

**SUPERVISED READING COLLOQUIUM:
AMERICAN CHRISTIANITY - HISR 9303
FALL 2012**

Professor:	Lloyd A. Harsch	Meeting Place:	HSC
Phone:	(504) 282-4455 ext. 3212	Time:	T 2-4 (9/4; 10/2; 11/6; 12/4)
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Seminary Mission Statement

The mission of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary is to equip leaders to fulfill the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries.

Purpose of the Course

The purpose of this course is to provide quality theological education for students in the discipline of theological and historical studies by examining a standard histories and issues related to American Christianity. Lessons learned from the past inform the present and provide guidance for the future.

Core Value Focus, and Curriculum Competencies Addressed

The core value focus of the course will emphasize this semester is **servant leadership**. The course will specifically address the following curriculum competencies:

Theological and Historical Heritage – comprehensive overview of American histories and religious documents

Disciple Making – use the people from our past to model Christ-like behavior

Servant Leadership – use the people from our past to model servant leadership

Spiritual and Character Formation – model Christian character in relating to those in the Christian family with whom we disagree

Biblical Exposition – demonstrate the biblical foundation for distinctives among American Christians

Worship Leadership – examine the variety of worship styles and practices used by American Christians

Course Description

A colloquium is “an academic seminar on a broad field of study, usually led by a different lecturer at each meeting” (*American Heritage Dictionary*). The colloquium is designed for and led by resident Doctor of Philosophy and Masters of Theology students under the supervision of the faculty of Theological and Historical Division.

Requirements

Presentation of Readings

1. Attend each session. See attached schedule for dates of meeting.

2. Prepare for colloquium discussions by completing the assigned reading carefully. You may need to read the material more than once in order to be ready for discussion. Focus on interpreting the author's thought. Write down observations and questions. (The faculty convener reserves the right to review these notes.) Review the assigned reading and your notes before the colloquium and be prepared to contribute to the discussion.
3. The student should seek to use these materials as a lens through which to consider the broader discussion and questions that are raised on these issues. As a result, preparation for the colloquium extends beyond the reading of the assigned materials to include reflection on topics and issues introduced by these readings.
4. Lead a part of each colloquium session:
 - a. At the time of the session, each student will distribute his assessment (see below) of the books for which he is responsible to the class. Prepare a list of interpretive questions and answers that warrant further investigation and discussion as part of the overall effort to understand the assigned reading and the key issues identified from the reading. These questions will be discussed by the colloquium.
 - b. After distributing the assessment, the student leader may read his/her summary or present an oral overview in no more than fifteen minutes.
 - c. The student will then critique the book (content/writing style), its impact on research on American Christianity and how the book can be used in both a research setting and a classroom setting.
 - d. Each student will be responsible for leading part of each colloquium. Sessions will cover:
 - i. Older Histories
 - ii. Newer Histories
 - iii. Primary Sources
 - iv. Movements and Issues
5. Students will be graded on selection of issues, clarity in focusing questions or items for discussion, and skill in engaging the colloquium in dialogue.
6. Prepare a 2 to 4 page assessment (single spaced, Times New Roman 12 pt. font) of *each text* read through the semester.

Procedure

The faculty convener will begin each session with prayer and general announcements. He will then turn the session over to the student leader who will proceed in the manner indicated above. Following the student leader's oral summary, discussion should be engaged with the entire colloquium. Students in the colloquium are invited and responsible to contribute to thoughtful responses to questions posed by the student leader, and all faculty members present may join the discussion at any point they see fit. Faculty members may also choose to pose additional questions at any time to assist in the colloquium's attention to matters of importance. At the end of the session, the faculty convener will close the meeting.

HISR 9303 Reading List

Older Histories

Paul Sanchez

Baird, Robert. *Religion in America: Or, an Account of the Origin, Relation to the State, and Present Condition of the Evangelical Churches in the United States*. New York: Harper & Brothers, 1844.

