Course Description
This class is an introduction to the faith and practice of Presbyterianism in America. Beginning with the heritage of the Ancient Church and the Protestant Reformation, we 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 likewise deal with the changing culture of the United States and its impact on Presbyterians.

Required Texts

Course Requirements
1. Reading - Students are expected to read the entirety of The Presbyterian Enterprise and A Brief History of the Presbyterians. The Dictionary of the Presbyterian and Reformed Tradition in America will be a research resource for the course. There will be a question on the final exam asking you to report on your reading.

2. Weekly Assignment and Quiz - At the beginning of each class session there will be a short cumulative quiz on important dates and “Names to Know” in American Presbyterian history. (See weekly assignments attached to this syllabus.) Students should know the date and the significance of the event.

3. Research Paper - Students will write a 15-20 page research paper on an event, movement, controversy or person in American Presbyterian history. Lectures and readings in A Brief History of Presbyterians and The Dictionary of the Presbyterian and Reformed Tradition in America will assist students identify a topic for the paper. Get approval from the professor for your paper topic. Please write the paper in 12 point font, double-spaced with footnotes and bibliography. The paper is due on the last day of class.
4. **Final Exam** - The examination will include cumulative important dates and “Names to Know” (see list in syllabus). There will also be essay questions from lectures and required reading. The professor will hand out a final exam study guide at end of term. The final may be taken during **Exam Week** at the end of the term.

5. **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**

Weekly Quizes  25%
Research Paper 25%
Final Exam  25%
Reading  25%

**Class Schedule and Important Dates, Names**

**Feb. 10 - Introduction: Heritage of the Ancient Church and Reformation**

**Feb. 17 - Presbyterians Come to America**

1667  Presbyterian Congregation in Newark, NJ
1706  First Presbytery in America
1717  Synod of Philadelphia
1727  Log College
1729  The Adopting Act

**NAMES TO KNOW**

Francis Makemie
John Thompson
William Tennent, Sr.
Jonathan Dickinson

**Feb. 24 - Colonial Presbyterianism I**

1741  Old Side/New Side Schism
1745  Synod of New York
1758  Reunion of Synods of Philadelphia and New York

**Francis Allison**
**Gilbert Tennent**
**Samuel Davies**

**March 3 - Colonial Presbyterianism II**

1768  John Witherspoon, President of College of N.J.
1788  Presbyterian Constitution ratified
1789  First General Assembly

**Jonathan Witherspoon**
**Ashbel Green**

**March 10 - Presbyterian Expansion**
1801 Plan of Union
1810 Cumberland Presbyterian Church
1812 Princeton Seminary
1818 GA Declaration on Slavery

**March 17 - Spring Break Week**

**March 24 - No class**

**March 31- Old School / New School Schism**
1831 First Trial of Albert Barnes
1837 Auburn Declaration
1838 Old School/New School Schism

**April 7 - War and Reunions**
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)

**April 14 - “The Broadening Church”**
1893 Trial of Professor Charles Briggs
1903 Two new chapters added to WCF
1906 Union of Cumberland and PCUSA
1910 GA adopts 5 “Fundamentals”

**April 21 - Rise of Modernism**
1924 Auburn Affirmation
1925 “Scopes Monkey Trial”
1929 Westminster Theological Seminary
1936 Orthodox Presbyterian Church (OPC)

**April 28 - The Changing Face of Presbyterianism**
1958 Union of UPCNA and PCUSA - UPCUSA
1964 Ordination of Women, PCUS
1967 Book of Confessions and Confession of ‘67, UPCUSA

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1958 Union of UPCNA and PCUSA - UPCUSA
1964 Ordination of Women, PCUS
1967 Book of Confessions and Confession of ‘67, UPCUSA
May 5 - Conservatives Respond
1973 Presbyterian Church in America (PCA) Francis Schaeffer
1982 RPCES joins PCA L. Nelson Bell

May 12 - Reunion at Last
1981 Evangelical Presbyterian Church (EPC)
1983 Reunion of UPUSA and PCUS - PC(U.S.A.)

AMERICAN PRESBYTERIAN BIBLIOGRAPHY

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
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
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 Chruch in the United States of America, 1789-1837
Minutes of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Chruch 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


**Selected Readings from Primary Sources**

The Presbyterian Enterprise: Sources of American Presbyterian History, Armstrong, Loetscher, Anderson, 1956


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 know 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)