

CH 624 CL/CH 502: Christianity in America
ASHLAND THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
Winter 2008 Cleveland Campus
Tuesday 6:30-9:30pm
Dr. Paul Kaufman
330-222-2452

I. Course Description

This is a study of Christianity in the American environment from the seventeenth century to the present. The transplanting of the European churches, the development of unique expressions of Christianity and the nature of Christianity will be examined.

II. Relationship to Curriculum Model

This course addresses core identity, character, calling, and competency which have been determined by the graduate faculty as significant areas that reflect the curriculum model and that should shape our approach to a survey of church history. We will observe how those who shaped the Christian church in America were motivated by a strong sense that all of life and ministry must be grounded in Christ, that students of church history will mature in critical reading and reflection as they learn the struggles of those who shaped the Church, that such students cannot hope to impact the present Church without learning the lessons of history, and that, having acquired such knowledge, will be able to share in the growth and development of the Church within their context of ministry by implementing their growing body of knowledge and research strategies.

III. Student Learning Outcomes

Students who successfully complete this course will develop new appreciation and skills in the following areas that will guide us in our study this quarter:

Core Identity rooted in Christ, as the source from which life and ministry flow.

- Be able to demonstrate in essays and critical book reviews that those who shaped American church history were motivated by a sense that Christ was the fountain of all their life's efforts.
- By so doing, the student will be able to identify his/her own identity within his/her own faith tradition.

Character that reflects maturity in Christ.

- Will analyze the motives and impact of earlier church leaders in class discussion, essays and critical book reviews.
- This acquired knowledge will enable students to shape their own spiritual formation that may be expressed in leading in class devotions and reflected in devotional, didactic and sermonic settings outside the classroom.

Calling that is foundational for servant leadership in the church, community and world.

- Will be able to reflect upon the student's own sense of calling to servant leadership vis-à-vis the calling of the founders and shapers of American Christianity, in class discussion, group discussion and written essays.

Competence in the disciplines and skills relevant to Christian ministry.

- 1) Will be able to articulate, integrate, and apply Scripture, theology, church history, and religious heritage to life and ministry in oral presentations, group discussion and written essays.
- 2) Will be able to apply cultural exegesis to one's life and ministry by utilizing acquired knowledge of earlier church leaders vis-à-vis his/her *sits im leben* (context of life) and place of ministry by sharing in class discussion and devotional leadership roles in class.
- 3) Will be able to practice a broad range of appropriate ministry skills that can be reflected in public sharing and application of learning from the lectures, readings, reviews and shared in group and class settings as class time permits.

IV. Teaching Strategies for Student Learning

This course will employ a diverse methodology to facilitate learning: lecture, discussion, small group projects, reflection, critical book reviews, analysis of key historical figures in church history, and guest lecturers as resource persons.

V. Course Requirements

A. Textbooks required for purchase

1. Justo L. González, *The Story of Christianity*. Volume II. The Reformation to the Present Day, San Francisco: Harper Collins, 1984. ISBN: 0060633166 (For students doing CH 502)
2. Robert C. Walton, *Chronological and Background Charts of Church History*, Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2005. ISBN: 0310258138
3. Paul L. Kaufman, "Logical" *Luther Lee and the Methodist War Against Slavery*, Lanham, MD: Scarecrow Press, 2000. ISBN: 0810837102
4. Edwin S. Gaustad, Leigh Schmidt, *The Religious History of America: The Heart of the American Story from Colonial Times to Today*, Revised Edition, (Paperback), San Francisco: Harper Collins, 2004 ISBN-13: 9780060630560 (For students doing CH 624)
5. *Lecture Outline and Class Materials* must be purchased from bookstore prior to first class. (CH 500 booklet may be used.)

NOTE: If you are using this course as a substitute for CH 502 History of Christianity II, you must verify by the end of the course that you have read all the Gonzales book.

B. Attendance

According to the student handbook, attendance at all class sessions is expected unless the professor has been notified in advance. Any student missing the equivalent of six class hours will be required to do additional work, receive a lower grade or withdraw from the class; this is at the discretion of the professor.

C. Assignments:

1. Students will submit one book review dealing with a key figure in church history. Following the directions in the course handbook, you should not only provide a very brief synopsis of the book, you need to identify how the life of the person on whom you are writing, impacted your own sense of mission and enabled you to more fully base your core identity as flowing from Christ. You should be prepared to share your findings with the class as needed. Paper is due week of final exams.
2. Students will write a 4-5 page synopsis of the Lee book. Due week of final exams.
3. There will be a midterm and final exam based upon key terms and historiographical issues discussed in the lectures and group discussions. The format of these exams will consist of identification terms and essay questions.
4. Students will prepare a brief written overview of group discussions. The purpose of this is to reflect how the group reflected upon core identity, character and calling vis-à-vis the church history figure being discussed. Due week of final exams.

D. Calculation of Course Grade

Your final grade will be a composite of the following factors:

Critical book review	20%
Synopsis of Lee book	20%
Midterm exam	20%
Group discussion paper	10%
Final exam	30%

NOTE: Using this email simplifies my responses: pkaufman44@yahoo.com

VI. Lecture Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Lecture Topic and reading assignments</u>
Jan 8	Course introduction
Jan 15	Reformation traditions
Jan 22	Reformation traditions, cont'd
Jan 29	Christianity Comes to America
Feb 5	Puritanism and the First Great Awakening
Feb 12	Disestablishment of the Churches (Group discussion of J. Edwards articles)
Feb 19	Second Great Awakening
Feb 26	Religion and Social Reform (Guest Lecturer)
Mar 4	Liberalism, Fundamentalism and the Rise of Evangelicalism
Mar 11	Final Exam (Book review due; students of CH 502 must verify that they have finished the Gonzales reading)

VII. Seminary Guidelines

A. ATS Academic Integrity Policy

Ashland Theological Seminary seeks to model servant leadership derived from biblical standards of honesty and integrity. We desire to encourage, develop, and sustain men and women of character who will exemplify these biblical qualities in their ministry to the church and the world. As members of the seminary community, students are expected to hold themselves to the highest standards of academic, personal, and social integrity. All students, therefore, are expected to abide by the academic integrity standards outlined in the Student Handbook.