Mather, Cotton. *Magnalia Christi Americana; or the Ecclesiastical History of New England; from its First Planting, in the Year 1620, unto the Year of our Lord 1698*. 2 Volumes. Third Edition. Hartford, CT: Silas Andrus and Son, 1855. [or any edition available]

Sweet, William Warren. *The Story of Religion in America*. New York: Harper and Brothers, 1930. Enlarged Reprint, 1939.

Additional Resources

Bacon, Leonard. *A History of American Christianity*. New York: The Christian Literature Company, 1897.

Belcher, Joseph. *The Religious Denominations in United States: Their History, Doctrine, Government and Statistics, with a Preliminary Sketch of Judaism, Paganism and Mohammedanism*. Philadelphia: J. E. Potter, 1854.

Dorchester, Daniel. *Christianity in United States: From the First Settlement down to the Present Time*. New York: Phillips and Hunt, 1888.

Rupp, Israel Daniel. *An Original History of the Religious Denominations at Present Existing in United States*. Philadelphia: J. Y. Humphrys, 1844.

Schaff, Philip. *History of the Christian Church*. In 7 volumes. New York : C. Scribner's Sons, 1882-1910.

Newer Histories

Paul Sanchez

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

Hudson, Winthrop S. and John Corrigan. *Religion in America: An Historical Account of the Development of American Religious Life*. 6th ed. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, 1998.

Piepkorn, Arthur Carl. *Profiles in Belief: The Religious Bodies of the United States and Canada*. 3 Volumes. San Francisco: Harper & Row, 1978. [Review only volume 2]

Additional Resources

Handy, Robert Theodore. *A History of the Churches of the United States and Canada*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1977.

Marty, Martin E. *Pilgrims in Their Own Land: 500 Years of Religion in America*. New York: Penguin Books, 1984.

Noll, Mark A., Nathan O. Hatch, George M. Marsden, David F. Wells, and John D. Woodbridge, eds. *Eerdman's Handbook to Christianity in America*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans Publishing, 1983.

Noll, Mark A. *A History of Christianity in the United States and Canada*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans Publishing, 1992.

Olmstead, Clifton E. *History of Religion in United States*. Englewood Cliffs: Prentice-Hall, 1960.

Primary Sources

Paul Sanchez

Gaustad, Edwin. *A Documentary History of Religion in America*. 2 Vols. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1993.

McLoughlin, William G., ed. *The Diary of Isaac Backus*. 3 vols. Providence, RI: Brown University Press, 1979.

Mode, Peter G. *Source Book and Bibliographic Guide for American Church History*. Menasha, WI: George Banta Publishing, 1921.

Additional Resources

Ferm, Robert L. *Issues in American Protestantism: Documentary History from the Puritans to the Present*. Garden City, NY: Anchor Books, 1969.

Leith, John H., ed. *Creeds of the Churches: A Reader in Christian Doctrine from the Bible to the Present*. 3d ed. Atlanta: John Knox Press, 1982.

Leonard, Bill, ed. *Early American Christianity*. Christian Classics Series. Nashville: Broadman Press, 1979.

Smith, H. Shelton, Robert T. Handy, and Lefferts A. Loetscher, eds. *American Christianity: An Interpretation with Representative Documents*. 2 Vols. New York: Scribner's Sons, 1960.

Movements and Issues

Paul Sanchez

Cornett, Daryl, C., ed. *Christian America?: Perspectives on Our Religious Heritage*. Nashville: B&H Academic, 2011.

Marsden, George M. *Fundamentalism and American Culture: The Shaping of Twentieth-Century Evangelicalism, 1870-1925*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1980.

Synan, Vinson. *The Holiness-Pentecostal Tradition: Charismatic Movements in the Twentieth Century*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1997.

Additional Resources

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

Jackson, Bill. *The Quest for the Radical Middle: A History of the Vineyard*. Cape Town, South Africa: Vineyard International, 1999.

Marsden, George M. *Evangelicalism and Modern America*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1980.

Neuhaus, Richard John. *The Naked Public Square: Religion and Democracy in America*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1988.

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