

Th.M. Seminar
The Reformation and American Protestantism
2HT840/01

Instructor: Dr. Grant R. Brodrecht
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Dates: 24-28 January 2011

Time: Tutorials, 3:00-6:00 pm
Seminars, 6:00-9:00 pm

Seminar Location: RTS Seminar Room

Course Objectives and Description:

This is a graduate seminar with three basic components – lectures, student presentations, and tutorials. The seminar is designed to provide students with an understanding of America as a partial product of the Protestant Reformation and as particularly fertile ground for Protestantism to flourish. With the English Reformation serving as the immediate backdrop, the course surveys American religious history while keeping several Reformational themes and issues prominently in the foreground. Beginning with the sixteenth and seventeenth-century Puritans and extending into the present, the importance of such issues as *sola scriptura*, the priesthood of believers, clerical authority, the authority of tradition, anti-Catholicism, the relationship between church and state, and the relationship between faith and reason will emerge. These issues were all particularly salient within the main stream of American culture well into the nineteenth century and beyond. The course will also introduce students to the rich body of historiography regarding Protestantism and its relationship to American culture.

Course Requirements:

- You will be required to complete **one Research Paper (20-25 pages)** on a topic approved by the professor. Please come to the January session with questions/topics in mind. The complete first draft is due *Monday, March 28, 2011*. The final draft of the research paper is due *Monday, April 25, 2011*. This will count as 70% of your grade.

- You will be required to complete **two Response Papers (6-8 pages) and Presentations (30 minutes)** from the reading assignments (see below, under Required Texts). The papers are to be completed and submitted via email (grbrodrecht@genevaschool.org) *prior to the January session*. Each of the papers is to be a formal, well-written, footnoted, balanced summary, analysis, and critical response to two of the assigned texts (excluding the Vaughn collection of Puritan documents). I will photocopy and distribute your papers; you will then make informal presentations to the class (30 minutes), each of which will be followed by a seminar discussion of the text. Each paper and presentation will count as 15% of your grade. **Please rank the required texts in order of preference so that I may assign papers and presentations to each of the class members and then email me your list prior to January 1, 2011.**

Required Texts:

- MacCulloch, Diarmaid. *The Later Reformation in England, 1547-1603*. New York: St. Martin's Press, 1990. ISBN: 978-0333921395
- Alden T. Vaughn, ed. *The Puritan Tradition in America, 1620-1730*, rev. ed. Hanover, NH: University Press of New England, 1997. ISBN: 978-0874518528
- Noll, Mark A. *The Rise of Evangelicalism: The Age of Edwards, Whitefield, and the Wesleys*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2003. ISBN: 978-0830838912
- Hatch, Nathan O. *The Democratization of American Christianity*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1989. ISBN: 978-0300050608
- Turner, James. *Without God, Without Creed: The Origins of Unbelief in America*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University, 1985. ISBN: 978-0801834073
- Marsden, George M. *Fundamentalism and American Culture*, 2d. ed. New York: Oxford University Press, 2006. ISBN: 978-0195300475
- Noll, Mark A. *American Evangelical Christianity: An Introduction*. Oxford, England: Blackwell, 2001. ISBN: 978-0631220008
- Various primary and secondary source readings to be assigned when class meets.

Course Schedule:

- **Monday, 24 January:** Introduction and English Reformation Background (MacCulloch presentation) (Various handouts will be given to read for Tuesday)
- **Tuesday, 25 January:** Seventeenth Century – Puritanism and the New England Way (Noll presentation) (Various handouts will be given to read for Wednesday)
- **Wednesday, 26 January:** Eighteenth Century – Great Awakening, Enlightenment, and American Revolution (Hatch Presentation) (Various handouts will be given to read for Thursday)
- **Thursday, 27 January:** Nineteenth Century – Republicanism, Second Great Awakening, Scottish Common Sense, and the Civil War (Turner Presentation) (Various handouts will be given to read for Friday)
- **Friday, 28 January:** Twentieth Century – Protestant Liberalism, Fundamentalism, Neo-Evangelicalism, and the Religious Right (Marsden and Noll presentations)

Internet Schedule:

- **7 February 2011:** Preliminary Outline to Professor
- **14 February 2011:** Professor responds to Student
- **21 February 2011:** Student submits 5-7 pages to Professor

- **28 February 2011:** Professor responds to Student
- **7 March 2011:** Student submits 10-13 pages to Professor and all seminar participants for constructive criticism
- **21 March 2011:** Professor and All Seminar Participants provide feedback (submit your feedback on classmates' papers to the Professor and the individual student)
- **28 March 2011:** Student submits *First Draft* to Professor and All Seminar Participants for constructive criticism
- **4 April 2011:** Professor and All Seminar Participants provide feedback (submit your feedback on classmates' papers to the Professor and the individual student)
- **25 April 2011:** *Final Draft* due to Professor via email and regular mail to (postmark by the due date):

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Criteria for Evaluation of Th.M. Papers:

- Grammar and Style (25%)
 - Is the text clean of spelling mistakes?
 - Is the text punctuated correctly?
 - Does the sentence structure consistently adhere to basic rules of good grammar?
 - Does the footnote/bibliographic apparatus follow Turabian consistently? (See Kate L. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, latest edition).
 - Is the paper written in clear, straight-forward style of academic prose (e.g., see the guidelines in Strunk and White, *The Elements of Style*)?
- Organization (25%)
 - Is the subject of the paper clearly delimited? Is it significant, but still manageable?
 - Does the subject correspond to what was assigned in the syllabus?
 - Does the paper have a well-designed thesis statement and outline?
 - Does the running text of the paper adhere to the outline, and are the larger divisions of the paper clearly signposted?
 - Are the sentences and paragraphs of the text linked together clearly and in such a way that the thought of the student builds throughout the paper with continuity and coherence?
- Clarity and Force of Argument (25%)
 - Is a convincing case made to support the thesis statement?
 - Is the evidence marshaled to support the argument used judiciously?
 - Where the student provides exposition or summary, does she/he do so succinctly and objectively?
 - Are opposing viewpoints treated fairly?
 - Is there evidence of mature Christian reflection on the subject matter?

