



CHRISTIANITY IN THE UNITED STATES
HIST 9407 – SYNC
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Division of Theological and Historical Studies
Summer 2018 - 5/21, 8-5; 6/4, 6/25, 7/9, 7/23, 9-4

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This course begins on **May 21, 2018**, and, by that date, students should have access to Blackboard, where they will find information and instructions about the course. Prior to that time, students should purchase the texts and be ready to participate in the course. The reading schedule is included in this syllabus so that, once students have secured the textbooks, they can begin reading their assignments.

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.

Core Value Focus

The seminary has five core values: Doctrinal Integrity, Spiritual Vitality, Mission Focus, Characteristic Excellence, and Servant Leadership. The core value focus for this academic year is **servant leadership**. We want everything we do to be characterized by offering the utmost of our abilities and resources as a testimony to the glory of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Curriculum Competencies

All graduates of NOBTS are expected to have at least a minimum level of competency in each of the following areas: Biblical Exposition, Christian Theological Heritage, Disciple Making, Interpersonal Skills, Servant Leadership, Spiritual and Character Formation, and Worship Leadership. The curriculum competencies addressed in this course are:

- Theological and Historical Heritage – comprehensive overview of the formation and development of Christianity in America
- 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 while avoiding traps leading to heresy
- Biblical Exposition – demonstrate the biblical foundation for each denomination, or lack thereof
- Worship Leadership – examine the variety of worship styles and practices used by American Christians

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.

Student Learning Outcomes

In order to understand and interpret Christian theological heritage for the church, students, by the end of the course, should:

1. Be able to apply their knowledge and understanding of the distinctive characteristics of different Christian denominations in America to the process of interpreting Christian theological heritage for the church.
2. Value the ideas, individuals, movements, and institutions that form denominational diversity in America.
3. Be able, with the help of resources, to accomplish the following:
 - Practice the historical method and historiography in order to interpret American Christian heritage for the local church.
 - Distinguish between different polity structures.
 - Articulate and defend the varying denominations' positions on specific theological issues.
 - Place individuals, movements, and ideas in their proper context in American Christian history.

Textbooks

Evans, Christopher H. *Histories of American Christianity: An Introduction*. Waco, TX: Baylor University Press, 2013. ISBN: 978-1602585454

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. ISBN-13: 978-0813535531

Noll, Mark A. *The Old Religion in a New World: The History of North American Christianity*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans Publishing, 2001. ISBN: 978-0-8028-4948-9

Recommended texts:

Mead, Frank S., Samuel S. Hill and Craig D. Atwood. *Handbook of Denomination in the United States*. 13th edition. Nashville: Abingdon Press: 2010. ISBN: 978-1426700484

House, H. Wayne. *Charts of Christian Theology and Doctrine*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1992. ISBN: 978-0310416616

Oden, Thomas C. *Turning Around the Mainline: How Renewal Movements are Changing the Church*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2006. ISBN: 978-0801065767

Requirements

- A. *Discussions*: Each student will participate in class discussions. Individuals representing select denominations will address the class about their particular group. It will be particularly important that students come prepared to interact with representatives of the various denominations in a knowledgeable and courteous manner.
- B. *Textbook Summary and Review*: Each student will write three (3) text summaries and reviews. Please submit your Textbook Responses in the Assignment section in Blackboard. The review should be 3-4 single-spaced typewritten pages in length and contain:
- (1) a bibliographical entry at the top of the first text page of the review,
 - (2) a brief biographical sketch of the author (one paragraph at most),
 - (3) a brief summary (one to two pages) of the contents of the book,
 - (4) a statement of the author's purpose and the extent to which the purpose was realized,
 - (5) a description of the author's writing style and biases,
 - (6) significant insights, strengths, and/or weaknesses (at least 2 each),
 - (7) applications/implications for denominational issues (at least 2, no more than 5),
 - (8) concluding evaluation, and
 - (9) use a title page, but a table of contents is not necessary.

Due on:

- May 21 Noll, *The Old Religion in a New World*
June 4 Evans, *Histories of American Christianity*
June 25 Finke and Stark, *The Churching of America, 1776-2005*

- 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 posted in the submission area of Blackboard for grading and a second posted to be accessed by each member of the class.
- 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.

Evaluation of Grade

Discussion Participation:	10%
Summary/Overview	45%
(3 @ 15% each)	

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.

