History of American Religion

Instructor: Rick Rogers
Office: 701-H Pray-Harrold
Course Times: TR 11:00-12:15
Course Location: 112 Roosevelt Hall
Office Hours: TR 10:00-10:45, 12:30-1:30
Office Phone & Voice Mail: (734) 487-3067
Cell Phone & Voice Mail: (734) 546-5557
E-mail: RRogers@emich.edu
Home Page: http://people.emich.edu/rrogers

DESCRIPTION: This multimedia course is a lecture-based historical survey of the religious ideas and institutions that have flourished in America (USA) from colonial times to today. The lectures, texts, and documentary and movie clips will provide students with up-to-date and in-depth information. While the course will focus on the traditional American religions of Catholicism, Protestantism and Judaism, it will also examine how the major world religions of Islam, Hinduism and Buddhism have developed in America. Indigenous American religions like Native American Spirituality, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, Seventh-Day Adventism, the Church of Christ, Scientist, the Jehovah’s Witnesses and the Nation of Islam, as well as metaphysical faiths like Theosophy and Scientology, and a variety of important inter-religious movements like those of fundamentalism, evangelicalism and ecumenicalism will also be considered. The course will emphasize how each religious orientation reflects contact with other forms of religiosity in a culture of pluralism, as well as the direct connection of religion to social and political struggle. Students will finally discuss how the shared experience of being an American constitutes a civil religion. This is a reading intensive course.

REQUIRED TEXTS: Edwin Gaustad & Leigh Schmidt’s The Religious History of America: The Heart of the American Story from Colonial Times to Today (2004), Amanda Porterfield’s American Religious History (2002) and a Coursepack to be distributed and purchased in class. Both books are paperbacks and may be purchased cheaply on Amazon.com.

GRADES & SCALE: Grades are based on the 800-point scale below. There are 22 daily quizzes (10 points each & 220 points collectively or 27.5% of the course grade) covering every assignment from 9/13-12/8. There are no quizzes during the last week of classes. There are four exams (from 130 to 160 points, increasing by increments of 10 points each, for 580 points collectively or 72.5% of the course grade). Students are to attend all classes and to regularly participate in a free exchange of ideas, engaging the teacher and other students in friendly classroom dialogue. Informed participation throughout each of the four sections of the course may be factored into each of the exam grades as bonuses. All quizzes are based on the assignments for that day. All exams--based on the reading assignments, the lectures, the documentary and movie clips, and the class discussions--will consist of a variety of short-answer questions and essays (some brief & some long). If a student misses a quiz or an exam due to illness or emergency, and contacts the instructor in a timely fashion, that student may arrange a make-up. Make-up quizzes and exams are by nature much more difficult (the make-up exams are all atypical essays). See the scale below for final evaluations.
WEB SITE: Students should familiarize themselves with the course web site. To access the web site, simply go to Dr. Rogers’ Home Page via the address on the front of this syllabus and click on the class link in the schedule. At the top of this web site there is a Grade Post where students will be able to keep track of their attendance record and quiz and exam grades. Moreover, on this web site students can access online studies dealing with a variety of American religions and biographical information, which may provide source material for research projects.

FEATURE-LENGTH MOVIES: Clips from some of these movies will be shown in class, Black Robe, The Scarlet Letter, The Crucible, Inherit the Wind, Elmer Gantry, Sergeant York, Witness, The Chosen, A Stranger Among Us, A Price Above Rubies, Malcolm X, The Quarrel, Resurrection, The Rapture, Leap of Faith, Keeping the Faith, The Apostle, Dogma, Frailty, Stolen Summers and Saved. Many can be checked out/rented at local libraries and video stores.

CLASS SCHEDULE & ASSIGNMENTS: There is one class period (lecture and discussion) per chapter in Gaustad. While reading the pages for each Gaustad assignment, pay especially close attention to the personal names, ideas, events, dates, places and writings enclosed in the boxes after each chapter heading in the following syllabus schedule. Those items will be the primary issues discussed in the lectures and the focus of the quizzes and exams.

