

Fall 2020

REL 6137 (234A) Religion in North America

TIME: TBD
PLACE: Online
CREDITS: 3 Semester Hours
INSTRUCTOR: David G. Hackett
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DESCRIPTION:

Today the field of American religious history is in the midst of substantial revision. As recently as the 1970's what we knew about the American religious past came primarily from the study of formal theology and the histories of the established churches. A great and continuing strength of church history is its attention to the influence of religious ideas and to the relationship between religion and political affairs. Beginning in the 1960's, however, religious history started breaking away from church history. Influential historians, such as E.P. Thompson and Eugene Genovese, emphasized the emancipatory power of religion in helping ordinary people to oppose the ruling classes. By the 1970's, this conflict model was largely enveloped by the insights of anthropologists who directed historians' interest to the meaning and order conveyed to believers by religious symbols. Clifford Geertz's understanding of "religion as a cultural system," in particular, was widely read and appropriated throughout the discipline. By the late 1970's, this mixture of social history and cultural anthropology led to the emergence of the new area of "popular religion." Works by Jon Butler on magic and the occult, Rhys Isaac on the religious culture of eighteenth century Virginia, as well as new research on revivalism and slave religion all suggested the arrival of a new "popular" approach to the American religious past.

During the 1980's and up to the present the thrust of this new work has dramatically expanded the area of research. Native American religious history, non-existent as a field until the 1980's, is an exciting and rapidly emerging new discipline. Significant revisions are being made in our understanding of the African American religious past. New attention is being given to the relationship between religion, consumption, and social class. At the same time, the complex view of gender now current in women's studies is echoed in new works on women and men across class and racial lines. Since the 1990s, many studies employ the methodology of "lived religion." The twenty-first century has brought an Americas, transnational, global perspective that pushes us to see the religion in the United States as influenced by and a participant in larger world patterns.

The result of this new scholarship is not to offer a new interpretation of the American religious past. It is still not at all clear what should be the proper subject matter of religious history nor which methods and theories ought to be applied. The purpose of this course is to introduce graduate students to this rapidly changing field.

BOOKS TO PURCHASE

Catherine Brekus, Sarah Osborn's World: The Rise of Evangelical Christianity in Early America, (Yale, 2013)

Richard Bushman, Joseph Smith: Rough Stone Rolling - a cultural history of Mormonism's founder (Vintage, 2007).

Linford D. Fisher, The Indian Great Awakening (Oxford, 2014)

David G. Hackett ed. Religion and American Culture: A Reader 2nd Edition (Routledge, 2003)

Peggy Levitt, God Needs No Passport (The New Press, 2007)

Rhys Isaac, The Transformation of Virginia 1740-1790 (University of North Carolina, 1982).

Marti, Gerardo American Blindspot: Race, Class, Religion and Donald Trump (2019)

Robert Orsi, The Madonna of 115th Street, Third Edition (Yale, 2010)

Jon F. Sensbach, Rebecca's Revival: Creating Black Christianity in the Atlantic World, (Harvard, 2005).

RECOMMENDED BOOK TO PURCHASE

Jon Butler, Grant Wacker, and Randall Balmer Religion in American Life: A Short History Second Edition (Oxford, 2011)

REQUIREMENTS:

This is a proseminar. It is intended to immerse graduate students in the literature. You will read and critically assess major books, articles and methods current in the field. You will not do primary research. Within the seminar you will be expected to clearly report on your reading and directly respond to the ideas of your fellow students. All of the class meetings, your readings, and written assignments are intended to help you develop a knowledge of the historiographical and methodological terrain.

There are five major requirements:

- 1) Each week a core of common readings will form the basis of our discussions. Your careful reading and reflection upon these weekly readings is essential to the success of this course. The required books are listed in the syllabus, some are available at the University Bookstore and all can be purchased via the internet. Most of the articles will be available online through the course website.

- 2) Each week one student will be responsible for summarizing the methodological and historiographical issues contained in the week's common readings (three presentations will be required of each student). This summary will offer a starting point for our discussions.
- 3) Eight times in the course of the semester each student will be required to submit by class time a one page synthesis of the required readings for that day.
- 4) Each week one or more students will present written reports on particular books (Two will be required of each student). These reviews will consist of three to five pages, double-spaced. These students are also expected to provide expertise in the discussion of the week's topics based on their reading.
- 5) Each student will also prepare an historiographical essay on one of the historical periods or topics discussed in the field. The essay should be no longer than twenty pages in length. The subject may be based on one of the oral reports or book reports, and it should fully cover the topic.

