

**Birmingham Theological Seminary**  
**2200 Briarwood Way, Birmingham, Alabama 35243**  
**205-776-5650**

**Fall 2019**  
**September 3-December 8**  
**Demopolis Campus**  
**HT 4641 Church History in America**

**Professor: Major W. Burrell**  
**205.542.4629**  
**burrell.major@yahoo.com**  
**Credit hours: 2**

### **Course Purpose**

This course presents a survey of the Christian Church as it was transplanted and transformed on American soil. The history of revivalism and the growth of evangelicalism will receive particular attention in the context of American frontier expansion. We will also focus on the social upheaval of the Civil War, the waning influence of confessional Christianity and the social tensions of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century and its impact on the mission of the Church.

### **Course Objectives**

1. The student will be able to name and discuss major events in the course of the history of Christianity in America.
2. The student will be able to name and explain the contribution of many of the instrumental people who shaped the history of Christianity in America.
3. The student will be able to describe the development of Christian thought and doctrine as a result of historical developments and key individuals.
4. The student will be able to examine and relate the lessons of history to current developments.
5. The student will be able to identify and become familiar with various views different segments of the church have held concerning culture, origins, racism, segregation, marriage, and the consequences of such views in a multicultural, pluralistic society.

### **\*Course Required Texts**

Noll, Mark A. *The Old Religion in a New World: The History of North American Christianity*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2001.

Byrd, James P., *Sacred Scripture, Sacred War: The Bible and the American Revolution*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2013.

Piper, John. *Bloodlines: Race, Cross and the Christian*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2011.

*\*Students pursuing a certificate should consult the Certificate Guideline Supplement.*

## \*Course Requirements

1. Class attendance and participation: in the absence of professor permission, more than two unexcused absences drops final grade one letter grade.
2. Completion of all assigned readings and writing assignments on time and ability to participate in class discussions.
3. Submission of weekly chapter notes/summaries from the assigned readings in Mark Noll's *The Old Religion in a New World*. These notes/summaries should be submitted as a hard copy at the beginning of each class session and should be titled "Church History in America, Noll, Chapter #."
4. Write two Book Reviews (3-4 pages exclusive of title page and endnotes) examining the books listed below. These essays should be submitted as hard copies at the beginning of each class session. The following should be included in your Book Review: Title: "Church History in America, Book Review #." Each review needs to address the author, the audience, the historiographical context, the argument(s), the evidence, and how convincing the book was as a whole.

-Byrd, James P. *Sacred Scripture, Sacred War: The Bible and the American Revolution*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2013.

-Piper, John. *Bloodlines: Race, Cross and the Christian*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2011.

5. Complete the Historiographical Essay Project. This is comprised of three parts:
  - a) A review essay (7-9 pages exclusive of footnotes, bibliography, title page, and table of contents) on any one of the books listed in the Bibliography section below. You may write on another book with the professor's prior approval. This essay should address the author, the audience, the surrounding literature, the argument(s), the evidence and how convincing the book was as a whole. All papers must be 12 point Times New Roman font and formatted in accordance with Turabian/Chicago standards. This paper needs to be provided as a hard copy to me on the due date and include the following title on your submission: "Church History in America, Historiographical Essay."
  - b) An oral presentation of your chosen book.
  - c) A summary/outline of your chosen book addressing the historical context, the argument and key themes, as well as the evidence employed by the author. This summary will be distributed to your classmates and it should be typed and no more than two pages single spaced.
6. A mid-term exam which will consist of short answer, multiple choice, and short essay questions.

7. A final exam which will consist of short answer, multiple choice, and short essay questions.

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### **\*Course Grading**

1. **Class participation: 100 possible points**
  - a) Weekly discussions of assigned readings: 20 points
  - b) Chapter summaries/notes: 80 points
2. **Two Book Review Essays: 100 possible points**
  - a) Book review essay 1: 50 points
  - b) Book review essay 2: 50 points
3. **Historiographical Essay Project: 100 possible points**
  - a) Essay: 50 points
  - b) Oral presentation: 40 points
  - c) Distributable Summary/Outline: 10 points
4. **Mid-term exam: 100 points**
5. **Final exam: 100 points**

**The Final Grade** consists of two exam grades totaling 200 points, two essay grades totaling 100 points, one Book Review Project of 100 points, and a participation grade totaling 100 points.