9/8

Syllabus Orientation

9/13

I. Religion in the Colonial Era

Beginnings (Gaustad 3-29)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Christopher Columbus (1492)</th>
<th>Northwest Passage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>San Salvador</td>
<td>Ignatius of Loyola</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sublimis Deus (1537)</td>
<td>Jean de Brebeuf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bartholomew Las Casas</td>
<td>Kateri Tekakwitha</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

9/15

English Exploration & Anglican Establishment (Gaustad 30-48)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Francis Drake</th>
<th>Thomas Bray &amp; S.P.G.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Richard Hakluyt</td>
<td>Anglicans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jamestown (1607) &amp; Virginia Dare</td>
<td>Samuel Davies &amp; Presbyterians</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lost Colony of Roanoke (1591)</td>
<td>Gowan Pamphlet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African Slaves (1619)</td>
<td>John Leland &amp; Baptists</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pocahontas</td>
<td>James Madison &amp; Patrick Henry</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Puritan New England** (Gaustad 49-73)

- Pilgrims (1620) & Puritans (1630s)
- Congregationalism
- Plymouth Colony & William Bradford
- Massachusetts Bay Colony &
  - John Winthrop
- John Cotton
- *Malleus Maleficarum*
  - Sarah Good & Sarah Osborne
  - Samuel Sewall & Salem (1690s)
  - Cotton Mather & Jonathan Edwards
  - Roger Williams &
  - Anne Hutchinson (1643)

**Middle-Colony Diversity** (Gaustad 74-94)

- New Amsterdam (1626)
- Dutch Reformed & Peter Stuyvesant
- Francis Makemie
- Thomas Bradbury Chandler
- John Witherspoon (1776)
- William Penn (1682) &
  - Quakers/Society of Friends
- Richard Allen & Absalom Jones

**From Maryland Catholics to Georgia Evangelicals** (Gaustad 95-114)

- Cecil Calvert (1632)
- Charles Carroll (1776)
- John Carroll
- Francis Asbury (1784)
- Huguenots & Moravians (Bethlehem)
- Alexander Garden
- George Whitefield
- Evangelicalism
- Great Awakening
- John Wesley & Methodists

**Errand into the Wilderness** (Porterfield 27-42, 171-180 & 186-192)

**FIRST EXAM**

**II. Religious Ferment from the Revolution to the Civil War**

**Liberty & Enlightenment** (Gaustad 121-138 &
Jefferson Letter & Analysis in Coursepack)

- American Revolution (1783)
- Patrick Henry & James Madison
  - NRA Failed Amendment of 1863
  - *Memorial and Remonstrance*
  - Article Six of the Constitution
  - Bill of Rights (1789)
- First Amendment (16 words):
  - Establishment Clause (10 words)
  - Free Exercise Clause (6 words)
- Wall of Separation (1802)
- George Washington (1789)
- “To bigotry no sanction, to
  - persecution no assistance”
- John Adams & Abigail Adams
- “The Grand Architect” (Deism)
- Thomas Jefferson
- *Life and Morals of Jesus*
- Thomas Paine’s *Age of Reason*

**Freedom & Revival** (Gaustad 139-161)

- Voluntarism
- Second Great Awakening (1801)
- Jarena Lee
- Charles G. Finney (Oberlin)
- Francis Asbury & John Wesley
- Peter Cartwright
- Ann Lee (1774) & Shakers
  - “Tis a Gift to Be Simple”
- John Humphrey Noyes &
  - Oneida Perfectionists
- Complex Marriage
- William Miller (Millerites) &
  - Great Disappointment (1843)
- Ellen G. White &
  - Seventh-day Adventists
- Alexander Campbell &
  - Cane Ridge, KY (1801)
- Barton Stone, Restorationism &
  - Disciples of Christ
- Timothy Dwight at Yale (1802)
- Elhanan Winchester &
  - Universalism
- William Ellery Channing &
  - Unitarianism
- Ralph Waldo Emerson &
  - Transcendentalism
- Horace Bushnell & Walt Whitman
10/13  
**Redeeming the West** (Gaustad 162-183)  
| Timothy Dwight | Joseph Smith (1844) & The Angel Moroni |
| Lyman Beecher | *The Book of Mormon* |
| Sheldon Jackson | Nauvoo, IL |
| Narcissa Whitman | Brigham Young (1877) & Deseret Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints |
| Bureau of Indian Affairs (1849) | Wounded Knee, SD (1890) |
| Pierre Jean DeSmet |  |
| Orestes Brownson |  |
| Eusebio Kino |  |
| Isaac Mayer Wise |  |

