

RELIGION IN COLONIAL AMERICA - HIST 9406
SPRING 2006

Meeting Place: Blackboard and New Orleans

Time: TR 9-12, 1-4 (3/16, 5/11)

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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.

Course Description:

This seminar explored the influence and development of the Puritans and those dissenting from the established order. Particular attention is given to the development of religious pluralism, the influence of the First Great Awakening, the struggle for religious freedom, and the formation of national denominational organizations.

Required Texts:

Ahlstrom, Sidney. *A Religious History of the American People*. Parts I- III.. Yale University Press, 1974.

Noll, Mark A. *America's God: From Jonathan Edwards To Abraham Lincoln*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2002.

Holifield, E. Brooks. *Theology in America: Christian Thought from the Age of the Puritans to the Civil War*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 2003.

All texts should be read by about January 20 in order to provide the student with a sufficient background with which to engage subsequent class material.

Books to Review:

Beale, David O. *The Mayflower Pilgrims: Roots of Puritan, Presbyterian, Congregationalist, and Baptist Heritage*. Greenville, SC: Ambassador-Emerald International, 2000.

Cogley, Richard W. *John Eliot's Mission to the Indians before King Philip's War*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1999.

Hall, David D., ed. *Puritans in the New World: A Critical Anthology*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2004.

Mather, Increase. *A History of God's Remarkable Providences in Colonial New England*. Portland, OR: Back Home Industries, 1997. Reprint. Originally published: London: John Russell Smith, 1856.

Noll, Mark A. *The Rise of Evangelicalism: The Age of Edwards, Whitefield and the Wesleys*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2004.

Packer, J. I. *A Quest for Godliness: A Puritan Vision of the Christian Life*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 1990.

Stout, Harry S. and D. G. Hart, eds. *New Directions in American Religious History*. New York, Oxford University Press, 1997.

Sweet, William Warren. *Religion in Colonial America*. New York: Scribner, 1942. Reprint, New York: Cooper Square Publishers, 1965.

Weir, David A. *Early New England: A Covenanted Society*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans Publishing, 2004.

Winship, Michael P. *Making Heretics: Militant Protestantism and Free Grace in Massachusetts, 1636-1641*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2002.

Wood, James. *Readings on Church and State*. Waco, TX: J. M. Dawson Institute of Church-State Studies, Baylor University, 1989.

Requirements:

- A. *Seminar Attendance:* Students will attend both seminar meetings at their own expense. Seminars will meet on March 16 and May 11. All other course work will be conducted via Blackboard.

- B. *Book Review*: Each student will write a review of a book assigned by the professors. The review will be written as though for an academic magazine or journal. It should identify the book's main thesis or purpose, give a brief summary of the contents, and include an evaluation of the work's strengths and weaknesses. All quotations and direct references to sections in the book should be indicated by page numbers within parentheses. Citations or paraphrases from other sources should be noted and documented using either footnotes or endnotes. Reviews should be 4-6 pages in length, double-spaced. Post your review in the appropriate area in Blackboard. **Due January 30, 2006.**
- C. *Biography*: Each student will write a 10-15 page, double-spaced biography of an individual related to colonial religion. Students can choose from the list below or suggest another suitable person. Subjects must be approved by **February 1**. The paper will be presented at the first class meeting on **March 16**. Copies of the paper must be posted on the appropriate area of Blackboard by **March 7** in order to allow classmates sufficient time to them prior to class. The paper **must have** a title page, a table of contents, a bibliography, footnotes or endnotes and follow Turabian, sixth edition, for style. However, **do not** use chapters to separate sections of your paper (chapters require a new page for each new chapter and the project is not long enough to justify this). Use section headings instead.

John Robinson	Thomas Hooker
William Bradford	Anne Hutchinson
John Cotton	Cotton Mather
Isaac Backus	Increase Mather
John Leland	Henry Muhlenberg
William Penn	John Carroll
Jonathon Edwards	Alexander Mack
Roger Williams	Shubal Stearns
John Clarke	George Whitefield

- D. *Research Paper*: Each student will write a research paper on an issue relating to religion in colonial America. The paper **must have** a title page, a table of contents, a bibliography, and footnotes or endnotes. The papers must be double spaced and follow Turabian, sixth edition, for style. However, **do not** use chapters to separate sections of your paper (chapters require a new page for each new chapter and the project is not long enough to justify this). Use section headings instead. The final 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. A copy of the paper must be posted on Blackboard by **May 4**. This will allow the responder sufficient time to interact with the paper.

E. *Response*: Each student will write a critique and response to one of the final research papers. Assignments will be made at the first class meeting.

F. *Personal Perspective*: Each student will write a brief, 2-3 page single-spaced personal perspective on religion in colonial America.

V. Evaluation:

Discussion Participation:	10%
Book Review:	15%
Biography	25%
Research Paper:	35%
Response:	10%
<u>Personal Perspective</u>	<u>5%</u>
	100%

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