

The Reformation in the New World: Studies in American Presbyterianism

INSTRUCTOR: John R. Muether (jmuether@rts.edu)

DATES: January 25-29, 2010

PLACE: Roger Nicole Rare Book Room (Classroom 6)

TEXTBOOKS

Students will be required to read the following books *before* the seminar:

1. Either one of these two books:

Hatch, Nathan O. *Democratization of American Religion*. New Haven: Yale, 1989.

Noll, Mark A. *The Old Religion in a New World*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2002.

2. Wells, David F., ed. *Reformed Theology in America*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1987. (Reprinted by P&R.)
3. One biography of a significant figure in American Presbyterian history (consult with the instructor on your selection).
4. Hart, D. G. and Muether, John R. *Seeking a Better Country*. Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R, 2007.

OBJECTIVES

This is a graduate seminar with three basic components – lectures, student presentations and tutorials. This seminar is designed to introduce the graduate student to the historical and theological developments American Presbyterianism.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

There will be one major research paper (20-30 pages) on a topic approved by the instructor. The complete first draft is due **March 1**. The final draft of research paper is due **March 29**.

There are also two response papers (7-10 pages) on the reading assignments, which are to be completed *before* the January session. Each paper is to be a formal, well-written,

footnoted, balanced, summary, analysis and critical response to any *two chapters from the assigned reading*.

These response papers will be presented informally in the morning sessions and will provide the basis for seminar discussions. In afternoon tutorials, the instructor will work with students to begin work on the research paper for the seminar.

Students will give presentations (30 min.) of the fruits of their response papers, followed by class discussion. Students are to provide Mr. Muether with a copy of their presentations on first day of the session. They will be photocopied and distributed to class.

The major research paper is 70% of the final grade. Each response paper will be 15% of the final grade.

SEMINAR SCHEDULE: 9 am - Noon

January 25	Colonial Presbyterianism:
January 26	Nineteen Century Presbyterianism
January 27	The Presbyterian Controversy
January 28	Mainline Presbyterianism
January 29	Vanishing Presbyterianism

TUTORIALS: 1 PM – 3 PM in the instructor’s office