10/18  
**A House of Faith Divided** (Gaustad 184-202)  
| Elijah P. Lovejoy | Genesis 9:20-25 |
| Abolitionism | Southern Baptists Con. (1845) |
| John Jasper | Abraham Lincoln (1861-1865) & Emancipation Procl. (1863) |
| Frederick Douglass | Julia Ward Howe |
| Nat Turner | Fox Family (Hydesville, NY) |
| Harriet Beecher Stowe & *Uncle Tom’s Cabin* | Spiritualism (Burnt Over Dist.) |
| Samuel How | Nettie Colburn |

10/20  
**Shouting Methodists** (Porterfield 66-86)  

10/25  
**Jefferson to Pratt** (Porterfield 193-195, 200-218 & 222-234)  

10/27 (R)  
**SECOND EXAM**  

### III. Modern Prospects from Cityscapes to Bible Battles  

11/1  
**Immigration & Diversity** (Gaustad 209-230)  
| Ethnicity, Race & Gender | Robert L. Dabney |
| P. M. Abbelen | Elizabeth Cady Stanton & *The Woman’s Bible* |
| Emma Lazarus & *The New Colossus* | Dwight L. Moody & Ira D. Sankey |
| Liberty Enlightening the World or Mother of Exiles | Josiah Strong & Nativism |
| Statue of Liberty’s 13 words | Charles Taze Russell & Jehovah’s Witnesses |
| German Jews & Isaac Mayer Wise Reform & Reconstructionism | Mary Baker Eddy & Church of Christ, Scientist |
| East-European & Russian Pogroms Solomon Schechter & Conservatism | Science and Health |
| E. K. Love | Phineas P. Quimby |
| Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 | Helena Blavatsky & The Theosophical Society |
| Antoine Brown Blackwell |  |

11/3  
**Cities & Social Gospels** (Gaustad 231-254)  
| Washington Gladden & Social Gospel | Karl Marx & *Das Kapital* |
| Jacob Riis, *How the Other Half Lives* | Frederic Huntington & “Brotherhood” |
| John Lancaster Spalding | James Cardinal Gibbons & The Knights of Labor |
| Charles M. Sheldon & *In His Steps* | Walter Rauschenbusch |
| Jane Addams & Hull House | Francis Willard & the WCTU |
| Samuel Mayerberg | Booth & The Salvation Army |
| Bruce Barton & *The Man Nobody Knows* | YMCA & James Naismith (1892) |
| The Gospel of Prosperity |  |
11/8

The Church & the World (Gaustad 255-276)

| Monroe Doctrine & Manifest Destiny | E. Stanley Jones |
| John Ireland | William Ernest Hocking |
| Historic Peace Churches | Intervarsity Christian Fellow. |
| John R. Mott | Nativism & Ku Klux Klan |
| Dorothy Day (CWM) |  |

11/10

Growth & Schism (Gaustad 277-298 & Pultz Article in Coursepack)

| Schism in the Big Eight | Hinduism & Swami Vivekananda |
| LDSers (1890) & Reorganized LDSers | Charles Briggs (1893) & Higher Criticism of the Bible |
| Holiness Movement & Mt 5:48 | Princeton Theology |
| Charles Mason & Church of God in Christ | J. Gresham Machen |
| Glossolalia & Pentecostalism | Scopes Trial & Dayton TN (1925) |
| The Assemblies of God | William Jennings Bryan & Clarence Darrow |
| William J. Seymour & Azusa Street Revival | Five Fundamentals |
| Theodor Herzl & Zionism (1948) | Harry Emerson Fosdick & Shall The Fundies Win? |
| Buddhism & D. T. Suzuki |  |