GRADING:

Historiographical Essay	29%
Oral Report (3)	15%
Book Reviews (2)	16%
One Page Historiographical Papers (8)	40%

TOPICS AND READINGS:

*Available electronically through UF Course Reserves (linked to course web site in Canvas)

First Week:Orientation (September 2nd)

Introductions
 Review of syllabus
 Course mechanics
 Theoretical considerations

Recommended Readings:

- 1) *David Chidester, "Expanding Empire", Chapter One in his The Empire of Religion: Imperialism and Comparative Religion (Chicago, 2014), 1-18.
- 2) *Matthew Frye Jacobson, "More Trans-, Less "National" Journal of American Ethnic History 25:4 (Summer, 2006), 74-84.
- 3) *Jon Butler, "Jack-in-the-Box Faith: The Religion Problem in Modern American History" Journal of American History 90 (March 2004): 1357-78.
- 4) *Tisa Wenger, "Introduction" in her Religious Freedom: The Contested Theory of an American Ideal (North Carolina, 2017), 1-14.

Second Week: The "New" Indian Religious History (September 9th)

Required Reading:

Linford D. Fisher, The Indian Great Awakening: Religion and the Shaping of Native Cultures in Early America, 2012.

Recommended Reading:

- 1) Ramon Gutierrez, "The Pueblo Indian World in the Sixteenth Century" in Reader, 3-26.
- 2) Daniel K. Richter, "War and Culture: The Iroquois Experience" in Reader, 53-72.
- 3) Rachel Wheeler, "Women and Christian Practice in a Mahican Village" In Reader, 89-120.
- 4) Joel Martin, "From 'Middle Ground' to Underground': Southeastern Indians and the Early Republic" in Reader, 139-158.
- 5) Raymond DeMallie, "The Lakota Ghost Dance: An Ethnohistorical Account" in Reader, 315-330.
- 6) Christopher Ronwanien:te Jocks, "Spirituality for Sale: Sacred Knowledge in the Consumer Age" in Reader 481-496.

Report Reading:

- 1) Allan Greer, Mohawk Saint: Catherine Tekakwitha and the Jesuits (2004)
- 2) Daniel Richter, Facing East from Indian Country: A Native History of Early America (Harvard, 2001)
- 3) Wenger, Tisa Religious Freedom: The Contested Theory of an American Ideal (North Carolina, 2017)

Third Week: The Early Colonial Religious World (September 16th)

Required Reading:

- 1) Sarah Rivett, "The Puritans"
<http://americanhistory.oxfordre.com/view/10.1093/acrefore/9780199329175.001.0001/acrefore-9780199329175-e-47?rskey=4KIJEC&result=14>
- 2) John Winthrop "A Model of Christian Charity"
<http://religiousfreedom.lib.virginia.edu/sacred/charity.html>
- 3) *Perry Miller, "Errand into the Wilderness" in Butler and Stout eds. Religion in American History, Oxford, 1998 (pp. 27-41)
- 4) *Mark Valeri, "Preface and Introduction" to Heavenly Merchandize: How Religion Shaped Commerce in Colonial America (Princeton, 2010), xi-10.
- 5) David D. Hall, "A World of Wonders: The Mentality of the Supernatural in Seventeenth-Century New England" in Reader, 27-52.

Report Reading:

- 1) David D. Hall, World of Wonders, Days of Judgement: Popular Religious Belief in Early New England (Knopf, 1989)

- 2) Max Weber, The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism (1906)

Fourth Week: African Americans (September 23rd)

Required Reading:

- 1) Judith Weisenfeld, Religion in African American History
<http://americanhistory.oxfordre.com/view/10.1093/acrefore/9780199329175.001.0001/acrefore-9780199329175-e-24>
- 2) Jon F. Sensbach, Rebecca's Revival: Creating Black Christianity in the Atlantic World, (Harvard, 2005).

Recommended Reading:

- 1) *Walter F. Pitts, "Keep the Fire Burnin': Language and Ritual in the Afro-Baptist Church." Journal of the American Academy of Religion 56:1 (1988) 77-97
- 2) *Barbara Fields, "Ideology and Race in American History" in J. Morgan Kousser and James M. McPherson eds. Region, Race, and Reconstruction: Essays in Honor of C. Vann Woodward (Oxford, 1982), 143-157.

