

20th Century Evangelicalism in the U.S.
840:393
Fall 2010
T F | 12:35-1:55
RAB-204

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Course Description: This course will explore key developments within American evangelicalism over the course of the twentieth century, focusing especially on evangelicals' varied responses to major political, economic, social, and cultural trends in the United States. How did evangelicals position themselves in relation to the scientific and technological advances that helped define the century? How did they navigate the increasing consumeristic and therapeutic bent within American culture? How did evangelicals respond to the growing pluralism within American society and to various twentieth-century intellectual trends? In what ways have issues of race, gender, sexuality, education, economic status, and political affiliation shaped evangelical identity? In answering questions such as these, this course aims to illuminate both the diversity of the evangelical movement and its relationship to twentieth-century American culture.

Course Objectives:

This course seeks to encourage critical thinking about the nature of American evangelicalism in the 20th century. After taking this course, students should:

- gain a broad outline of the major figures and events in the history of evangelicalism in the United States during the twentieth-century.
- be able to identify distinctive characteristics associated with American evangelicalism in the twentieth century.
- become familiar with the diversity of American evangelicalism.
- see how evangelicals' religious past continues to shape present expressions of the movement.
- be introduced to some basic theoretical approaches to the academic study of religion and their import for the study of evangelicalism.

Course Texts (other readings are available on the internet or through Sakai):

Title: *Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory: A Journey into the Evangelical Subculture in America*, 4th edition, by Randall Balmer
ISBN-10: 0195300467 ISBN-13: 978-0195300468
Publisher: Oxford

Title: *American Evangelicalism: Embattled and Thriving*, by Christian Smith
ISBN-10: 0226764192 ISBN-13: 978-0226764191
Publisher: University Of Chicago Press

Title: *Aimee Semple McPherson and the Resurrection of Christian America*, by Matthew Sutton
ISBN-10: 0674032535 ISBN-13: 978-0674032538
Publisher: Harvard UP

Course Requirements:

Essay: You will be required to write one main essay this semester. In your essay you will explore a specific issue selected from a handful of topics I will provide related to twentieth-century evangelicalism. There will be a research component to this essay. The essay should be 7-8 pages (a minimum of 1750 words).

Requirements for the Essay: Papers turned in after class has started on the due date will be considered late and lose 5%. Papers turned in after class is over will lose 15%. **No papers will be accepted if they are turned in more than one class period after the due date** unless arrangements have been made with the instructor *prior to the due date*. **In addition to the hard copy of your paper turned in during class, you should also submit your paper to Turnitin.com via Sakai on the due date of the paper. You will lose 10% off your paper if you do not submit it electronically via Sakai on the due date.** ****Please note, your paper is not officially turned in until I have a hard copy of the paper.** Email submissions *will not* be accepted.

****Plagiarism and cheating will be handled in accordance with university policy.** See <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/integrity.shtml#plagiarism>

Reading Responses: **Readings should be read by the date they are listed on the syllabus.** Throughout the course of the semester, you will need to turn in 8 reading responses of at least 300 words in length that reflect critical engagement with the reading for that day. You may choose to turn in these responses on any day in which a reading is listed on the course schedule. I will provide more details in class regarding what constitutes a solid response, but these should include at least two questions you have regarding the reading. The responses are due 24 hours before class begins, and should be emailed to me @ jwillia@rci.rutger.edu (Please bring a hard copy of your responses to class as well.)

Participation (Presentations and Attendance): Attendance is expected at all classes. A record of attendance will be kept throughout the semester. More than 4 missed classes will negatively impact your participation grade (you will lose 10% off your participation grade for each absence above the first four). At two different points in the semester you will also be asked to make brief presentations to the class, one regarding your research essay, and another regarding a visit you will need to make to an evangelical religious service. These two presentations will constitute half of your participation grade.

Final Exam: There will be a final exam given during the scheduled final exam period. **Please pick up a blue book in the campus bookstore and bring it with you on the day of the exam.**

Grading System:

Main Essay: 30%
Final Exam: 20%

Reading Responses: 30%
Participation (Presentations & Attendance): 20%

100-92 A, 91-87 B+, 86-80 B, 79-77 C+, 76-70 C, 69-60 D, 59-below F.

Course Schedule (**Fine Print:** I may make changes to the course readings, schedule, and policies as the course progresses. It is your responsibility, even if you miss classes, to keep yourself up-to-date on the course requirements.)

INTRODUCTION

9/3 Course Overview

Defining Evangelicalism / Evangelicalism before 1900

9/7 Please read Balmer Ch. 5 and Ch.14.

9/10 Please read Marsden, "Defining Fundamentalism & Evangelicalism" (available on Sakai), and Corrigan, "Protestant Expansion and Consolidation" (available on Sakai).

KEY PLAYERS IN 20TH CENTURY EVANGELICALISM

Fundamentalists

9/14 Please read "The Scopes Trial" (available on Sakai) and Marsden, "The Emergence of Fundamentalism" (available on Sakai).

9/17 Please read Balmer Ch. 2 and 7.

The New Evangelicals

9/21 Please read Smith Ch. 1 and watch <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7i95RXDyY70>

9/24 Please read Smith Ch. 2

Pentecostals and Charismatics

9/28 Please read Sutton Ch. 1 and 2

10/1 Please read Balmer Ch. 4 and 6

KEY TOPICS IN THE STUDY OF 20TH CENTURY EVANGELICALISM

Consumerism and Popular Culture in 20th Century Evangelicalism

10/5 Please read Balmer Ch. 10 and 16

10/8 Please read Balmer Ch. 3, and Sutton Ch. 3

Gender and Sexuality in 20th Century Evangelicalism

10/12 Please read Griffith, "Submissive Wives, Wounded Daughters" (available on Sakai)

10/15 Please read Sutton Chs. 4-7 (focus esp. on Ch. 4, pages 125-38, and Ch. 6)

Politics and the Culture Wars in 20th Century Evangelicalism

10/19 Please read Balmer Ch. 8 and excerpt from Harding, "The Book of Jerry Falwell" (available on Sakai).

10/22 Visitation Presentations

10/26 Please read Smith Ch. 3 and 4 (I will provide a reading guide for Ch. 4)

10/29 No class (Annual Meeting of American Academy of Religion)

11/2 Please read Smith Ch. 5.

11/5 Please read Sutton, Ch. 8 & 9 and epilogue.

Science and Technology in 20th Century Evangelicalism

11/9 Please read Wacker, "Searching for Eden with a Satellite Dish" (available on Sakai)

11/12 Please read <http://www.answersingenesis.org/creation/v11/i4/christian.asp> and excerpt from Miller, "Faith" (available on Sakai)

11/16 Essay due Research presentations

11/19 Research presentations

End-times Prophecy and Missions in 20th Century Evangelicalism

11/23 Please read excerpt from Lindsey, "The Late Great Planet Earth" (available on Sakai)

11/26 No Class. Thanksgiving Holiday.

Race and Ethnicity in 20th Century Evangelicalism

11/30 Please read Balmer Ch. 9

12/3 Please read excerpt from Sanchez-Walsh, "Worlds Apart" (available on Sakai) and the following excerpt from Young, "The Shack" (available on Sakai)

American Evangelicalism Today

12/7 Please read Smith Ch. 7 and Conclusion.

12/10 Summary and Conclusion of the Course

Final Exam Time: Wednesday (12/22), 8-11