

RELIGION IN AMERICAN HISTORY
840:319:01
Monday/Thursday 9.15-10.35am
Douglass Campus, Art History 100
Fall 2017

Instructor: Hilit Surowitz-Israel

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Office Hours: Wednesday 11am-12pm, Loree 116 or by appointment

Course Description: This course offers a broad survey of the role of religion in American history and culture. We will explore the contours of religion in North America from the pre-Columbian period to the present. This course pays special attention to American religious diversity and the complexities of American religious life. We will look at the encounter and exchange that occurred among religious communities during the past 400 years, and the manner in which this influenced the development of a unique and dynamic North American religious landscape. Further we will explore the religious dimensions of gender, race, and the development of the interaction of American religion and politics.

During the course I would like you to consider the following questions: What is the role of religion in the development of the United States and American identity? How do (North) Americans embody, practice, and express their religions and religious identities? How does the American religious landscape influence, and how is it influenced by immigration, politics, technology, and broader social trends? What is the root of religious intolerance? How do religious intolerance and racism intersect and inform one another? And, what is and isn't unique about American religious history and culture?

This course fulfills CORE requirements: Writing and Communication, Revision (WCr), Writing and Communication in a Discipline (WCd), Historical Analysis (HST)

- H: Understand the bases and development of human society endeavors across time and place
- K: Explain the development of some aspect of a society or culture over time, including the history of ideas or history of science
- I: Employ historical reasoning to study human endeavors

The **Required Texts** for the course:

Textbooks are available at the Rutgers Bookstore, a Barnes & Noble College Bookstore—One Ferren Mall.

❖ Butler, Jon, Wacker, Grant & Balmer Randall. Religion in American Life: A Short History. 2nd ed., Oxford University Press, 2011. (BWB)
ISBN-10: 0195333292, ISBN-13: 978-0195333299

❖ Fadiman, Anne. *The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down: A Hmong Child, her American Doctors, and the Collision of Two Cultures*. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2012.
ISBN-10: 0374533407, ISBN-13: 978-0374533403

- ❖ ALL other articles and primary sources will be available on SAKAI.
- ❖ Other readings or media may be assigned during the course of the semester.
- ❖ ALL reading must be completed prior to the class for which it is assigned

Attendance & Participation

Students are expected to attend each class on time. Attendance will be taken at each class meeting. You are permitted three unexcused absences. Following the third unexcused absence 1/3 of a letter grade will be deducted for each unexcused absence. Students who encounter any extended problem with absences, for example, for medical or family emergencies, or religious reasons, must inform me in writing about the reason and duration of the absence. Decisions on excused absences will be made on a case-by-case basis.

Students are expected to attend all classes; if you expect to miss one or two classes, please use the University absence reporting website <https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/> to indicate the date and reason for your absence. An email is automatically sent to me.

*** You will have EIGHT short quizzes over the course of the semester. Quizzes cover all material assigned, **including** the material assigned for the date of the quiz. Your seven highest grades will count towards your final grade.

NO make-ups. If you miss one quiz, that becomes the quiz with the lowest grade. If there are extenuating circumstances (religious observance—the actual day of the holiday—not travel associated with it; extended illness; death in the family) then these will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Please note the dates for the quizzes: 9/18, 10/2, 10/12, 11/6, 11/16, 11/21, 12/4, & 12/7
Additional pop quizzes may be assigned, but ONLY if necessary.

***Student participation is an integral component for the success of this class. Course participants will be expected to arrive to class on time, and prepared to discuss the assigned readings. **Please bring assigned readings to class, as we will frequently consult the text, particularly the primary sources.** Participation not only means asking questions and involving oneself in the classroom discussion, it also means actively listening to others.

*** Students are required to read the materials in advance of our class meetings.

Requirements & Grading System:

***Please note, this is the grading scale that I will use for this class:

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

- ❖ Attendance, participation, in-class assignments (5%)
- ❖ Quizzes (20%)
- ❖ Essay #1 (3-4 pages)-Primary source analysis (15%)
*** due 10/16 at the beginning of class. **Papers must be submitted both in hard-copy and via Turnitin.** [[peer review component 10/9]]
- ❖ Essay #2 (app. 4 pages)-*When the Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down* essay (15%)
*** due 11/28 **Papers must be submitted both in hard-copy and via Turnitin. Please note that these papers are to be submitted in hard-copy to my box on campus.**
- ❖ Essay #3- (8-10 pages) American Religious History Field-work paper (20%)
*** due December 18th by noon. **Papers must be submitted both in hard-copy (in my box) and via Turnitin.**
- ❖ In-class midterm exam on October 23rd (25%)
- ❖ All students must come to office hours at least once during the semester. This should occur before November 11th so that we can discuss your third paper assignment.

ALL of these components must be met to complete the course

Written work will be graded on the basis of content, clarity of argument, quality of writing, and how well it analyzes the material and answers the questions. Written work, except for that which is a classroom assignment, must be typed (double-spaced, 12 pt. font), and spell-checked. One letter grade per day will be deducted for late papers unless you have a written medical excuse.

