



## **HIST 6326 HISTORY OF AMERICAN CHRISTIANITY**

**New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary  
Division of Theological and Historical Studies  
Tuesday and Thursday, 9:30-10:50 am  
Spring 2022 (Flex)**

### **LLOYD A. HARSCH**

Professor of Church History and Baptist Studies

Office: Dodd Building: Office 202

Phone: (504) 282-4455 ext. 3212

Email: [Lharsch@nobts.edu](mailto:Lharsch@nobts.edu)

This course begins on **January 18, 2022**, and, by that date, students should have access to Blackboard, where they will find information and instructions about the course. Prior to that time, students should purchase the texts and be ready to participate in the course. The reading schedule is included in this syllabus so that, once students have secured the textbooks, they can begin reading their assignments.

### **Mission Statement**

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and Leavell College prepare servants to walk with Christ, proclaim His truth, and fulfill His mission.

### **Course Description**

The purpose of this course is to give a historical interpretation of American Christianity with an emphasis upon significant trends, institutions, intellectual patterns, and leaders. An effort is made to treat American Christianity as a dynamic aspect of American culture. Both the theological and the institutional development of the churches are stressed.

### **Student Learning Outcomes**

In order to understand and interpret Christian theological heritage and polity for the church, the student, by the end of the course, should:

1. Be able to apply their knowledge and understanding of the distinctive characteristics of American Christianity from fifteenth-century origins to the present to the process of interpreting Christian theological heritage and polity for the church.
2. Value the ideas, individuals, movements, and institutions that form American Christianity.
3. Be able, with the help of resources, to accomplish the following:
  - Practice the historical method and historiography in order to interpret American Christian heritage for the local church.
  - Articulate and defend positions on specific theological issues as held by various American denominations.
  - Place individuals, movements, and ideas in their proper context in American Christian history.

## Course Teaching Methodology

Web-based courses are, by nature, a different kind of learning experience than courses taught in the traditional classroom. Because of this structure, this web-based course is more reading and writing intensive than traditional classroom courses. Rigorous study of the deep things of God can be a rewarding experience for anyone who participates in it, but it also calls for extra diligence and integrity in completing the work. This reality does not mean that a web-based course cannot be successful in equipping you, the student, for effective, God-honoring ministry. It simply means utilizing a different strategy. Internet courses allow room for independent learners to thrive—to work at a responsible pace, to engage in student-led discussions, and to take ownership of the learning of course content. Note that your instructors are praying for your success.

## Required Texts

Noll, Mark A. *A History of Christianity in the United States and Canada*. 2d edition. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans Publishing, 2019. ISBN: 978-0802874900

Finke, Roger and Rodney Stark. *The Churching of America, 1776-2005: Winners and Losers in Our Religious Economy*. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 2005.

## Recommended:

Leith, John H., ed. *Creeds of the Churches: A Reader in Christian Doctrine from the Bible to the Present*. 3d ed. Atlanta: John Knox Press, 1982.

## Requirements

- A. **Book Review:** Students will write a review of *The Churching of America, 1776-2005*. The review should be 3-4 single-spaced typewritten pages in length and contain:
- (1) a bibliographical entry at the top of the first text page of the review,
  - (2) a brief biographical sketch of the author,
  - (3) a brief summary (one to two pages) of the contents of the book,
  - (4) a statement of the author's purpose and the extent to which the purpose was realized,
  - (5) significant insights, strengths, and/or weaknesses (at least 1 each),
  - (6) concluding evaluation.

We will discuss the review in class on the due date. **Due February 8.**

- B. **Biography:** Write a biography on a major individual associated with American Christianity. You may choose the person, subject to instructor approval. Your choice of subject must be submitted by the end of the second week of class. The paper **must** have a title page, table of contents, bibliography, footnotes or endnotes, be double spaced, and follow Turabian, sixth edition, for style. However, **do not** use chapters to separate sections of your paper (chapters require a new page for each new chapter and the project is not long enough to justify this). Use section headings instead. Projects will be graded on clear organization, spelling, and grammar as well as content. Your biography should be 8-10 pages in length. **Due March 22.**

