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Course Description  
This class is an introduction to the faith and practice of Presbyterianism in America. The course will trace the historical path of the American Presbyterian family as it has unfolded from the colonial period up to the present day. Emphasis will be placed on major events, movements, controversies, institutions and personalities that have helped shape the contemporary church’s faith. In telling the uniquely American story of Presbyterianism, the course will address the changing culture of the United States and its impact on Presbyterians.

Required Texts  

Course Requirements  
1. Reading - Students are expected to read in its entirety The Presbyterian Enterprise, The Presbyterian Creed and The Presbyterian Controversy.

2. Two Reflection Papers  
For the Fortson and Longfield books, you will write a 4-5 page reflection paper on each of these works. The reflection papers should consist of two parts: 1) An analysis of the book’s contents 2) Reflection on specific ways the book may provide useful insights for your future ministry. Papers should be double-spaced, 12 point font; due date is last day of class.

3. Research Paper  
Students will write a 12-15 page (minimum) research paper on an event, movement, controversy or person in American Presbyterian history. The paper should include research into primary sources as well as secondary sources. Lectures and text books will assist students to identify a paper topic as well as guidance from the instructor. Approval of the research topic is required. Please write the paper in 12-point font, double-spaced with footnotes and bibliography. Summaries of one’s research will be presented in class to fellow students. The paper is due on the last day of class.
4. **Final Exam** – There will be no final exam.

5. **Reading Report** – a Reading Report (attached to this syllabus) will be due the **last day of the exam period**.

6. **Class Participation** – Per seminary policy, it is required that students be present for all class sessions. In an emergency, you may notify professor that you have been providentially hindered.

**Grading**
- Reflection Papers - 25%
- Reading Report - 25%
- Research Paper - 50%

### Course Objectives Related to MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes

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<th><em><em>MDiv</em> Student Learning Outcomes</em>*</th>
<th><strong>Rubric</strong></th>
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| **Articulation (oral & written)**  | Strong     | 1. Historical research papers  
                                        2. Presentation of research to peers in classroom |
| **Scripture**                      | Moderate   | 1. Discuss use of Scripture in Presbyterian controversies  
                                        2. Changing views of inspiration/authority of Scripture among Presbyterians |
| **Reformed Theology**              | Strong     | 1. Reformed heritage of American Presbyterianism  
                                        2. Historic Presbyterian subscription to Westminster Standards |
| **Sanctification**                 | Minimal    | 1. Spiritual motivation for mission and ministry |
| **Desire for Worldview**           | Minimal    | 1. Presbyterian desire to glorify God in all things  
                                        2. Presbyterian home and world missions |
| **Winsomely Reformed**             | Strong     | 1. Ethos of Colonial Presbyterianism  
                                        2. Revivalism  
                                        3. Cooperative mission agencies |
| **Preach**                         | None       |  |
Worship

Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service.

Minimal

1. History of Presbyterian Worship

Shepherd

Ability to shepherd the local congregation: aiding in spiritual maturity; promoting use of gifts and callings; and encouraging a concern for non-Christians, both in America and worldwide.

None

1. Presbyterian involvement in social issues, politics
2. Ecclesiastical politics

Church/World

Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.

Strong

1. Presbyterian involvement in social issues, politics
2. Ecclesiastical politics

American Presbyterian Chronology

The Colonial Era
1667 Presbyterian Congregation in Newark, NJ
1706 First Presbytery in America
1717 Synod of Philadelphia
1727 Log College
1729 The Adopting Act
1741 Old Side/New Side Schism
1745 Synod of New York
1758 Reunion of Synods of Philadelphia and New York
1768 John Witherspoon, President of College of N.J.
1788 Presbyterian Constitution ratified
1789 First General Assembly

Old School/New School Period
1801 Plan of Union
1810 Cumberland Presbyterian Church
1812 Princeton Seminary
1818 GA Declaration on Slavery
1831 First Trial of Albert Barnes
1837 Auburn Declaration
1838 Old School/New School Schism
1858 United Synod of the South (NS)
1861 Presbyterian Church, C.S.A. (OS)
1864 Reunion OS/NS in the South (PCUS)
1870 Reunion OS/NS in the North (PCUSA)
1893 Trial of Professor Charles Briggs

Twentieth Century
1903  Two new chapters added to WCF
1906  Union of Cumberland and PCUSA
1910  GA adopts 5 Fundamentals
1924  Auburn Affirmation
1925  Scopes Monkey Trial
1929  Westminster Theological Seminary
1936  Orthodox Presbyterian Church (OPC)
1958  Union of UPCNA and PCUSA - UPCUSA
1964  Ordination of Women, PCUS
1967  Book of Confessions and Confession of >67, UPCUSA
1973  Presbyterian Church in America (PCA)
1982  RPCES joins PCA
1981  Evangelical Presbyterian Church (EPC)
1983  Reunion of UPUSA and PCUS to form the PC (U.S.A.)
American Presbyterianism

Reading Report

Please state the percentage of the Required Reading that you have completed.