11/15

Faith & Reason (Gaustad 299-321)

| John Dewey & Pragmatism | Aimee Semple McPherson & Int. Church Foursquare Gospel |
| Walter Lippman: A Preface to Morals | Shailer Mathews |
| William James & A.N. Whitehead | Isaac M. Haldeman |
| John Augustus Zahm & Theistic Evolution | Pope Pius IX & Syllabus of Errors |
| T. DeWitt Talmage | Pope Pius X & 1907 Encyclical |
| Henry Ward Beecher | Reinhold Niebuhr & Christian Realism |
| Billy Sunday & Lyman Abbott | Abraham Joshua Heschel |
| Armageddon & 2nd Coming of Christ | Carl F. H. Henry & Christianity Today |
| Dispensationalism & Premillennialism | Scofield Reference Bible |

11/17

Protestantism as Establishment (Porterfield 87-100 & 235-267)

11/22 (T)

THIRD EXAM

11/24

No Class: Thanksgiving Break

IV. Religious Transformation from WWII to New Millennium

11/29

War, Peace & Religious Renewal (Gaustad 329-348)

| WCC/1948 | G. Bromley Oxnam |
| Shoah & Elie Wiesel | Pope John XXIII |
| Billy Graham & Social Sins | John Courtney Murray |
| Neo-evangelicalism/Fundamentalism | Mater et Magistra (1961) |
| Norman Vincent Peale | Pacem in Terris (1963) |
| Robert Schuller & Crystal Cathedral | “Curse of the Jews” |
| Fulton J. Sheen & Joshua Liebman | Aggiornamento |
| Joe McCarthy & J. B. Matthews | “Erring Schismatics” |
| Reds and Our Churches |  |
The Courts, the Schools, the Streets (Gaustad 349-373)

Minersville S.D. v. Gobitis
Jehovah’s Witnesses
Lincoln on Dilemma of Gov. & Liberty v. Security
Issues testing “Free Exercise”
Issues testing “Establishment”
Study v. Practice of Religion
Balanced Treatment Laws & Creationism
Everson v. Board of Education
Roe v. Wade (1973) & CGNLC
Native American Church & Peyote Religion
American Indian RFA

Justice, Liberation, Union (Gaustad 374-397)

Religious Right & Left
Civil Rights & Rosa Parks
Martin Luther King, Jr.
James H. Cone & Black Theology of Liberation
Hispanic Americans & Cesar Chavez
Hispanic Catholicism & Patrick Flores
Virgilio Elizondo & Mestizo
Gay Rights & Troy Perry
Jimmy Creech & Heterosexism
Religious Feminism & Rosemary Radford Ruether
Re-Imagining Conference
Barbara Harris
William Self
Sally Priesand

Politics & Pluralism (Gaustad 398-427)

Thomas Merton & Daniel Berrigan
“Theocratic Intolerance”
Pat Robertson & Jerry Falwell
Bill McCartney & Promise Keepers
Jimmy Carter & Jesse Jackson
Muhammad & the Quran
Mosque (Masjid) & Imam
Ramadan & Hajj
Elijah Muhammad & Nation of Islam
Malcolm X
Walace D. Muhammad
Abdul-Rasheed Muhammad
ISKCON (Hare Krishna)
Jim Jones & Peoples Temple
David Koresh & Branch Davidsians

Civil Religion & Civil Rights in America (Bellah Article in Coursepack & Porterfield 279-290)

From Fundamentalism to Pluralism (Porterfield 101-116, 291-304, 311-314 & 321-327)

12/20 (T) FOURTH EXAM

RESEARCH PROJECTS: Students in the EMU Honors Program are encouraged to consider doing a research project and composing a short paper for Honors credit. However, any student interested in doing advanced research and a long paper may discuss topics and terms with the instructor. The deadline for the decision on a project is 9/15 with its completion no later than 11/22. If a student does an extraordinary job, they may be sponsored for the Undergraduate Symposium in the spring.