

20th Century Evangelicalism in the U.S.
840:316
M W | 2:50 – 4:10
SC – 214 | College Avenue Campus

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Course Description: This course will explore key developments within contemporary American evangelicalism, focusing especially on evangelicals' varied responses to major political, economic, social, and cultural trends in the United States during the twentieth and early twenty-first century. How have evangelicals positioned themselves in relation to scientific and technological advances? How have they navigated the increasing consumeristic and therapeutic bent within American culture? How have evangelicals responded to the growing pluralism within American society and to various twentieth-century, early twenty-first 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 American culture during the twentieth and early twenty-first centuries.

Course Objectives:

This course seeks to encourage critical thinking about the nature of contemporary American evangelicalism. 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 and early twenty-first centuries.
- become familiar with the diversity of American evangelicalism.
- be introduced to some basic theoretical approaches to the academic study of religion and their import for the study of evangelicalism.
- produce an original research paper based on both primary and secondary sources exploring the impact of historical trends discussed in class on evangelicalism in the United States

SAS Core Curriculum Goals: This course meets the following specific SAS core curriculum goals associated with Historical Analysis (HST), Writing and Communication in a Discipline (WCd), and Writing and Communication, Revision (WCr). I will look for evidence of your mastery of these goals in the writing assignments, presentations, and exams.

- Understand the bases and development of human and societal endeavors across time and place
- Identify and critically assess ethical issues in social science and history.
- Employ historical reasoning to study human endeavors
- Respond effectively to editorial feedback from peers, instructors, and/or supervisors through successive drafts and revision.
- Communicate effectively in modes appropriate to a discipline or area of inquiry.
- Analyze and synthesize information and ideas from multiple sources to generate new insights.

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

The Anointed: Evangelical Truth in a Secular Age, by Randall J. Stephens, Karl W. Giberson
ISBN-10: 0674048180 ISBN-13: 978-0674048188
Publisher: Belknap Press

Blessed: A History of the American Prosperity Gospel, by Kate Bowler
ISBN-10: 0199827699 ISBN-13: 978-0199827695
Publisher: Oxford University Press

Moral Minority: The Evangelical Left in an Age of Conservatism, by David Swartz
ISBN-10: 0812223063 ISBN-13: 978-0812223064
Publisher: University of Pennsylvania Press

Course Requirements:

Essay: You will be required to write one main essay (9-10 pages/at least 2250 words) that focuses on particular aspect of twentieth-century, early twenty-first century evangelicalism in the U.S. There will be a research component (you will need to utilize both primary and secondary sources). I will provide more specific guidelines in class, but you should be aware of the following:

General Requirements for the Essay: Papers turned in after class has started on the final 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. **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.** ****Please note, your paper is not officially turned in until I have a hard copy of the paper. You will also lose 10% off your paper if you do not submit it electronically via Sakai on the due date.** Email submissions *will not* be accepted.

Peer-review process: You will need to provide a draft of the paper **prior to the due date** and work with other students in draft reading groups. **You will lose 5% off your paper if you do not submit a working draft of the paper for peer-review by the date indicated on the syllabus.** (I will provide further details about this process in class.)

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

Mid-Term and Final: There will be an in-class mid-term, and a final exam given during the scheduled final exam period. The format of the exams will include multiple choice, short-answer, and mini-essay responses.

Quizzes: There will be unannounced quizzes throughout the semester based on the course readings. **Readings should be read by the date they are listed on the syllabus.** Anyone who has read the assigned pages should have no problem answering the questions. One quiz score may be dropped and will not count towards the final grade (this includes a missed quiz). Make-up quizzes will only be allowed for excused absences approved by me beforehand (for funerals, heart bypass surgeries, et cetera). ****It is your responsibility to make sure you have read the material by the due date.** Problems downloading the online readings will not excuse you from taking a quiz.

Participation: **Attendance is expected at 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. Please note: 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).

Grading System:

Main Essay: 30%
Mid-term Exam: 20%

Final Exam: 25%
Reading Quizzes: 15%

Participation: 10%

Grade Scale:

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

1/21 Course Overview

Defining Evangelicalism

1/26 Please read Balmer, excerpt from *Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory* (available on Sakai).

1/28 Please read Marsden, "Defining Fundamentalism & Evangelicalism"; Sweeney, "Evangelical: What's in a Word?" (both available on Sakai).

KEY PLAYERS IN CONTEMPORARY EVANGELICALISM

2/2 Fundamentalists: Please read Marsden, "The Emergence of Fundamentalism," and "The Scopes Trial" (both available on Sakai).

2/4 The "New" Evangelicals: Please read Swartz, Ch. 1, and an excerpt from Watt, *A Transforming Faith* (available on Sakai).

2/9 The Evangelical Left: Please read Swartz, Intro, and Ch. 3.

2/11 Pentecostals and Charismatics: Please read Wacker, "Searching for Eden with a Satellite Dish" and an excerpt from *Apostolic Faith* (both available on Sakai).

EVANGELICALISM AND AMERICAN SOCIETY

Science & Technology

2/16 Please read Stephens, Intro and Ch. 1, and excerpt from Miller, "Faith" (available on Sakai).

2/18 Please read Bowler, Intro, Ch. 1.

Consumerism and Popular Culture in American Evangelicalism

2/23 Please read Bowler, Ch. 3.

2/25 Please read Bowler, Ch. 4.

The End is Near! (Or is it?)

3/2 Please read Stephens, Ch. 4 and an excerpt from Lindsey, "The Late Great Planet Earth" (available on Sakai).

3/4 Please read Bowler, Ch. 5.

3/9 Catch-up day

3/11 Midterm

Spring Break (no classes March 16 or 18)

Politics and the Culture Wars in American Evangelicalism

3/23 Please read Stephens, Ch. 2.

3/25 Please read Swartz, Ch. 4 and 9.

Gender and Sexuality in American Evangelicalism

3/30 Please read Stephens, Ch. 3.

4/1 Please read an excerpt from Griffith, "Submissive Wives, Wounded Daughters, and Female Soldiers" (available on Sakai). **Draft of paper due for peer-review.**

Race and Ethnicity in American Evangelicalism

4/6 Please read Swartz, Ch. 2, 6.

4/8 Please read excerpt from Wadsworth, *Ambivalent Miracles* (available on Sakai). **Peer review groups.**

Narrating the Resurgence of Evangelicalism in the Late-Twentieth, Early Twenty-First Century U.S.

4/13 Please read an excerpt from Smith, *Evangelicalism: Embattled and Thriving* (available on sakai).

4/15 Please read Bowler, Conclusion.

American Evangelicalism Today

4/20 Essay due. No reading due.

4/22 Please read Swartz, Ch. 10 and 11.

4/27 Please read Swartz, Ch. 12 and epilogue.

4/29 Please read Stephens, Ch. 6 and survey data from the Pew Research Center (available on Sakai).

5/4 Summary and Conclusion of the Course

Final Exam Time: Wednesday, May 13th, 12-3 pm.