- C. **Research Paper - Presentation:** Write a paper on a topic of your choosing that is, or has been, formative to American Christianity. You may choose the topic, subject to instructor approval. Your choice of subject must be submitted by the end of the second week of class. The paper **must** have a title page, table of contents, bibliography, footnotes or endnotes, be double spaced, and follow Turabian, sixth edition, for style. However, **do not** use chapters to separate sections of your paper (chapters require a new page for each new chapter and the project is not long enough to justify this). Use section headings instead. Projects will be graded on clear organization, spelling, and grammar as well as content. Your paper should be 12-15 pages in length. One copy of your paper will be submitted to the professor. An additional copy must be posted in Blackboard so it can be accessed by the rest of the member.

**Presentation.** Students will present their papers in class. Creativity in the form of PowerPoint or visual aids is appreciated. Flex students will record their presentation and post it in Blackboard. **Due beginning April 26.**

## Penalties

- A. *Papers:* A late paper will be assessed an initial **10 point penalty**. Each calendar day after the due date an **additional 10 point penalty** will be assessed.
- B. *Plagiarism:* A high standard of personal integrity is expected of all students at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. Copying another person's work, submitting downloaded material without proper references, submitting material without properly citing the source, and committing other such forms of dishonesty are strictly forbidden. Although anything cited in three sources is considered public domain, we require that all sources be cited. Any infraction may result in failing the assignment and the course. Any infraction will be reported to the Dean of Students for further action. **See the Graduate Catalog for more information on the Definition of Plagiarism and Consequences for Violations of Plagiarism.**

## Submission of Assignments

- A. **Unit Tests and Reading Reports:** Unit tests and reading reports must be completed by midnight (Central Standard Time) of the date of the unit completion. Exams may be taken prior to that date, but will not be available after the due date.
- B. **Book Reviews** should be posted as an attached file (not added in the text box) in the Assignment area.
- C. **Biographies and Research Papers** should be **posted twice**. First, submit it in the Assignments area which will evaluate the paper with SafeAssign. You can check how well you have cited your research by first submitting a draft to SafeAssign. Secondly, submit your paper in .pdf format in the appropriate area in Assignments area. Attach your paper by clicking on the Browse button and finding the copy of your paper. Remember to click Submit or the paper will not post properly. This allows the rest of the class to read your paper and learn from your research. I want you all to be able to benefit from the others' research and writing. Your paper **must** be posted a .pdf document. Posting your paper in .pdf format preserves your margins and spacing. Failure to post your paper in a .pdf format will result in a **5 point penalty**.

Please do not send your assignments to me as email attachments unless I request you to do so or unless there is a compelling reason. You may send me an email announcing that you have submitted an assignment, but, if you follow the correct procedures, I will find it. I enjoy hearing from my students, but my Inbox fills up pretty quickly with attachments, and then I have to shift them over to the proper location.

### **Possible Points & Grading Scale**

<u>Possible Points</u>	<u>Grading Scale</u>
Book Review: 50 pts.	A = 279-300 pts.
Biography: 75 pts	B = 255-278 pts.
Paper Presentation: 25 pts.	C = 231-254 pts.
<u>Research Paper: 100 pts.</u>	D = 210-230 pts.
300 pts.	F = 209- ↓ pts.

### **NOLA2U Flex Students**

If you are taking this course as a NOLA2U Flex student, please note the following attendance policies:

1. You are required to be in class either through viewing the lectures live or viewing the recorded lectures on Blackboard. When you view the recorded lecture, you will be considered present for that class. Regardless of if you watch the class live or recorded, you are only allowed to miss the amount of class time specified in the NOBTS attendance policy as stated in the graduate catalog.
2. You will be asked to certify that you have been present for the live session or have viewed the recorded session. This certification will be done after having watched the class live or viewing the recorded session.
3. All video lectures are available for 7 days after the video is posted. If you are unable to view the video within that time frame, you will be considered absent for that class session.
4. Technical issues will not be considered a valid reason for missing a lecture.