Report Reading:

- 1) Gomez, Michael. Exchanging Our Country Marks: The Transformation of African Identities in the Colonial and Antebellum South (North Carolina, 1998).
- 2) Albert Raboteau, Slave Religion: The Invisible Religion in the Antebellum South (Oxford, 1978).
- 3) Sylvia R. Frey and Betty Wood, Come Shouting to Zion: African American Protestantism in the American South and British Caribbean to 1830 (North Carolina, 1998)
- 4) Best, Wallace Passionately Human: No Less Divine: Religion and Culture in Black Chicago, 1915-1952, (Princeton, 2005)

Fifth Week: The Great Awakening (September 30th)

Required Reading:

Catherine Brekus, Sarah Osborn's World: The Rise of Evangelical Christianity in Early America, (Yale, 2013).

Recommended Reading:

*Butler, Jon, "Enthusiasm Described and Decried: The Great Awakening as Interpretive Fiction," Journal of American History 69 (September 1982), 305-325.

Report Reading:

- 1) George Marsden, Jonathan Edwards: A Life (Yale, 2003)

- 2) E. Brooks Holifield, Theology in America (Yale, 2004)

Sixth Week: Religion and the Revolution (October 7th)

Required Reading:

- 1) Rhys Isaac, The Transformation of Virginia 1740-1790 (University of North Carolina, 1982).
- 2) *Clifford Geertz "Religion as a Cultural System" in The Interpretation of Cultures (Basic Books, 1973) 87-125.

Recommended Reading:

- 1) William B. Gravelly, "The Dialectic of Double-Consciousness in Black American Freedom Celebrations, 1808-1863," in Reader, 121-138
- 2) Charles Reagan Wilson, "The Religion of the Lost Cause: Ritual and Organization of the Southern Civil Religion, 1865-1920" in Reader, 205-223.

Report Reading:

- 1) Jon Butler, Awash in a Sea of Faith: Christianizing the American People (Harvard, 1990)
- 2) Heyrman, Christine. Southern Cross: The Making of the Bible Belt, (Knopf, 1997)
- 3) Wilson, Charles Reagan Baptized in Blood: The Religion of the Lost Cause, 1865-1920, (Georgia, 1980).

Seventh Week: New Religious Movements (October 14th)

Required Reading:

- 1) Mathew Bowman, Mormonism
<http://americanhistory.oxfordre.com/view/10.1093/acrefore/9780199329175.001.0001/acrefore-9780199329175-e-326?rkey=whe145&result=12>
- 2) Richard Bushman, Joseph Smith: Rough Stone Rolling - a cultural history of Mormonism's founder (Vintage, 2007).

Report Reading:

Nathan Hatch, The Democratization of American Christianity (Yale, 1989).

Eighth Week: Class and Consumption (October 21st)

Required Reading:

- 1) *Stephen N. Nissenbaum, "Revisiting 'A Visit from St. Nicholas': The Battle Christmas in Early Nineteenth Century America," in James Gilbert, Amy Gilman, Donald M. Scott, and Joan W. Scott eds. The Mythmaking Frame of Mind: Social Imagination and American Culture (Wadsworth, 1993), 25-70

- 3) * Leigh Eric Schmidt, "The Commercialization of the Calendar: American Holidays and the Culture of Consumption, 1870-1930," *Journal of American History* 78:3 (December, 1991), 887-916.
- 4) Leigh Eric Schmidt, "The Easter Parade: Piety, Fashion, and Display," in Reader, 223-246.
- 5) *T. Jackson Lears, "From Salvation to Self-Realization: Advertising and the Therapeutic Roots of the Consumer Culture" in Lears and Richard Wightman Fox eds. The Culture of Consumption: Critical Essays in American History, 1880-1980 (Pantheon, 1983) 1-38.
- 6) *Colleen McDannell, "Material Christianity" in her Material Christianity: Religion and Popular Culture in America (Yale, 1995), 1-16.

