

Birmingham Theological Seminary
2200 Briarwood Way
Birmingham, AL 35243
205-776-5650
Montgomery Campus (Young Meadows Presbyterian Church)

Fall 2020
HT4641 Church History in America
Class Hours: 2

Professor: Dr. Wm. Harrison Taylor
wtaylor@alasu.edu

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 20th Century and its impact on the mission of the Church.

Course Objectives

1. The student will be able to name major events in the course of the history of Christianity in America.
2. The student will be able to name and discuss the contribution of many of the key 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 draw from and relate the lessons of history to current developments.
5. The student will become acquainted 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 Texts*

Required:

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.
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 saved as Word or RTF documents and submitted to me by email (wtaylor@alasu.edu). The emails should be titled "Church History in America, Noll, Chapter #."

5. Write two Book Reviews (3-4 pages exclusive of title page and endnotes) examining the books listed below. These essays need to be saved as Word or RTF documents and submitted to me by email (wtaylor@alasu.edu). The emails should be titled "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.

6. 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 saved as a Word or RTF document and submitted to me by email (wtaylor@alasu.edu). The email should be titled "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.

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

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

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Grading*

1. Class participation: 100 points

a) Weekly discussions of assigned readings: 20 points

b) Chapter summaries/notes: 80 points

2. Two Book Review Essays (50 points each): 100 points

3. Historiographical Essay Project: 100 points

a) Essay: 70 points

b) Oral presentation: 15 points

c) Distributable Summary/Outline: 15

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

Note: 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.

Proper planning and timely completion of assignments is crucial.

Course Outline (adjusted as necessary)

Week 1: Jan. 21 – Introduction; Read and be ready to discuss Chapter 1 of Mark Noll’s *The Old Religion in the New World*.

Week 2: Jan. 28 – Submit (by email) 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: Feb. 4 – Submit (by email) your notes/summary of Noll’s *The Old Religion*, Chapter 3; Prepare for discussion on Noll.

Week 4: Feb. 11 – Submit (by email) your notes/summary of Noll’s *The Old Religion*, Chapter 4; Prepare for discussion on Noll.

Week 5: Feb. 18 – Submit (by email) your **Book Review of James P. Byrd’s *Sacred Scripture, Sacred War***; Submit (by email) your notes/summary of Noll’s *The Old Religion*, Chapter 5; Prepare for a discussion of Noll and Byrd.

Week 6: Feb. 25 – Spring Break. Read Noll, *The Old Religion*, Chapter 6. Submit (by email) your notes/summary of Noll’s *The Old Religion*, Chapter 6.

Week 7: March. 3 – **Mid-term Exam.**

Week 8: March 10 – Read Noll, *The Old Religion*, Chapter 7; Submit (by email) your notes/summary of Noll’s *The Old Religion*, Chapter 7. Prepare for a discussion of Noll.

Week 9: March 17 – Submit (by email) your notes/summary of Noll’s *The Old Religion*, Chapter 8; Prepare for discussion on Noll.

Week 10: March 24 – Submit (by email) your notes/summary of Noll’s *The Old Religion*, Chapter 9; Prepare for discussion on Noll.

Week 11: March 31 – Submit (by email) your **Book Review of John Piper’s *Bloodlines***; Submit (by email) your notes/summary of Noll’s *The Old Religion*, Chapter 10; Prepare for discussion on Noll and Piper.

Week 12: April 7 – Submit (by email) **the Historiographical Essay**; Submit (by email) your notes/summary of Noll’s *The Old Religion*, Chapter 11; Prepare for discussion on Noll.

Week 13: April 14 – Submit (by email) your notes/summary of Noll’s *The Old Religion*, Chapter 12; **Historiographical Essay Project Presentations and distribution of book summaries/outlines**; Prepare for discussion on Noll.

Week 14: April 21 – **Final Exam!**

CERTIFICATE GUIDELINE SUPPLEMENT
HT 4641 Church History in America
Dr. Wm. Harrison Taylor

***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 saved as Word or RTF documents and submitted to me by email (wtaylor@alasu.edu). The emails should be titled “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. These reviews need to be saved as Word or RTF documents and submitted to me by email (wtaylor@alasu.edu). The email should be titled “Church History in America, Book Review, Certificate Route”
 - a) James P. Byrd’s *Sacred Scripture, Sacred War*.
 - 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. This paper needs to be saved as a Word or RTF document and submitted to me by email (wtaylor@alasu.edu). The email should be titled “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.

Grading

1. Class participation: 100 points
 - a) Weekly discussions of assigned readings: 20 points
 - b) Chapter summaries/notes: 80 points
2. One Book Review Essay: 50 points
3. Historiographical Essay Project: 100 points
 - a) Essay: 70 points
 - b) Oral presentation: 15 points
 - c) Distributable Summary/Outline: 15
4. Mid-term exam: 100 points
5. Final exam: 100 points

Further Reading/ Bibliography

- Abzug, Robert. *Cosmos Crumbling: American Reform and the Religious Imagination*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1994.
- 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, 25th Anniversary Edition*. New York: Oxford University, 2014.
- Bebbington, David, W. *The Dominance of Evangelicalism: The Age of Spurgeon and Moody*. Downer's Grove: Intervarsity, 2005.
- Bell, James B. *A War of Religion: Dissenters, Anglicans, and the American Revolution*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2008.
- Bonomi, Patricia U. *Under the Cope of Heaven: Religion, Society, and Politics in Colonial America*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2003.
- Bradley, Anthony. *Liberating Black Theology: The Bible and the Black Experience in America*. Wheaton: Crossway,

2010.