Fortson, *The Presbyterian Creed*  __________ %

Armstrong, et.al., *The Presbyterian Enterprise*  __________ %

Longfield, *The Presbyterian Controversy*  __________ %

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Name  Date
Surveys of American Presbyterian History

The Forming of an American Tradition, Leonard Trinterud, 1949
The Constitutional History of the Presbyterian Church in United States of America, Charles Hodge, 1840
New England Calvinism and the Disruption of the Presbyterian Church, Earl A. Pope, 1987
A History of the New School, Samuel J. Baird, 1856
A History of the Presbyterian Church in America from its Origin Until the Year 1760 with Biographical Sketches of its Ministers, Richard Webster, 1857
History of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, 2 Vols., E. H. Gillett, 1864
A History of the Southern Presbyterian Church, Thomas C. Johnson, 1894
A Brief Sketch of the United Synod of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, Thomas C. Johnson, reprint, 1894
The United Synod of the South, Harold M. Parker, 1988
American Presbyterianism: Its Origin and Early History, Charles A. Briggs, 1885
The Presbyterian Church New School, 1837-1869, Edward D. Morris, 1905
The Presbyterian Creed, S. Donald Fortson, 2008
Evangelical Mind and New School Presbyterian Experience, George Marsden, 1970
The Broadening Church: A Study of Theological Issues in the Presbyterian Church Since 1869, Lefferts Loetscher, 1954
The Presbyterian Controversy: Fundamentalists, Modernists, & Moderates, Bradley Longfield, 1991
The Presbyterian Conflict, Ewin Rian, 1940
Presbyterian Ministry in American Culture, E.A. Smith, 1962
Presbyterian Worship in America: Changing Patterns Since 1787, Julius Melton, 1967
Presbyterians in the South, 3 Vols. E.T. Thompson, 1963
A Brief History of the Presbyterians, Loewerts Loetscher, 1978
A Brief History of the Presbyterians, James Smylie, 1996
The Presbyterians, Randall Balmer and John R. Fitzmier, 1994
Seeking a Better Country, D.G. Hart and John R. Muether, 2007
**General Assembly Minutes and Digests***

*Minutes of the Presbyterian Church in America, 1706-1788*, ed. Guy S. Klett, 1977  
*Minutes of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, 1789-1837*  
*Minutes of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America (Old School), 1837-1869*  
*A Collection of the Act, Deliverances, and Testimonies of the Supreme Judicatory of the Presbyterian Church from its Origin in America to the Present Time*, ed. Samuel J. Baird, 1856  
*A New Digest of the Acts and Deliverances of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America*, ed. William E. Moore, 1861  
*How Has the Gold Become Dim: The Decline of the Presbyterian Church, U.S. As Reflected in Its Assembly Actions*, Morton H. Smith, 1973

***See each Denomination=s Annual Record of General Assembly Meetings in GA Minutes

**Reference Works and Bibliographies**

*Presbyterian Encyclopedia*, Alfred Nevin, 1884  
*Encyclopedia of the Reformed Faith*, Donald McKim, 1992  
*Dictionary of the Presbyterian & Reformed Tradition in America*, D.G. Hart and Mark Noll, 1999  
*Bibliography of Published Articles on American Presbyterianism*, 1901-1980, Harold Parker, 1985  
*Bibliographic Essay® in The Presbyterians*, Balmer and Fitzmier, 1994

**Selected Readings from Primary Sources**

Paradigms in Polity: Classic Readings in Reformed and Presbyterian Church Government, David Hall and Joseph Hall, 1994

Presbyterian Historical Journal

Journal of Presbyterian History (also known as American Presbyterians, Journal of the Presbyterian Historical Society) - Hundreds of articles on Presbyterian History, published continuously since 1901

Historical Presbyterian Theological Journals, News Magazines and Newspapers (partial list)

The Presbyterian, (Northern Old School newspaper)
The Southern Presbyterian (Southern Old School newspaper)
American Presbyterian and Theological Review - New School Journal
Presbyterian Quarterly Review - New School Journal
Southern Presbyterian Review - Southern Old School Journal
The Presbyterian Outlook - PCUSA
The Presbyterian Survey - PCUS
The Southern Presbyterian Journal (Presbyterian Journal) - conservative, PCUS
The News, (Presbyterians Today) - PC(USA)
The Presbyterian Layman - conservative, PC(USA)