Classroom Policies:

- ❖ Plagiarism and cheating will be penalized according to the full extent of University policy. Please consult Rutgers University's *Policy on Academic Integrity for Undergraduate and Graduate Students*: <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/integrity>
- ❖ Consult Don't Plagiarize: Document Your Research! For tips about how to take notes so that you don't plagiarize by accident. http://www.libraries.rutgers.edu/avoid_plagiarism
- ❖ Students with disabilities who require accommodations should provide me with their "accommodation letter" from the Office of Disability Services as soon as possible so that appropriate arrangements can be made. Please consult the website of the Office of Disability Full disability policies and procedures are at <https://ods.rutgers.edu/>

❖ Note that I do not accept assignments submitted by email. All assignments must be submitted in hard-copy on the day that they are due.

❖ Evaluations will cover all course material, even if it is not specifically covered in class.

❖ Syllabus is subject to change.

•Schedule•

•Pre-colonial and Colonial Religion•

Thursday 9/7

Introduction

- *Inter Caetera*, Pope Alexander VI (1493)

Monday 9/11

Religion and Mission in New Spain and New France

- *Religion in American Life* (Butler, et al (BWB)) 21-46 (SAKAI)
- *The Bull Sublimis Deus* (1537)
- Bartolomé de Las Casas, *Argument of the Present Epitome, Presentation, Introduction to the Relation, On the Kingdoms that were once to be found on the Island of Hispaniola & On the Province of Terra Firma in the Part Called Florida* from An Account, Much Abbreviated, of the Destruction of the Indies. pgs. 1-7, 12-17, 69-70.

Thursday 9/14 (LEARNING TO READ PRIMARY SOURCES)

Religion in the British Colonies

- BWB 47-71
- *Letter to the Indians*, William Penn (1681) (SAKAI)
- The Amalekites in Old Testament Documents (Ex. 17:8-16; Deut. 25:17-19; I Sam. 15:2-3)
- Colonial Descriptions of Native Americans as Amalekites (pgs. 31-33)

Monday 9/18 **(QUIZ #1)**

Religious Diversity in the Colonies

- BWB 72-91
- primary sources on Colonial Anti-Quakerism (pgs. 38-41)
- primary sources on Jews in North America (pgs. 41-42)

Thursday 9/21 **(NO CLASS) – GUIDED READING & VIEWING ASSIGNMENT

Native American & African Religion

- BWB 92-110
- Albert J. Raboteau, “African Americans, Exodus, and the American Israel,” pgs. 73-87 (SAKAI)
- Phillis Wheatley, *On Being Brought From Africa to America* (1773), *Death of the Rev. Mr. George Whitefield* (1770), *Thoughts on the Works of Providence* (1773) (SAKAI)
- watch (at home): “A New Adam” Part I *God in America*
<http://www.pbs.org/godinamerica/view/>

Monday 9/25

Colonial Christianity- GUIDED READING

- BWB 111-152 (Guided Reading Questions available on SAKAI)
 - John Wesley, *A Plain Account of Genuine Christianity* (1753) (SAKAI)
 - John Winthrop, *A Modell of Christian Charity* (1630)
- ***weather permitting, we will have a walking tour of New Brunswick: Details Forthcoming

Thursday 9/28 (DISCUSS FINAL PAPER AND FIELDWORK)

Religion and the American Revolution

- BWB 133-152

Monday 10/2 (QUIZ #2)

- watch (at home): “A New Eden” Part II *God in America*
<http://www.pbs.org/godinamerica/view/>

Thursday 10/5 (your introductory paragraph(s) of essay #1 must be submitted to me in hard-copy)

- Thomas Jefferson, *Query XVII – The Different Religions Received into that State?* (1784) (SAKAI)
- Thomas Jefferson, *A Bill for Establishing Religious Freedom* (1779) (SAKAI)
- James Madison, *Memorial and Remonstrance Against Religious Assessments* (1785) (SAKAI)

Monday 10/9

Essay #1 in-class peer review *you must bring TWO copies of your essay to class**

•Religion in 19th Century United States•

Thursday 10/12 (QUIZ #3)

Post-Revolutionary American Religion

- BWB 155-170
- Bellah, Robert N. “Civil Religion in America.” *Daedalus*, 96:1 (1967): 1-21. (SAKAI)

Monday 10/16 (*Essay #1 due at the beginning of class)**

Awakenings, and the Role of Women in American Christianity

- BWB 171-200
- Ann Braude, “Women’s History *Is* American Religious History,” pgs. 159-178 (SAKAI)

Thursday 10/19

Mormonism in America

- BWB 201-212
- Shipps, Jan. “The Genesis of Mormonism.” *Religion and American Culture: A Reader*. Ed. David G. Hackett. New York: Routledge, 1995. (SAKAI)
- Joseph Smith, *The Articles of Faith* (1842) (SAKAI)
- primary sources on the Missouri Mormon War, Illinois Mormon War, and Utah Mormon War (pgs. 82-90)

Monday 10/23

MIDTERM EXAMINATION (IN CLASS)