- Bridenbaugh, Carl. *Mitre and Sceptre: Transatlantic Faith, Ideas, Personalities, and Politics, 1689-1775*. Oxford University Press, 1962.
- Clark, J. C. D. *The Language of Liberty, 1660–1832; Political discourse and social dynamics in the Anglo-American World*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 1994.
- 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.
- Foster, Stephen. *The Long Argument: English Puritanism and the Shaping of New England Culture, 1570–1700*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1991.
- Genovese, Elizabeth Fox and Eugene D. Genovese, *The Mind of the Master Class: History and Faith in the Southern Slaveholders' Worldview*. Cambridge University Press, 2005.
- Hangen, Tona. *Redeeming the Dial: Radio, Religion, and Popular Culture in America*. The University of North Carolina Press, 2002.
- Hankins, Barry. *Francis Schaeffer and the Shaping of Evangelical America*. Grand Rapids, Mich: William B. Eerdmans Pub, 2008.
- Hatch, Nathan. *The Democratization of American Christianity*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1989.
- Hart, D. G. *Defending the Faith: J. Gresham Machen and the Crisis of Conservative Protestantism in Modern America*. P&R Publishing, 2003.
- 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.
- Irons, Charles F. *The Origins of Proslavery Christianity: White and Black Evangelicals in Colonial and Antebellum Virginia*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2008.
- Jenkins, Philip. *The New Anti-Catholicism: The Last Acceptable Prejudice*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2003.
- Johnson, Paul E. *A Shopkeeper's Millennium: Society and Revivals in Rochester, New York, 1815–1837*. New York: Hill and Wang, 2004.
- 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.
- _____. *The Great Awakening: The Roots of Evangelical Christianity in Colonial America*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 2007.
- _____. *George Whitefield: America's Spiritual Founding Father*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2014.
- _____. *God of Liberty: A Religious History of the American Revolution*. New York: Basic Books, 2012.
- _____. *The Protestant Interest: New England After Puritanism*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2013.

- Lucas, Sean Michael. *For a Continuing Church: The Roots of the Presbyterian Church in America*. P&R Publishing, 2015.
- Machen, J. Grescham. *Christianity and Liberalism*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2009.
- Mailer, Gideon. *John Witherspoon's American Revolution: Enlightenment and Religion from the Creation of Britain to the Founding of the United States*. University of North Carolina Press, 2017.
- 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
- _____. *Fundamentalism and American Culture: The Shaping of Twentieth Century Evangelism 1870 – 1925*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2006.
- _____. *Understanding Fundamentalism and Evangelicalism*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1991.
- Mathews, Donald. *Religion in the Old South*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1977.
- McGrath, Alister E. *Christianity's Dangerous Idea: The Protestant Revolution: A History from the Sixteenth Century to the Twenty-First*. San Francisco: HarperOne, 2008.
- _____. *Reformation Thought: An Introduction*. Fourth edition. Malden: Blackwell Publishing, 2012.
- 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.
- Morgan, Edmund S. *The Puritan Family: Religion and Domestic Relations in Seventeenth-Century New England*. New York: Harper & Row Publishers; Revised & enlarged edition, 1966.
- 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.
- _____. *The New Shape of World Christianity: How American Experience Reflects Global Faith*. Downer's Grove: Intervarsity Press, 2009.
- _____., David Bebbington, George A. Rawlyk, eds, *Evangelicalism: Comparative Studies of Popular Protestantism in North America, The British Isles, and Beyond, 1700-1990*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1994.
- _____. *The Scandal of the Evangelical Mind*. Grand Rapids, Mich: W.B. Eerdmans, 1994.
- Orsi, Robert A., *The Madonna of 115th Street: Faith and Community in Italian Harlem, 1880-1950*, Third Edition. Yale University Press, 2010.
- Oshatz, Molly. *Slavery and Sin: The Fight against Slavery and the Rise of Liberal Protestantism*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2011.
- Pestana, Carla Gardina. *Protestant Empire: Religion and the Making of the British Atlantic World*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2011.
- Raboteau, Albert J. *Canaan Land: A Religious History of African Americans*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2001.

- _____. *Slave Religion: The "Invisible Institution" in the Antebellum South*, Paperback. New York: Oxford University Press, 2004.
- Rohrer, S. Scott, *Hope's Promise: Religion and Acculturation in the Southern Backcountry*. 2nd ed. Edition. Tuscaloosa: University of Alabama Press, 2005.
- 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.
- Taylor, William Harrison, and Peter C. Messer, *Faith and Slavery in the Presbyterian Diaspora*. Lehigh University Press, 2016.
- Toulouse, Mark G., Gary Holloway, and Douglas A. Foster. *Renewing Christian Unity: A Concise History of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)*. Abilene, TX: Abilene Christian University Press, 2010.
- 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.