

Religion in American History / 840:319
Religious Pluralism in America / 840:527
Spring 2014
M | 10:55-1:55
LOR-131

Dr. Joseph Williams
Office: Loree 114, Cook/Douglass
Office Hours: Wed. 12:00-2:00
Email: jwillia@rci.rutgers.edu

Course Description and Objectives: This course surveys the diverse manifestations of religion in American culture. Three main sets of questions guide the organization of the course:

- How has the religious landscape in the U.S. evolved over time? In particular, how have trends in politics, science, technology, gender relations, the economy, and immigration (to name a few) contributed to the growing diversity of religion in America?
- How have various religious traditions interacted in an American context, and how have these interactions shaped the religious ideas and rituals of Americans?
- What types of debates have emerged among scholars seeking to make sense of the pluralistic religious marketplace in the U.S.?

In answering these questions students will be introduced to the diversity of American religion and its relationship to other aspects of American culture. After taking this course, students should in addition:

- gain a broad outline of the major figures and events in the history of religion in the U.S.
- be able to identify distinctive patterns and themes in the history of American religion, especially as they relate to religious diversity in the U.S.
- become familiar with significant historiographical debates in the field of American religious history
- be introduced to some basic theoretical approaches to religion

**There are additional requirements for students taking the course for M.A.-level credit. These extra assignments/meetings will focus on the various interpretive paradigms and methodologies employed by scholars seeking to make sense of the pluralistic religious marketplace in the U.S.

SAS Core Curriculum Goals

This course meets the following undergraduate 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.

- Explain the development of some aspect of a society or culture over time, including the history of ideas or history of science.
- Employ historical reasoning to study human endeavors.

- (WCr) Respond effectively to editorial feedback from peers, instructors, and/or supervisors through successive drafts and revision.
- (WCd) Communicate effectively in modes appropriate to a discipline or area of inquiry.

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

Title: Religion and American Culture: A Reader (2nd edition), edited by David Hackett
 ISBN-10: 041594273X ISBN-13: 978-0415942737
 Publisher: Routledge

Title: The Madonna of 115th Street, by Robert Orsi **(2nd or 3rd edition ok)*
 ISBN-10: 0300157525 ISBN-13: 978-0300157529
 Publisher: Yale University Press

Title: American Jesus: How the Son of God Became a National Icon, by Stephen Prothero
 ISBN-10: 0374529566 ISBN-13: 978-0374529567
 Publisher: Farrar, Straus and Giroux

Title: Black Robe, by Brian Moore
 ISBN-10: 0452278651 ISBN-13: 978-0452278653
 Publisher: Plume

Suggested Text:

Title: America: Religions & Religion, by Catherine Albanese
**(2nd or 3rd edition ok)*
 ISBN-10: 1133050026 ISBN-13: 978-1133050025
 Publisher: Cengage

**(Required for M.A. students)* Title: American Evangelicalism: Embattled and Thriving, by
 Christian Smith
 ISBN-10: 0226764192 ISBN-13: 978-0226764191
 Publisher: University of Chicago Press

Course Requirements:

In Class Exams: There will be two in class exams (a mid-term and final exam). Make-up exams will only be permitted if arrangements are made with the instructor *prior to* the day of the test.

Visitation Response: Early on in the semester you will need to attend a religious service (please select a group that you are not very familiar with). You will then write a brief response (at least 500 words) that explores connections between what you observed and specific themes in American religion that we have discussed in class. You should be prepared to talk about your experience during class discussions. I will provide more specific guidelines in class. (**M.A. students are not required to complete a visitation response. In lieu of the visitation assignment, M.A. students will be asked to give a presentation related to their research at the end of the semester.)

Essay: You will be required to write one main essay this semester based on research utilizing both primary and secondary sources (for undergraduates, 8-10 page/at least 2000 words; for M.A. students, 15-17 pages/at least 3750 words). 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 additional guidelines in class. **The peer-review process is optional for M.A. students.*

General Requirements for the Essay and Visitation Response: 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.** ****Please note, your paper is not officially turned in until I have both a hard copy of the paper and it is also submitted via Sakai.** 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>

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.

****In addition to the regularly assigned readings, M.A. students should also read the selections listed under "Further Reading."** We will discuss these readings at specially scheduled meetings for those of you taking the course for graduate credit.

