

CHRISTIANITY IN THE UNITED STATES - HIST 9407

FALL 2009

LLOYD A. HARSCH

(504) 282-4455 ext. 3212

fax: (504) 816-8039

Dodd 202

Lharsch@nobts.edu

I. Course Description:

This study involved the investigation of voluntary religion as reflected in the response of Christian groups and individuals to the opportunities and problems presented by the American environment since the founding of the nation.

II. Objectives:

- to learn about the people and events important to Christianity's formation and development in America
- to interact with representatives of other denominations
- to understand and appreciate the heritage of other groups within the Christian family
- to interpret contemporary issues in Christian life in light of their historical roots
- to develop the ability to think historically and critically, placing individuals, movements, and ideas within their proper context

III. Required Texts:

Askew, Thomas A. and Richard V. Pierard. *The American Church Experience: A Concise History*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2004.

Finke, Roger and Rodney Stark. *The Churching of America, 1776-2005: Winners and Losers in Our Religious Economy*. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 2005.

Oden, Thomas C. *Turning Around the Mainline: How Renewal Movements are Changing the Church*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2006.

IV. Requirements:

- A. *Discussions*: Each student will participate in class discussions. It will be particularly import that students come prepared to interact with representatives of the various denominations in a knowledgeable and courteous manner.
- B. *Chapter Summary and Denomination Overview*: Each student will write five summaries and overviews. After summarizing the chapter, an expanded overview of the denomination will be given. Each summary/overview will be single spaced and 4-6 pages

in length. Class will begin with a summary/overview and discussion of a denomination. We will then meet with a representative of that denomination.

- C. *Research Paper*: Each student will write a research paper on a major denomination in America. It should include major leaders, the distinctive doctrines and polity of the group, and current issues important to the denomination. The paper **must have** a title page, a table of contents, a bibliography, and footnotes or endnotes. The paper must follow Turabian, sixth edition, for style. The paper must be single spaced and have chapter divisions. It should be about 20 pages in length. For examples of Turabian form, see the sample at <http://homepage.mac.com/glstevens/FileSharing2.html>. For guidelines on writing a research paper, see http://www.acts.twu.ca/lbr/research_essays.htm. **One copy** must be provided each member of the class and **two copies** for the professor.
- D. *Response*: Each student will write a critique and response to one of the final research papers.
- E. *Personal Perspective*: Each student will write a brief, 2-3 page single-spaced personal perspective on the direction and prospects of Christianity in America.
- F. *Bible Reading*: This year we will be endeavoring to read through the Bible together. As an added incentive, students who participate in this can earn up to an additional 5% bonus toward their grade. At the end of the semester, students will report how much of the Fall Semester Bible Reading Plan they have completed (in 20% increments).

V. Evaluation:

Discussion Participation:	5%
Summary/Overview (5 @ 10% each)	50%
Research Paper:	30%
Response:	10%
<u>Personal Perspective</u>	<u>5%</u>
	100%

Grades will be assigned on the basis of the NOBTS grading scale.

VI. Cellular Phones and Pagers

The instructor requests that all phones and pagers be turned off or adjusted so as not to disturb the class. If you can wait until a break time to attend to calls and pages, that would be greatly appreciated.