B. Writing Assistance

If you need assistance with writing projects for your coursework, contact the ATS Writing Center. The center provides free sessions with a peer consultant who can help you with all of your concerns about academic writing. Contact the center if you have a question about how to complete your assignment, if you have documentation questions, or if you would like to have your paper evaluated for

areas needing improvement. The ATS Writing Center can be reached at 419-289-5162 or by e-mail at atswc@ashland.edu.

C. Students with Disabilities

For students who have specific physical, psychiatric or learning disabilities and require accommodations, please let the professor know early in the quarter (preferably the first week) so that your learning needs can be appropriately met. In order to receive accommodations, documentation concerning your disability must be on file with Classroom Support Services, 105 Amstutz Hall, Ashland University, 419-289-5953. Please contact them with any questions you may have.

D. ATS Grading Scale

Grade	Percent	Grade Points	Description
A	97-100	4.0	Superior achievement of course objectives, diligence and originality, high degree of freedom from error, outstanding evidence of ability to utilize course knowledge, initiative expressed in preparing and completing assignments, positive contributions verbalized in class.
A-	92-96	3.7	
B+	89-91	3.3	
B	86-88	3.0	Good work submitted, commendable achievement of course objectives, some aspects of the course met with excellence, substantial evidence of ability to utilize course material, positive contributions verbalized in class, consistency and thoroughness of work completed.
B-	83-85	2.7	
C+	80-82	2.3	
C	77-79	2.0	Acceptable work completed, satisfactory achievement of course objectives, demonstrating at least some ability to utilize course knowledge, satisfactory class contribution.
C-	74-76	1.7	
D+	71-73	1.3	
D	68-70	1.0	Passing but minimal work, marginal achievement of course objectives, poor performance in comprehension of work submitted, inadequate class contributions.
D-	65-67	0.7	
F	Below 65	0	Unacceptable work resulting in failure to receive class credit, inadequacy of work submitted or of performance and attendance in class.

VIII. Additional Reading Sources

Ahlstrom, Sydney E. *A Religious History of the American People*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1972.

Albright, Raymond W. *A History of the Protestant Episcopal Church*. New York: Macmillan, 1964.

Bearsley, Frank G. *A History of American Revivals*. New York: American Tract Society, 1904.

Bilhartz, Terry D. *Urban Religion and the Second Great Awakening*. Rutherford, NJ: Fairleigh Dickinson University Press, 1986.

Bloch, Ruth H. *Visionary Republic: Millennial Themes in American Thought, 1756-1800*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 1985.

Bonomi, Pauline U. *Under the Cope of Heaven: Religion, Society, and Politics in Colonial America*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1986.

Boyer, Paul, and Stephen Nissenbaum. *Salem Possessed: The Social Origins of Witchcraft*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1974.

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Bushman, Richard L. *Joseph Smith and the Beginnings of Mormonism*. Urbana, IL: University of Illinois Press, 1984.

Butler, Jon. *Awash in a Sea of Faith: Christianizing the American People*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1990.

Cameron, Richard M. *Methodism and Society in Historical Perspective*. New York: Abingdon, 1961.

Carpenter, John B. "The Fourth Great Awakening or Apostasy: Is American Evangelicalism Cycling Upwards or Spiraling Downwards?" *Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society* 44/4 (December 2001) 647-70.

Carroll, Jackson W., Douglas W. Johnson, and Martin E. Marty. *Religion in America*. New York: Harper and Row, 1979.

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- Coad, F. Roy. *A History of the Brethren Movement*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1968.
- Cross, Whitney. *The Burned-over District: The Social and Intellectual History of Enthusiastic Religion in Western New York, 1800-1850*. New York: Harper & Row, 1950.
- Curry, Thomas J. *The First Freedoms: Church and State in America to the Passage of the First Amendment*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1986.
- Curtis, Susan. *A Consuming Faith: The Social Gospel and Modern American Culture*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1991.
- Dolan, Jay P. *The American Catholic Experience*. Garden City, NY: Doubleday, 1985.
- Dollar, George W. *A History of Fundamentalism*. Greenville, S. C.: Bob Jones, 1970.
- Dorset, Lyle W. *Billy Sunday and the Redemption of America*. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans, 1989.
- Dyck, Cornelius J., ed. *An Introduction to Mennonite History*. Scottsdale, PA: Herald, 1967.
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- Foster, Charles L. *An Errand of Mercy*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1960.
- Frank, Douglas. *Less than Conquerors: How Evangelicals Entered the Twentieth Century*. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans, 1986.
- Gaustad, Edwin S. *A Religious History of the American People*. New York: Harper, 1966.
- _____. *The Rise of Adventism: Religion and Society in Mid-19th Century America*. New York: Harper & Row, 1974.
- _____. *Liberty of Conscience: Roger Williams in America*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1991.
- Gewehr, Wesley M. *The Great Awakening in Virginia, 1740-1790*. Durham, N. C.: University Press, 1930.
- Glazer, Nathan. *American Judaism*. Rev. ed. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1972.
- Goen, C.C. *Broken Churches, Broken Nation: Denominational Schisms and the Coming*

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- Greeley, Andrew M. *Religious Change in America*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1989.
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