Technical Assistance

For assistance regarding technology, consult ITC (504-816-8180) or the following websites:

1. Selfserve@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the Selfserve.nobts.edu site (Access to online registration, financial account, online transcript, etc.)
2. BlackboardHelpDesk@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS Blackboard Learning Management System nobts.blackboard.com.
3. ITCSupport@nobts.edu - Email for general technical questions/support requests.
4. www.NOBTS.edu/itc/ - General NOBTS technical help information is provided on this website.

Help for Writing Papers at “The Write Stuff”

NOBTS maintains a Writing Center designed to improve English writing at the graduate level. Students can receive writing guides, tips, and valuable information to help in becoming a better writer.

Plagiarism on Written Assignments

A high standard of personal integrity is expected of all students at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. Copying another person’s work, submitting downloaded material without proper references, submitting material without properly citing the source, and committing other such forms of dishonesty are strictly forbidden. Although anything cited in three sources is considered public domain, we require that all sources be cited. Any infraction may result in failing the assignment and the course. Any infraction will be reported to the Dean of Students for further action. **See the Graduate Catalog for more information on the Definition of Plagiarism and Consequences for Violations of Plagiarism.**

Emergency Plan

In case of hurricane or any other emergency, go to the seminary web site for information: www.nobts.edu. The administration will communicate information that relates to the seminary: the nature of the emergency, instructions for responses, evacuation, contingency plans, duration of the emergency, and plans to return to campus and/or resume the schedule.

In addition, check Blackboard for instructions related to this class. Because this class is available on Blackboard, there should be minimal disruption unless the emergency affects electrical power and connection to the Internet.

In any emergency, communication is important, and our best means of staying connected is through the seminary’s web site and Blackboard.

Schedule

May 21, 8-5;

Orientation
Text Review Presentations

Roman Catholic
Episcopal
Greek Orthodox

June 4, 9-4

Text Review Presentations

Presbyterian
Lutheran

June 25, 9-4

Text Review Presentations

Baptist
Mennonite

July 9, 9-4

United Methodist
African Methodist Episcopal

Church of Christ
Pentecostal

July 23, 9-4

Present Papers
Response

Bibliography

- Anderson, Robert M., *Vision of the Disinherited: The Making of American Pentecostalism*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1979.
- Askew, Thomas A. and Richard V. Pierard. *The American Church Experience: A Concise History*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2004.
- Backus, Isaac. *A History of New England: With Particular Reference to the Denomination of Christian Called Baptist*. 3 Volumes. Boston: Edward Draper, 1777-1796.
- Bacon, Leonard Woosley, *A History of American Christianity*. New York: The Christian Literature Co., 1897.
- 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, 1856.
- Belcher, Joseph, *The Religious Denominations in the 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 the United States: From the First Settlement down to the Present Time*. New York: Phillips and Hunt, 1888.
- Ferm, Robert L., *Issues in American Protestantism: Documentary History from the Puritans to the Present*. Garden City, New York: Doubleday & Company, Inc., 1969.
- Gaustad, Edwin S. ed. *A Documentary History of Religion in America to the Civil War*. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1993.
- _____, *A Documentary History of Religion in America: Since 1865*. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids, 1993.
- Handy, Robert Theodore, *A History of the Churches of the United States and Canada*. In *Oxford History of the Christian Church*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1977.
- Hudson, Winthrop S., *Religion in America*. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1965.
- Leonard, Bill, ed. *Early American Christianity*. Christian Classics Series. Nashville: Broadman Press, 1979.
- 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*. Third Edition. Hartford: Silas Andrus and Son, 1855.
- Marty, Martin E., *Pilgrims in their Own Land: 500 Years of Religion in America*. Boston: Little, Brown and Company, 1984.

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

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

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

_____, Nathan O. Hatch, George M. Marsden, David F. Wells, and John Woodbridge, eds. *Eerdmans' Handbook to Christianity in America*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Pub., 1983.

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

Piepkorn, Arthur Carl. *Profiles in Belief: The Religious Bodies of the United States and Canada*. San Francisco: Harper & Row, 1978.

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

Smith, H. Shelton, Robert T. Handy, and Lefferts A. Loetscher, *American Christianity: An Interpretation with Representative Documents. Volume 1: 1607-1820*. New York: Scribner's Sons, 1960.

Smith, H. Shelton, Robert T. Handy, and Lefferts A. Loetscher, *American Christianity: An Interpretation with Representative Documents. Volume 2*. New York: Scribner's Sons, 1963.

Sweet, William Warren, *The Story of Religion in America*. New York: Harper & Brothers, 1930.