Instructor

Gregory Strong, Ph.D.

I completed a Ph.D. in theological and religious studies, with emphasis in theological ethics and American religious history, at Drew University. Prior to that I attained a Master of Divinity at Trinity Episcopal School for Ministry and a Bachelor of Arts in English at the University of Maryland. I have experience in leadership development, nonprofit management, restorative justice research, consulting and writing, and church ministry and administration.

Course summary

What is Anglican polity? This is really a multi-faceted question about what it means to be Anglican in terms of identity and organization. History, theology, liturgy, and polity come together in complex ways to constitute our Anglican expression or embodiment of Christian faith and order. A good understanding of what it means to be Anglican therefore requires familiarity with the history, theology, liturgy, and polity shaping identity and organization. In this course we will survey key ideas, people, moments, dynamics, and structures which characterize the worldwide communion which is Anglicanism past and present. We will also identify key features of what this means specifically for members of Anglican churches in terms of belonging and governance.

Anglicanism in narrative: history; theology; ecclesiology; liturgy

Prior to the Reformation

Introduction of Christianity to Britain

Conformity to the Roman Catholic Church

Movements toward change

During the Reformation

Theological influences from the continent

Political developments

Theological, ecclesiological, and liturgical developments

Subsequent to the Reformation

Expansion around the world

Enlightenment, revival, romanticism, post-modernism
Seeking identity in thought, spirit, and form

**Anglicanism in polity: ecclesiology; organization; belonging**

Prior to the Reformation

Celtic Catholic

During the Reformation

Established and Roman Catholic
Established and English Catholic
Established and English Protestant
Established and Roman Catholic again
Established and English Protestant again

Monarchy and episcopacy
Republic and presbyterianism
Monarchy and episcopacy again

Subsequent to the Reformation

Anglicanism viewed from the particular to the general: Church of England; Anglican Communion

Anglicanism viewed from the general to the particular: structures; constitutions; and canons

**Communion**

Canterbury
Primates
Lambeth Conference
Anglican Consultative Council

**Province**

Episcopal oversight
Structures
Representative participation

**Diocese**
Episcopal oversight

Structures

Representative participation

Parish

Clerical oversight

Structures

Representative participation

Member

Sacramental initiation and growth

Worship, witness, and service

Representative participation
Select Resources, Assignment, and Grading

**Required Pre-Reading**


Constitution and Canons, Anglican Church in North America

Constitution and Canons, Diocese of the Mid-Atlantic (ACNA)

**Additional Suggested Reading**


**Post-Class Assignment and Grading for Students Seeking Credit**

**For the grade of B**

**Pre-Reading:** *Our Anglican Heritage: Can an Ancient Church Be a Church of the Future?* (Howe)

*Constitution and Canons* – Anglican Church in North America (ACNA)

*Constitution and Canons* – Diocese of the Mid Atlantic (DOMA)

**Paper:** 1300 to 1500 words

Demonstrating what you have learned from the class, from *Our Anglican Heritage*, from the *Constitution and Canons* of both the ACNA and DOMA, from Scripture, and from your own faith journey, write a paper discussing what you find most appealing and convincing about Anglican identity and polity and what you find most challenging about Anglican identity and polity.

**Due:** Monday, 16 February 2015, 5:00 p.m.

**For the grade of A**

**Pre-Reading:** *Our Anglican Heritage: Can an Ancient Church Be a Church of the Future?*
Constitution and Canons – Anglican Church in North America (ACNA)

Constitution and Canons – Diocese of the Mid Atlantic (DOMA)

Post-Reading: The Book of Common Prayer: A Biography (Jacobs)

Paper: 1600 to 1800 words

Demonstrating what you have learned from the class, from Our Anglican Heritage, from The Book of Common Prayer: A Biography, from the Constitution and Canons of both the ACNA and DOMA, from Scripture, and from your own faith journey, write a paper discussing what you find most appealing and convincing about Anglican identity and polity and what you find most challenging about Anglican identity and polity.

Due: Monday, 23 February 2015, 5:00 p.m.