**There are 500 points possible for the course.**

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### **BTS FORMAT AND STYLE STANDARDS**

BTS uses the Turabian style of formatting as a standard for papers. However, students should regard individual professor preferences if they communicate any variance in outlining their requirements for papers. Professors retain discretion in determining how “formal” a paper must be. In this technological age, information is readily available; make sure that you understand about giving reference sources the proper recognition.

The final exam (paper) of ten to fifteen pages should incorporate, on average, at least two footnotes per page and a bibliography of 10-12 references and the required extracurricular research to support such a paper.

**Proper planning and timely completion of assignments is crucial.**

**Course Outline**  
(Subject to Revision)

Week 1: Sep. 3 – Introduction; Read and be ready to discuss Chapter 1 of Mark Noll’s *The Old Religion in the New World*.

Week 2: Sep. 10 – Submit your notes/summary of Noll’s *The Old Religion*, Chapters 1 and 2; Prepare for a discussion of Noll, (finishing)Chapter 1 and 2.

Week 3: Sep. 17 – Submit your notes/summary of Noll’s *The Old Religion*, Chapter 3; Prepare for discussion on Noll.

Week 4: Sep. 24 – Submit your notes/summary of Noll’s *The Old Religion*, Chapter 4; Prepare for discussion on Noll.

Week 5: October 1 – Submit your **Book Review of James P. Byrd’s *Sacred Scripture, Sacred War***; Submit your notes/summary of Noll’s *The Old Religion*, Chapter 5; Prepare for a discussion of Noll and Byrd.

Week 6: Oct. 8 – Read Noll, *The Old Religion*, Chapter 6. Submit your notes/summary of Noll’s *The Old Religion*, Chapter 6.

Week 7: Oct. 15 – Fall Break. Read Noll, *The Old Religion*, Chapter 7.

Week 8: Oct. 22 – **Mid-Term Exam.**

Week 9: Oct. 29– Submit your notes/summary of Noll’s *The Old Religion*, Chapter 7 and 8; Prepare for discussion on Noll.

Week 10: Nov. 5 –Submit your notes/summary of Noll’s *The Old Religion*, Chapter 9; Prepare for discussion on Noll.

Week 11: Nov. 12 – Submit your **Book Review of John Piper’s *Bloodlines***; Submit your notes/summary of Noll’s *The Old Religion*, Chapter 10; Prepare for discussion on Noll and Piper.

Week 12: Nov. 19 – Submit **the Historiographical Essay**; Submit your notes/summary of Noll’s *The Old Religion*, Chapter 11; Prepare for discussion on Noll.

Week 13: Nov. 26 –Thanksgiving Break!

Week 14: Dec. 3- **Final Exam!** Submit your notes/summary of Noll’s *The Old Religion*, Chapter 12; **Historiographical Essay Project Presentations and distribution of book summaries/outlines.**

**CERTIFICATE GUIDELINE SUPPLEMENT**  
**HT 4641 Church History in America**  
**Major W. Burrell**

**\*\*Please note that this supplement is only intended for students pursuing the certificate. \*\***

**Course Texts**

**Primary:**

Noll, Mark A. *The Old Religion in a New World: The History of North American Christianity*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2001.

**Supplementary (pick one of the following):**

Byrd, James P. *Sacred Scripture, Sacred War: The Bible and the American Revolution*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2013.

**Or**

Piper, John. *Bloodlines: Race, Cross and the Christian*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2011.

**Course Requirements**

1. Class attendance.
2. Completion of all assigned reading.
3. Class discussion.
4. Submission of weekly chapter notes/summaries from the assigned readings in Mark Noll's *The Old Religion in a New World*. These notes/summaries should be submitted to me via hard copy at the beginning of each class session. Please provide the following title on your submission "Church History in America, Noll, Chapter #."
5. Write a Book Review (2-3 pages exclusive of title page and footnotes) examining one of the Supplement Books to be submitted on the discussion dates noted in the course schedule provided in the syllabus. Please provide the following title on your submission "Church History in America, Book Review, Certificate Route"
  - a) James P. Byrd's *Sacred Scripture, Sacred War*.      **OR**
  - b) John Piper's *Bloodlines*.

6. Complete the Historiographical Essay Project. This is comprised of three parts:

- a) A historiography essay (5-7 pages exclusive of footnotes, bibliography, title page, and table of contents) on any one of the books listed in the Bibliography section below. You may write on another book with the professor's prior approval. This essay should address the author, the audience, the historiographical context, the argument(s), the evidence and how convincing the

book was as a whole. All papers must be 12 point Times New Roman font and formatted in accordance with Turabian/Chicago standards. Please submit a hard copy at the beginning of the class session with the following title listed on your submission: "Church History in America, Historiography Essay, Certificate Route"

b) An oral presentation of your chosen book.

c) A summary/outline of your chosen book addressing the historical context, the argument and key themes, as well as the evidence employed by the author. This summary will be distributed to your classmates and it should be typed and no more than two pages single spaced.