Report Reading:

- 1) McDannell, Colleen Material Christianity: Religion and Popular Culture in America, 1995.
- 2) Leigh Schmidt, Restless Souls: The Making of American Spirituality, (Harper, 2005)

Ninth Week: Catholicism (October 28th)

Required Reading:

- 1) Robert A. Orsi, The Madonna of 115th Street: Faith and Community in Italian Harlem, 1880-1950 Third Edition (Yale, 2010)
- 2) *Robert A. Orsi, "Have You Ever Prayed to Saint Jude?" Reflections on Fieldwork in Chicago," in Between Heaven and Earth: The Religious Worlds People Make and the Scholars Who Study Them, (Princeton, 2005), 146-176

Report Reading:

- 1) Julie Byrne, O God of Players: The Story of the Immaculata Mighty Macs, 2003.
- 2) Jonathan Sarna, American Judaism (2004).

Tenth Week: Gender and Religion (November 4th)

Required Reading:

- 1) Catherine Brekus, Women and American Religion
<http://americanhistory.oxfordre.com/view/10.1093/acrefore/9780199329175.001.0001/acrefore-9780199329175-e-35?rskey=4LVylx&result=27>
- 2) Ann Braude, Women's History IS American Religious History," in Reader 159-178.
- 3) *David Hackett, "Gender and Religion in American Culture, 1870-1930." Religion and American Culture 5:2 (Summer 1995) 127-157.

- 4) Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham, "The Feminist Theology of the Black Baptist Church, 1880-1900" in Reader, 267-288.
- 5) David Hackett, "The Prince Hall Masons and the African American Church" In Reader, 289-314.
- 6) *R. Marie Griffith, "Introduction" and "Epilogue" in her Moral Combat: How Sex Divided American Christians and Fractured American Politics (2017), vii-xx, 311-321.

Report Reading:

- 1) Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham, Righteous Discontent: The Women's Movement in the Black Baptist Church, 1880-1920 (Harvard, 1993).
- 2) R. Marie Griffith, Moral Combat: How Sex Divided American Christians and Fractured American Politics (Basic Books, 2017)

Eleventh Week – No Class Veteran’s Day (November 11th)

Twelfth Week: Conservative Protestants and American Culture (November 19th)

Required Reading:

Gerardo Marti, American Blindspot: Race, Class, Religion and Donald Trump (2019)
 *Grant Wacker, "Looking for Eden with a Satellite Dish: Pentecostalism..."

Recommended Reading:

Robert Wuthnow, "Old Fissures and New Fractures in American Religious Life" in Reader, 357-372.

Report Reading:

Grant Wacker, Heaven Below: Early Pentecostals and American Culture (Harvard, 2001)
 George M. Marsden, Fundamentalism and American Culture: The Shaping of Twentieth Century Evangelicalism 1870-1925 (Oxford, 1980).

Thirteenth Week NO CLASS Thanksgiving Wednesday, November 25th

Fourteenth Week: Religion and Immigration after 1965 (December 2nd)

Required Reading:

Peggy Levitt, God Needs No Passport: Immigrants and the Changing American Religious Landscape, (The New Press, 2007)

Recommended Reading:

- 1) *Robert A. Orsi, "Crossing the City Line" in Orsi ed. Gods of the City (Indiana, 1999), 1-79

- 2) Thomas A. Tweed, "Diasporic Nationalism and Urban Landscape: Cuban Immigrants at a Catholic Shrine in Miami" in Reader 497-514.
- 3) Joanne Punzo Waghorne, "The Hindu Gods in a Split-Level World: The Sri Siva-Vishnu in Suburban Washington, D.C." in Reader 515-534.
- 4) *Dirk Hoerder, "From Euro-and Afro-Atlantic to Pacific Migration System: A Comparative Migration Approach to North American History" 195-235 in Thomas Bender ed. Rethinking American History in a Global Age (California, 2002)

Report Reading:

- 1) Thomas A. Tweed, Our Lady of the Exile: Diasporic Religion at a Cuban Catholic Shrine in Miami (Oxford, 1997)
- 2) Wendy Cadge, Heartwood: The First Generation of Theravada Buddhism in America, 2004.
- 3) Robert A. Orsi, Gods of the City: Religion and the American Urban Landscape (1999)
- 4) Chidester, David Authentic Fakes: Religion and American Popular Culture, 2005.
- 5) Bellah, Robert et al. Habits of the Heart: Individualism and Commitment in American Life Second Edition, (2007).

FINAL PAPERS ARE DUE ON Wednesday, December 16th