>(O) Whitefield</i>	8/30	European Background & 1st Cols <i>ORNW, ch. 1</i>
9/4	Puritans and Pietists <i>Sweeney, ch. 1</i> Quiz #1 this week	9/6	Discussion <i>(O) Winthrop</i> <i>(O) Examination of Mrs. Hutchinson</i>
9/11	Toward Americanism <i>ORNW, ch. 2</i>	9/13	Discussion Church Standards Paper due!
9/18	Great Awakening <i>Sweeney, ch. 2</i> Quiz #2 this week	9/20	Discussion <i>(R) Edwards, Faithful Narrative</i> <i>(O) Edwards, Divine and Supl Light</i>
9/25	Churches after Revolution; Deism <i>ORNW, ch.3</i>	9/27	Discussion <i>(R) Paine; Raboteau, ch. 1</i>
10/2	2GA Revivals <i>Sweeney, ch. 3</i> Denominations Paper due!	10/4	Discussion <i>(O) Finney; Raboteau, ch. 4</i> Quiz #3 this week
10/9	Benevolent Empire, Missions <i>ORNW, ch. 5; Sweeney, ch. 4</i>	10/11	Fall Break
10/16	Discussion <i>CWTC, ch. TBA</i> Quiz #4 this week	10/18	Discussion <i>CWTC, ch. TBA</i>
10/23	Day of Prayer <i>Sweeney, ch. 5</i>	10/25	Discussion <i>Raboteau, ch. 2, 3</i>
10/30	The Challenge of Science <i>ORNW, ch. 6</i> Quiz #5 this week	11/1	Discussion <i>(R) Hodge and Warfield</i>

	<i>Tuesdays (Lecture)</i>		<i>Thursdays (Discussion)</i>
11/6	Liberalism/Modernism <i>ORNW, ch. 7; (R) Mathews</i>	11/8	Discussion <i>(O) Machen</i>
11/13	Holiness/Pentecostalism <i>Sweeney, ch. 6</i> Quiz #6 this week	11/15	Discussion <i>(O) Whitall Smith</i>
11/20	Fundamentalism <i>Sweeney, ch. 7</i> Research Paper due!	11/22	Thanksgiving Break
11/27	Neo-Orth/Neo-Evgl <i>ORNW, ch. 8 (161-85)</i> Quiz #7 this week	11/29	Discussion <i>BGC website</i> <i>Murray, ch. TBA</i>
12/4	Worship Wars <i>Murray, ch. TBA</i> Quiz #8 this week	12/6	Discussion <i>Murray, ch. TBA</i> <i>(R) Hart</i>

Final Exam: Thursday, 15 December 2005, 1:00-3:00p