Attendance & Participation: Attendance is expected at all classes, and will be taken into account in your participation grade. If you expect to miss class, 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.

Grading System (for undergraduates):

2 Exams: 40% (20% each)	Quizzes: 15%	Visitation Response (or Presentation for M.A. students): 5%
1 Essay: 30%	Participation: 10%	

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

****For M.A. students, 69-below = an 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.)

1/27 Introduction

2/3 Religious Exchange in North America: Native Americans and Spanish/French Missions

Please read *Black Robe*

Further Reading: Excerpt from Axtell, *Invasion Within*, and Hackett, Ch. 1

2/10 Protestant Diversity and Revivalism in the American Colonies

Please read Hackett, Ch. 2; Stout, *American Awakener* (available on Sakai); and Edwards, "The Future Punishment of the Wicked Unavoidable and Intolerable," by Jonathan Edwards (posted on Sakai).

Further Reading: Cohen, "The Post-Puritan Paradigm" (available on Sakai); excerpt from Butler, *Awash in a Sea of Faith* (available on Sakai)

**Extra meeting for M.A. students this week*

2/17 Religion, Revolution, and the State

Please read Prothero, Intro, Ch. 1; excerpt from Sehat, *Myth of American Religious Freedom*; "Civil Religion" readings (available on Sakai).

Further Reading: Excerpt from Wentz, *The Culture of Religious Pluralism*; excerpt from Albanese, *Religion & Religions* (available on Sakai)

**Extra meeting for M.A. students this week*

2/24 New Visions in a New Republic

Please read Prothero, Ch. 2 & 5; Hackett, Ch. 8; excerpt from Moore, *Religious Outsiders*

Further Reading: Excerpt from Finke and Starke, *The Churching of America* (available on Sakai); excerpt from Hatch, *The Democratization of American Christianity* (available on Sakai)

**Extra meeting for M.A. students this week*

3/3 The Native American Religious "Underground" / Slavery, the Civil War and Religion ***Visitation Response Due**

Please read Hackett, Ch. 7 & 9; excerpt from Raboteau, *Slave Religion* (available on Sakai); and the Code of Handsome Lake (available on Sakai)

Further Reading: Hackett, Ch. 10; excerpt from Evans, *The Burden of Black Religion* (available on Sakai)

3/10 Exam #1

3/17 Spring Break, No class

3/24 Religion during the Gilded Age

Please read Orsi, Chs. 1-4

Further Reading: Hackett, Ch. 20; excerpt from Whorton, *Nature Cures* (available on Sakai).

3/31 Catholicism in America

***Paper drafts due for peer-review.**

Please read Orsi, Chs. 5-8; and the following example of anti-Catholic discourse: *Disclosures of Maria Monk* <http://www.reformation.org/maria-monk.html> (just read chapters 6 and 11)

Further Reading: Orsi, Intro to 1st and 2nd editions.

**Extra meeting for M.A. students this week*

4/7 Judaism in America

***Peer-review responses due.**

Please read Hackett, Ch. 12; Prothero Ch. 7; "Reform Judaism Readings" (available on Sakai)

Further Reading: Excerpt from Glazer, *American Judaism* (available on Sakai); excerpt from Sarna, *American Judaism* (available on Sakai)

4/14 Religion & Politics in the 20th Century

Please read Lippy, "From Consensus to Struggle"; and excerpt from Harding, *The Book of Jerry Falwell* (available on Sakai).

Further Reading: Smith, *Embattled and Thriving*, Chs. 1-4

**Extra meeting for M.A. students this week*

4/21 Islam in the U.S. / Black Religion in the 20th Century

***Essays due (undergraduates only); M.A. student research presentations begin**

Please read Hackett, Ch. 19; Bagby, "Isolate, Insulate, Assimilate" (available on Sakai)

Further Reading: Smith, *Embattled and Thriving*, Chs. 5-Conclusion

**Extra meeting for M.A. students this week*

4/28 West meets East: Asian traditions in the U.S.

***M.A. student research presentations**

Please read Hackett Ch. 25, and Prothero, Ch. 8

No Further Reading due

5/5 Summary and Conclusion of the Course

***M.A. student papers due**

Final Exam Time: Monday, May 12th, 8:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.