

TRINITY EVANGELICAL DIVINITY SCHOOL

**CH 5060 – American Church History**

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Columbus Extension Site

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**Course Description**

This course is designed as an introduction to American church history from its beginnings in the colonial period to its most recent expressions in the twentieth century. Major movements, leading personalities, theological developments and religious trends will be examined with the aim to better understand the evangelical tradition.

**Course Objectives**

- To acquaint the student with the major movements, leading personalities, theological developments and religious trends that have shaped American church history (within the broader context of both church and American history).
- To encourage the student to examine his/her own religious tradition in an informed manner.
- To increase the student's appreciation of religious traditions other than one's own and of the Church in general.
- To familiarize the student with the factors that shaped contemporary evangelicalism.

**Course Texts**

- Noll, Mark A. *A History of Christianity in the United States and Canada*. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans, 1992. (ISBN: 0802806511)
- Noll, Mark A., Nathan O. Hatch and George M. Marsden. *The Search for Christian America*. Colorado Springs: Helmers & Howard Publishers, 1989. (ISBN: 0939443155)
- Online Primary Source Readings (see reading assignments below)

**Course Requirements**

- *Class Attendance and Participation*: Each weekend session covers one quarter of a semester's work. Furthermore, topics will be presented and discussed in class that go beyond the textbook. Therefore, class attendance is considered mandatory.

It is expected that students come to class having read the assignments and prepared to participate in the discussion.

- *Tests on Reading Material*: Each weekend (with the exception of the first weekend), the students will be tested on the textbook and primary source readings due for that day. The tests will be primarily objective (multiple

choice/matching/true and false/short answer), with one short integrative essay question. The test for the first weekend's reading will either be online or take-home (due one week after the session).

- *Integrative Essay:* The student will write a three to five page essay in which he reflects upon his own religious tradition in light of what he has learned through the textbook and primary source readings as well as class discussions. More detailed guidelines will be given on the first day of class. (Due Saturday of the fourth weekend session).
- *Book Review:* Each student will choose one scholarly monograph to read from the list provided on the first day of class. The student will write a three to five page review of the book and present his/her findings to the class at the appropriate juncture in the course. Book reviews dealing with colonial America will be presented Friday evening of the second weekend. More detailed guidelines will be given on the first day of class.

## Grading

<b>Requirement</b>	<b>Weight for grading</b>
Class Attendance and Participation	10%
Tests on Reading Material (4)	50%
Integrative Paper	20%
Book Review	20%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Grading Scale

A: 96-100. A-: 93-95. B+: 91-92. B: 87-90. B-: 84-6. C+: 80-83. C: 77-79. C-: 72-76. D+: 69-71. D: 67-68. D-: 65-66. F: 65-0.

## Course Schedule with Reading Assignments

### I. European Christianity in the New World: The Colonial Period (1500-1750)

Topics: Colonization  
Puritanism and Pluralism  
The First Great Awakening

Reading: *History*, 1-113.  
*Search*, 13-69.

John Winthrop, *A Modell of Christian Charity* (1630)  
(<http://history.hanover.edu/texts/winthmod.html>)

*The Examination of Mrs. Anne Hutchinson at the Court at Newton* (1637) (<http://personal.pitnet.net/primarysources/hutchinson.html>)

Jonathan Edwards, *A Faithful Narrative of the Surprising Work of God* (<http://www.iclnet.org/pub/resources/text/ipb-e/epl-10/web/edwards-narrative.html>)

Gilbert Tennent, *The Danger of an Unconverted Ministry* (1740) ([http://www.wadsworth.com/history\\_d/special\\_features/ext/ap/chapter4/4.2.tennent.html](http://www.wadsworth.com/history_d/special_features/ext/ap/chapter4/4.2.tennent.html))

## II. Americanization of Religion: The National Period (1750-1835)

Topics: Christian Patriots, Loyalists and Pacifists during the Revolutionary War  
Faith of the Founding Fathers  
The Second Great Awakening

Reading: *History*, 114-123, 130-190.

*Search*, 70-124.

Thomas Jefferson, *Draft for a Bill Establishing Religious Freedom* (1779) (<http://odur.lct.rug.nl/~usa/P/tj3/writings/draft1779.htm>)

Thomas Paine, *The Age of Reason* (1794) ([http://www.infidels.org/library/historical/thomas\\_paine/age\\_of\\_reason/part1.html](http://www.infidels.org/library/historical/thomas_paine/age_of_reason/part1.html))

Charles Finney, *Lectures on Revival*, Lecture 1 (1835) (<http://www.ccel.org/f/finney/revival/revival1.txt>)

Lyman Beecher, *A Plea for the West* (1835); read: pg 1-28 (<http://www.artsci.wustl.edu/~acsp/courses/hist366/beecher.html>)

## III. Rise of Religious Pluralism: The Nineteenth Century (1835-1900)

Topics: Radical Movements  
Non-White/Non-Protestant Religion  
The Civil War and the Slave Issue

Reading: *History*, 190-244; 286-362.

Phoebe Palmer, *The Way of Holiness, with Notes by the Way* (1851); read: pg. 5-6, 17-39 (<http://www.nnu.edu/wesleyctr/books/0701-0800/HDM0796.PDF>)

John Humphrey Noyes, *Bible Communism* (1870). \*Handout

Henry Ward Beecher, "War and Emancipation: A Thanksgiving Sermon." (<http://www.hti.umich.edu/cgi/t/text/text-idx?c=moa;idno=ACK9291.001.001>)

#### **IV. Challenges to Evangelicalism: The Twentieth Century (1875-2000)**

Topics: Intellectual Challenges: Darwinism and Bible Criticism  
Fundamentalist-Modernist Controversy  
Pentecostalism and the Holiness Movement  
Neo-Evangelicalism

Reading: *History*, 363-389; 423-459; 531-553.

*Search*, 125-162.

Scopes trial (1925)

(<http://www.law.umkc.edu/faculty/projects/ftrials/scopes/scopes2.htm>)

Shailer Mathews, *The Faith of Modernism* (1924) \*Handout

J. Gresham Machen, "Liberalism or Christianity?" *The Princeton Theological Review*, 20 (1922): 93-117.

(<http://homepage.mac.com/shanerosenthal/reformationink/jgmliborchr.htm>)

Charles Woodbridge, "Bible Separation"

(<http://www.fundamentalbiblechurch.org/Foundation/fbcsepr2.htm>)

Aimee Semple McPherson, "The Baptism of the Holy Spirit."

(<http://www.americanrhetoric.com/speeches/aimeemcphersonholyspirit.html>)

Carl F.H. Henry, "Dare We Renew the Controversy? The Evangelical Responsibility" *Christianity Today*, 1 (July 22, 1957). \*Handout