An examination of the relationship between the church and modern culture and a survey of the history of American Presbyterianism in the past 300 years. Particular attention is given to differing Christian approaches to the relationship of Christ and culture, and to the impact of secularization and modernization on the ministry of the church.

Course Requirements

1. Class Attendance and Participation

2. Reading Reports (15 %)

3. Denominational Analysis Paper (35 %)

4. Technology Assignment (20 %)

5. Final Examination (30 %)

Reading Schedule and Assignments (subject to change):

1. *The Church Against the World* (electronically distributed; readings assigned more or less weekly)

2. Machen, *Christianity and Liberalism* (Response due: TBA)

3. Berry, *What are People For?* (Response due: TBA)


5. Technology Assignment (5-7 page paper, due: TBA)

6. Denominational analysis paper (8-10 page paper, due: May 18)
Outline of the Course

Part I: Church and World (1 – 2 pm)

Introduction to the Class

I. Preliminary Notes on Culture
   A. Pilgrimage as a Metaphor for the Christian Life
   B. What is Culture?
   C. What is the Church?
   D. What is the World?
   E. Heresies at the Intersection: Manichaeism, Gnosticism, Docetism
   F. Common Grace and the Antithesis

II. Christ and Culture: “The Enduring Problem”
   A. H. Richard Niebuhr: Christ and Culture
   B. Critiques of Niebuhr
   C. Reformed Approaches to Culture

III. The Contours of the Modern World: The Enlightenment & Its Effects
   A. Liberalism
   B. Secularization
   C. Modernity
   D. Individualism
   E. Consumerism

IV. Responses to the Enlightenment
   A. J. Gresham Machen: Christianity and Liberalism
   B. Neo-Orthodoxy
   C. Fundamentalism
   D. Others

V. The Church and the Culture Wars
   A. Battle Fronts: education, abortion, “family values,” etc.
   B. Spiritual Warfare vs. Culture Warfare

Conclusion
   A. David Wells on the Church in the Postmodern World
   B. James Hunter: To Change the World
Part II: American Presbyterian History (3 – 4 pm)

1. Introduction: How to Spell Presbyterianism
2. What is New about the New World?
3. Colonial Presbyterianism
4. A National Church
5. The Evangelical Social Empire
6. Civil War
7. The Gilded Age and Progressive Presbyterianism
8. The Presbyterian Controversy
9. Karl Barth and the Split P’s
10. The Formation of the PCA
11. Mainline Demise and Vanishing Presbyterianism
12. Conclusion: Whither Presbyterianism?
Course Objectives Related to MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes</th>
<th>Rubric</th>
<th>Mini-Justification</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Articulation (oral &amp; written)</strong></td>
<td>Broadly understands and articulates knowledge, both oral and written, of essential biblical, theological, historical, and cultural/global information, including details, concepts, and frameworks.</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Scripture</strong></td>
<td>Significant knowledge of the original meaning of Scripture. Also, the concepts for and skill to research further into the original meaning of Scripture and to apply Scripture to a variety of modern circumstances. (Includes appropriate use of original languages and hermeneutics; and integrates theological, historical, and cultural/global perspectives.)</td>
<td>Minimal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Reformed Theology</strong></td>
<td>Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sanctification</strong></td>
<td>Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student’s sanctification.</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Desire for Worldview</strong></td>
<td>Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Winsomely Reformed</strong></td>
<td>Embraces a winsomely Reformed ethos. (Includes an appropriate ecumenical spirit with other Christians, especially Evangelicals; a concern to present the Gospel in a God-honoring manner to non-Christians; and a truth-in-love attitude in disagreements.)</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Preach</strong></td>
<td>Ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.</td>
<td>Minimal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Worship</strong></td>
<td>Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service.</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Shepherd</strong></td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Church/World</strong></td>
<td>Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.</td>
<td>Strong</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*As the MDiv is the core degree at RTS, the MDiv rubric will be used in this syllabus.