### **Technical Assistance**

For assistance regarding technology, consult ITC (504-816-8180) or the following websites:

1. [Selfserve@nobts.edu](mailto:Selfserve@nobts.edu) - Email for technical questions/support requests with the [Selfserve.nobts.edu](http://Selfserve.nobts.edu) site (Access to online registration, financial account, online transcript, etc.)
2. [BlackboardHelpDesk@nobts.edu](mailto:BlackboardHelpDesk@nobts.edu) - Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS Blackboard Learning Management System [NOBTS.Blackboard.com](http://NOBTS.Blackboard.com).
3. [ITCSupport@nobts.edu](mailto:ITCSupport@nobts.edu) - Email for general technical questions/support requests.
4. [www.NOBTS.edu/itc/](http://www.NOBTS.edu/itc/) - General NOBTS technical help information is provided on this website.

## **Writing Style Guide**

A copy of the approved NOBTS Style Guide can be found in the course Blackboard shell, or can be located online at the Writing Center's page on the seminary website at:

<https://www.nobts.edu/resources/pdf/writing/StyleGuide.pdf>

## **Help for Writing Papers at “The Write Stuff”**

NOBTS maintains a Writing Center designed to improve English writing at the graduate level. Students can receive writing guides, tips, and valuable information to help in becoming a better writer.

## **Plagiarism on Written Assignments**

NOBTS has a no tolerance policy for plagiarism. Plagiarism in certain cases may result in expulsion from the seminary. See the NOBTS Student Handbook for definition, penalties, and policies associated with plagiarism.

## **Emergency Plan**

In case of hurricane or any other emergency, go to the seminary web site for information: [www.nobts.edu](http://www.nobts.edu). The administration will communicate information that relates to the seminary: the nature of the emergency, instructions for responses, evacuation, contingency plans, duration of the emergency, and plans to return to campus and/or resume the schedule.

In addition, check Blackboard for instructions related to this class. Because this class is available on Blackboard, there should be minimal disruption unless the emergency affects electrical power and connection to the Internet.

In any emergency, communication is important, and our best means of staying connected is through the seminary's web site and Blackboard.

## Schedule and Reading Topics

Lectures and class discussions generally will adhere to this schedule, but the pace may vary according to instructional and class needs.

[N] Noll, Mark A. *A History of Christianity in the United States and Canada*. 2d edition. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans Publishing, 2019. ISBN: 978-0802874900

[L] Leith, John H., ed. *Creeds of the Churches: A Reader in Christian Doctrine from the Bible to the Present*. 3d ed. Atlanta: John Knox Press, 1982.

Week	Dates	Subject	Reading
[1]	Jan. 18 Jan. 20	Orientation Roman Catholic Beginnings	N: 9-26
[2]	Jan. 25 Jan. 27	Puritan Foundations Denominations in America	N: 27-47 L: 385-99 N: 48-59 L: 308-23
[3]	Feb. 1 Feb. 3	Denominations in America First Great Awakening	N: 59-74 L: 61-107 N: 75-89
[4]	Feb. 8 Feb. 10	<b>Book Review Due</b> Results of First Great Awakening Revolutionary Faith	N: 89-104 L: 353-60, 373-85 N: 105-11, 118-34
[5]	Feb. 15 Feb. 17	Populist Democracy Second Great Awakening	N: 134-48 N: 149-56
[6]	Feb. 22 Feb. 24	Growth of Methodists and Baptists Mission Activity	N: 156-69 N: 169-76
[7]	Mar. 1 Mar. 3	<b>Mardi Gras – No Class</b> Unorthodox Developments	N: 176-81

[8]	Mar. 8	Development of Black Denominations	N: 181-88, 311-20
	Mar. 10	Immigrants and Orthodox	N: 188-99, 320-23
	<b>Mar. 15</b>	<b>S P R I N G B R E A K</b>	
[9]	Mar. 22	<b>Biography Due</b> - Discussed in class	
	Mar. 24	Western Expansion	N: 200-28
[10]	Mar. 29	Civil War and Moral Reform	N: 266-97
	Mar. 31	Protestant Liberalism	N: 298-310; 341-45
[11]	Apr. 5	Roman Catholicism	N: 323-40, 374-84 L: 442-46, 457-58
	Apr. 7	Pentecostals	N: 345-49, 359-74
[12]	Apr. 12	Fundamentalism	N: 349-59
	Apr. 14	Rights and Revolution	N: 384-431
[13]	Apr. 19	Charismatic Movement	N: 445-57
	Apr. 21	Modern Developments	N: 457-520
[14]	Apr. 26	Reflections <b>Presentations</b>	N: 521-71
[15]	May 3	<b>Presentations</b>	
[16]	May 10	<b>Summation and Review - 10 AM</b>	