Thursday 10/26

Sojourners at Home

- BWB 213-231
- Charles Joyner, “Believer I Know—The Emergence of African American Christianity,” pgs. 179-201 (SAKAI)
- Peter Randolph, *Plantation Churches: Visible and Invisible* (SAKAI)
- Sister Kelly, “*Proud of the ‘Ole Time’ Religion*” (SAKAI)
- primary sources on African American Churches and Denominations (pgs. 110-112)

Monday 10/30 – In Class Guided Viewing Activity

- In-class film: “A Nation Reborn” Part III *God in America*

Thursday 11/2

Religion of the ‘Lost Cause’ and the Postbellum Christianity

- BWB 232-246
- Charles Wilson, “The Religion of the Lost Cause – Ritual and Organization of the Southern Civil Religion, 1865–1945,” pgs. 205-221 (SAKAI)
- William B. Gravely, “The Dialectic of Double-Consciousness in a Black American Freedom Celebrations, 1808-1863,” pgs. 121-138 (SAKAI)

Monday 11/6 **(QUIZ #4)**

Immigration and its Challenges

- BWB 247-273
- Josiah Strong, from *Our Country* (1886) (SAKAI)
- Alexis Toth, *Meeting with Archbishop John Ireland* (1889) (SAKAI)
- Abraham Cahan, *The Russian Jew in America* (July 1898) (SAKAI)
- The Pittsburgh Platform (1885) (SAKAI)

Thursday 11/9

The ‘Black Church’

- BWB 292-307
- Evelyn Higgenbotham, “The Feminist Theology of the Black Baptist Church,” pgs. 267-287 (SAKAI)
- DuBois, WEB. “Of Our Spiritual Strivings” & “Of the Faith of the Fathers.” from *The Souls of Black Folk*, pgs. 43-53, 210-225. (SAKAI)

Monday 11/13

Prophets and Visions

- BWB 274-291
- Raymond J. DeMallie, “The Lakota Ghost Dance – An Ethnohistorical Account” by Raymond J. DeMallie, pgs. 315-330 (SAKAI)
- Video “*The Way West*” (in-class)
- primary sources on Forced Christianization and Rituals Criminalized (pgs. 140-143)

Thursday 11/16 ** (QUIZ #5) ******

Fundamentalism

- BWB 311-342
- Primary Source documents of the Scopes Trial particularly: Anti-evolution statute, Trail Excerpts-Day 2, 4, 7, 8, Bryan's Summation, Mencken's Trial Account: <http://www.law.umkc.edu/faculty/projects/ftrials/scopes/scopes.htm>
- Primary Sources: The Leo Frank Case (pgs. 156-161)
- Primary Sources: Henry Ford's *Dearborn Independent* (164-165)

•Religion in the 20th Century United States•

Monday 11/20

Rise and Decline of Mainline Protestantism

- BWB 343-382

Tuesday 11/21 ** (Quiz #6)****

******Discuss *When the Spirit Catches You And You Fall Down***

(Essay #2 due on Tuesday 11/28)

Thursday 11/23 – NO CLASS

Thanksgiving holiday

Monday 11/27

*****Even though you have an essay due, please plan accordingly and make sure that you complete the reading prior to coming to class.**

Civil Rights, Activism, and New Hope

- James H. Cone, "Martin and Malcolm – Integration and Nationalism in African American Religious History," pgs. 397-411 (SAKAI)
- Martin Luther King, Jr., *Letter from a Birmingham Jail* (1963) (SAKAI)
- Malcolm X, *Letters from Abroad* (1964), & *The Harlem 'Hate Gang' Scare* (1964) (SAKAI)

***** Tuesday 11/28 Essay # 2 due in my box by 2pm (also uploaded to SAKAI)**

Thursday 11/30

Neoevangelicalism

- An Evangelical Manifesto
http://www.anevangelicalmanifesto.com/docs/Evangelical_Manifesto.pdf
- BWB 383-399
- at home: watch *God's Army* at home and answer assigned questions
- film: *Friends of God* (in class)

Monday 12/4 **(QUIZ #7)******

Preachers, Politicians, and the ‘Gospel of Health and Wealth’

- BWB 400-413
- Grant Wacker, “Searching for Eden with a Satellite Dish – Primitivism, Pragmatism and the Pentecostal Character,” pgs. 413-434 (SAKAI)

Thursday 12/7 (QUIZ #8)

Pluralism and the Changing Religious Landscape

- BWB 414-431
- primary sources on The Problem of Peyote (pgs. 143-145)
- primary sources on Intolerance Towards the “Moonies” (pgs. 186-187), Intolerance Towards Wicca (pgs. 191-197), Intolerance Towards Santeria (pgs. 209-214)

Monday 12/11

Looking Forward & Final Thoughts

- BWB 432-445
- Pew Forum website (spend 15-20 minutes looking through it)
<http://religions.pewforum.org/>
- current events

*****December 18th:**

Paper # 3 due by noon. Papers must be submitted both in hard-copy (in my box) and via Turnitin.