- Research (25%)
 - Does the paper draw on primary sources for its main evidence?
 - Are the secondary sources selected and used judiciously?
 - Does the paper demonstrate sufficient depth and breadth of research, given the nature and level of the assignment?

Recommended Resources:

Barzun, Jacques and Henry F. Graff. *The Modern Researcher*. 6th ed. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth, 2004.

Van Leunen, Mary-Claire. *A Handbook for Scholars*. Rev. ed. New York: Oxford University Press, 1992.

Zinsser, William K. *On Writing Well: The Classic Guide to Writing Nonfiction*. 7th ed. New York: Harper and Row, 2006.

Additional 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*, 2d ed. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2004.

Ahlstrom, Sydney E., ed. *Theology in America: The Major Protestant Voices from Puritanism to Neo-Orthodoxy*. Indianapolis: Bobbs-Merrill, 1967.

Appleby, R. Scott. *“Church and Age Unite!”: The Modernist Impulse in American Catholicism*. Notre Dame, IN: University of Notre Dame Press, 1992.

Applegate, Debby. *The Most Famous Man in America: The Biography of Henry Ward Beecher*. New York: Three Leaves Press, Doubleday, 2006.

Balmer, Randall. *God in the White House: How Faith Shaped the Presidency from John F. Kennedy to George W. Bush*. New York: Harperone, 2008.

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Bebbington, David. *The Dominance of Evangelicalism: The Age of Spurgeon And Moody*. Downer’s Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 2005.

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Bercovitch, Sacvan. *The American Jeremiad*. Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 1978.

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- Blight, David W. *Frederick Douglass' Civil War: Keeping Faith in Jubilee*. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1989.
- Bobrick, Benson. *Wide as the Waters: The Story of the English Bible and the Revolution it Inspired*. New York: Simon and Schuster, 2001.
- Bonomi, Patricia U. *Under the Cope of Heaven: Religion, Society, and Politics in Colonial America*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1986.
- Bozeman, Theodore Dwight. *The Precisianist Strain: Disciplinary Religion and Antinomian Backlash in Puritanism to 1638*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2004.
- _____. *Protestants in an Age of Science: The Baconian Ideal and Antebellum American Religious Thought*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1977.
- _____. *To Live Ancient Lives: The Primitivist Dimension in Puritanism*. Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press, 1988.
- Bratt, James D. *Dutch Calvinism in Modern America*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1984.
- Breen, T. H. *The Character of a Good Ruler: Puritan Political Ideas in New England, 1630-1730*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1970.
- Bremer, Francis J. *John Winthrop: America's Forgotten Founding Father*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2003.
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- Bushman, Richard L. *From Puritan to Yankee: Character and the Social Order in Connecticut, 1690-1765*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1967.
- Butler, Diana Hochstedt. *Standing Against the Whirlwind: Evangelical Episcopalians in Nineteenth-Century America*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1995.
- Butler, Jon C. *Awash in a Sea of Faith: Christianizing the American People*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1990.
- Carpenter, Joel A. *Revive Us Again: The Reawakening of American Fundamentalism*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1997.
- Carwardine, Richard J. *Evangelicals and Politics in Antebellum America*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1993.
- _____. *Transatlantic Revivalism: Popular Evangelicalism in Britain and America, 1790-1865*. Westport, CT: Greenwood, 1978.

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- Conser, Walter H., Jr. *God and the Natural World: Religion and Science in Antebellum America*. Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 1993.
- Coward, Barry. *The Stuart Age: England, 1603-1714*. 2d ed. London: Longman, 1994.
- Crawford, Michael J. *Seasons of Grace: Colonial New England's Revival Tradition in Its British Context*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1991.
- Croce, Paul Jerome. *Science and Religion in the Era of William James: Eclipse of Certainty, 1820-1880*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1995.
- Curtis, Heather. *Faith in the Great Physician: Suffering and Healing in American Culture, 1860-1900*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2007.
- Davenport, Stewart. *Friends of the Unrighteous Mammon: Northern Christians and Market Capitalism, 1815-1860*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2008.
- Davidson, James West. *The Logic of Millennial Thought: Eighteenth-Century New England*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1977.
- Dickens, A. G. *The English Reformation*, 2d ed. University Park, PA: Pennsylvania State University, 1989.
- _____. *Reformation and Society in Sixteenth-Century Europe*. London: Thames and Hudson, 1966.
- Dolan, Jay P. *The American Catholic Experience: A History from Colonial Times to the Present*. Notre Dame: University of Notre Dame Press, 1992.
- Duffy, Eamon. *The Stripping of the Altars: Traditional Religion in England, c. 1400-c. 1580*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1992.
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- Finstuen, Andrew S. *Original Sin and Everyday Protestants: The Theology of Reinhold Niebuhr, Billy Graham, and Paul Tillich in an Age of Anxiety*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2009.
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- Foster, Stephen. *The Long Argument: English Puritanism and the Shaping of New England Culture, 1570-1700*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1991.
- Fox, Richard Wrightman. *Jesus in America: Personal Savior, Cultural Hero, National Obsession*. New York: HarperCollins, 2004.
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