### Bibliography

- Ahlstrom, Sydney E. *A Religious History of the American People*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1972.
- Askew, Thomas A. and Richard V. Pierard. *The American Church Experience: A Concise History*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2004.
- Blankman, Drew and Todd Augustine, eds. *Pocket Dictionary of North American Denominations*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2004.
- Brumbaugh, Martin Grove. *A History of the German Baptist Brethren in Europe and America*. 2d Edition. Elgin, IL: Brethren Publishing House, 1907.

- Clark, Elmer T. *The Small Sects in America: An Authentic Study of Almost 300 Little-Known Religious Groups*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1965.
- Good, Merle and Phyllis. *20 Most Asked Questions about the Amish and Mennonites*. Lancaster, PA: Good Books, 1979.
- Hamilton, Adam. *Christianity's Family Tree: What Other Christians Believe and Why*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2007.
- Handy, Robert Theodore. *A History of the Churches of the United States and Canada*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1977.
- House, H. Wayne. *Charts of Christian Theology and Doctrine*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1992.
- Hudson, Winthrop S. and John Corrigan. *Religion in America: An Historical Account of the Development of American Religious Life*. 6<sup>th</sup> ed. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, 1998.
- Janzen, Rod. *The Prairie People: Forgotten Anabaptists*. Hanover, NH: University Press of New England, 1999.
- Langton, Edward. *History of the Moravian Church: The Story of the First International Protestant Church*. London: George Allen & Unwin, 1956.
- Leith, John H., ed. *Creeds of the Churches: A Reader in Christian Doctrine from the Bible to the Present*. 3d ed. Atlanta: John Knox Press, 1982.
- Marsden, George M. *Fundamentalism and American Culture: The Shaping of Twentieth-century Evangelicalism, 1870-1925*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2006.
- Marty, Martin E. *Pilgrims in Their Own Land: 500 Years of Religion in America*. New York: Penguin Books, 1984.
- Mead, Frank S., Samuel S. Hill and Craig D. Atwood. *Handbook of Denomination in the United States*. 12th edition. Nashville: Abingdon Press: 2005.
- Melton, J. Gordon, ed. *Nelson's Guide to Denominations: The Primary Resource for Understanding and Navigating America's Christian Organizations*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2007.
- Nelson, E. Clifford. *Lutheranism in North America, 1914-1970*. Minneapolis, MN: Augsburg Publishing, 1972.
- Noll, Mark A. *A History of Christianity in the United States and Canada*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans Publishing, 1992.
- Noll, Mark A., Nathan O. Hatch, George M. Marsden, David F. Wells, and John D. Woodbridge, eds. *Eerdmans' Handbook to Christianity in America*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans Publishing, 1983.



- Oden, Thomas C. *Turning Around the Mainline: How Renewal Movements are Changing the Church*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2006.
- O'Connell, Barry, ed. *On Our Own Ground: The Complete Writings of William Apess, a Pequot*. Amherst, MA: University of Massachusetts Press, 1992.
- Olmstead, Clifton E. *History of Religion in United States*. Englewood Cliffs: Prentice-Hall, 1960.
- Piepkorn, Arthur Carl. *Profiles in Belief: The Religious Bodies of the United States and Canada*. 3 Volumes. San Francisco: Harper & Row, 1978.
- Sweet, William Warren. *The Story of Religion in America*. New York: Harper and Brothers, 1930. Enlarged Reprint, 1939.
- Toews, Paul, ed. *Mennonites & Baptists: A Continuing Conversation*. Hillsboro, KS: Kindred Press, 1993.
- Vandeman, George E. *What I Like About . . .* Boise, ID: Pacific Press, 1986.
- Wentz, Richard E. *American Religious Traditions: The Shaping of Religion in the United States*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2003.