7. A mid-term exam which will be made up of short answer, multiple choice, and short essay questions.

8. A final exam which will be made up of short answer, multiple choice, and short essay questions.

### **\*Course Grading**

1. **Class participation: 100 possible points**
  - a) Weekly discussions of assigned readings: 20 points
  - b) Chapter summaries/notes: 80 points
2. One **Book Review Essays: 50 points**
3. **Historiographical Essay Project: 100 possible points**
  - a) Essay: 50 points
  - b) Oral presentation: 40 points
  - c) Distributable Summary/Outline: 10 points
4. **Mid-term exam: 100 points**
5. **Final exam: 100 points**

### **Further Reading/ Bibliography**

Ahlstrom, Sydney E. *A Religious History of the American People*. Volume 1. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1972.

\_\_\_\_\_. *A Religious History of the American People*. Volume 2. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1972.

Anyabwile, Thabiti. *The Decline of African American Theology: From Biblical Faith to Cultural Captivity*. Downer's Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2007.

- Balmer, Randall. *Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory: A Journey into the Evangelical Subculture in America, 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edition*. New York: Oxford University, 2014.
- Bell, James B. *A War of Religion: Dissenters, Anglicans, and the American Revolution*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2008.
- Bradley, Anthony. *Liberating Black Theology: The Bible and the Black Experience in America*. Wheaton: Crossway, 2010.
- Conkin, Paul. *Cane Ridge: America's Pentecost*. Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 1990.
- Finke, Roger, and Rodney Stark. *The Churching of America, 1776–1990, Winners and Losers in Our Religious Economy*. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 1992.
- Hangen, Tona. *Redeeming the Dial: Radio, Religion, and Popular Culture in America*. The University of North Carolina Press, 2002.
- Hart, D.G and John R. Muether. *Seeking a Better Country: 300 Years of American Presbyterianism*. Presbyterian and Reformed, 2009.
- Heyrman, Christine Leigh. *The Southern Cross: The Beginnings of the Bible Belt*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1998.
- Jenkins, Philip. *The New Anti-Catholicism: The Last Acceptable Prejudice*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2003.
- Kay, William. *Pentecostalism: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011.
- Kidd, Thomas S. *Baptists in America: A History*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2015.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *God of Liberty: A Religious History of the American Revolution*. New York: Basic Books, 2012.
- Marsden, George M. *The Evangelical Mind and the New School Presbyterian Experience: A Case Study of Thought and Theology in Nineteenth-Century America*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1970
- McGrath, Alister E. *Christianity's Dangerous Idea: The Protestant Revolution: A History from the Sixteenth Century to the Twenty-First*. San Francisco: HarperOne, 2008.
- McLoughlin, William G. *Revivals, Awakenings, and Reform: An Essay on Religion and Social Change in America, 1607–1977*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1978.
- Moore, Joseph S. *Founding Sins: How a Group of Antislavery Radicals Fought to Put Christ into the Constitution*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2016.
- Murray, Iain H. *Evangelicalism Divided: A Record of Crucial Change in the Years 1950 to 2000*.

- Edinburgh: The Banner of Truth Trust, 2001.
- Noll, Mark A. *America's God: From Jonathan Edwards to Abraham Lincoln*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2002.
- Raboteau, Albert J. *Canaan Land: A Religious History of African Americans*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2001.
- Sandoz, Ellis. *Republicanism, Religion, and the Soul of America*. Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 2006.
- Snay, Mitchell. *Gospel of Disunion Religion and Separatism in the Antebellum South*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 1993.
- Stanley, Brian. *The Global Diffusion of Evangelicalism: The Age of Billy Graham and John Stott*. Downer's Grove: Intervarsity, 2013.
- Taylor, William Harrison. *Unity in Christ and Country: American Presbyterians in the Revolutionary Era, 1758-1801*. Tuscaloosa: University of Alabama Press, 2017.
- Westerkamp, Marilyn J. *Triumph of the Laity: Scots-Irish Piety and the Great Awakening, 1625-1760*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1987.
- Wigger, John H. *Taking Heaven by Storm: Methodism and the Rise of Popular Christianity in America*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1998.
- Youngs, J. William T. *The Congregationalists*. Westport, CT: Greenwood Publishing Group, 1998.