HISTORY AND THEOLOGY OF THE PURITANS 2 CREDIT HOURS An introduction to Puritanism in contexts of the ecclesiastical and civil struggles of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, and the place of the movement in the church’s theological development.

Required Textbooks for Reading:

Course Requirements:
Regular attendance. Excessive absences may require grade adjustment.

Class participation. It is expected that all students will participate in class discussions.

Examinations: There will be one comprehensive final exam.

Reading: As noted above and below. A written reading report will be required from all for-credit students. Only the required reading listed above is to be included in this report.

Class paper: All students will complete a class paper as described below.

Grading will be calculated according to RTS standards.

Class Paper: In conjunction with the theme of this course, the student will examine a contemporary author’s writings and present a paper describing that author’s interactions with, evaluation of, and/or critique of puritans or Puritanism. This will be done primarily though not exclusively through the investigation of the chosen author’s Diary(ies) or similar published material. Students may also consider journals, autobiographies, published correspondence or official papers of state. Secondary literature will also be important, but must not be substituted for reading of primary sources.

The following diarists are approved for study; others may be considered in consultation with the professor.

Thomas Cartwright (early Puritan, NOT late 17th century Anglican bishop)
Lady Anne Clifford
Simonds D’Ewes
John Evelyn
Robert Hooke
John (& Lucy) Hutchinson
Ralph Josselin
William Kiffin
Samuel Pepys
Vavasor Powell
Samuel Rutherford
Thomas Shepard
Verney Family
Bulstrode Whitlocke
Anthony Wood