

American Religious History after 1865 (Fall 2014)  
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## Course Information Welcome

This is the course site for American Religious History after 1865 (HIST 615). During the course of our time together, we will read and discuss twelve books that showcase a range of approaches and topics of study that are current interest to scholars in this field. These text by no means represent the full breath and depth of the work in American religious history, so each student will undertake a major review and research project of her choice.

All of the readings and assignments for the semester will be located here. Additionally, the critical reviews and discussion questions developed by for each week will be posted here.

## Assignments

### Weekly Seminar Work

#### Reading

Each member of the seminar is required to complete all of the assigned readings for the semester.

#### Critical Reviews (2)

Each student in the seminar will complete two critical reviews during the semester. To prepare for writing your critical review, complete the following tasks:

- Carefully read the work in question, including all citation materials.
- Read other work by this author.
- Read all available reviews of this work. (Use the [Book Review Index](#).)
- Familiarize yourself with work in this sub-field.

Draft a critical review essay for the course site. The essay should be no more than 1,200 words and should

1. summarize the argument;
2. briefly discuss the work's style and organization;
3. position the work in the field;
4. position the work in relation to our other readings;
5. assess the sources and research that went into the book;
6. and, critically reflect on the work as scholarship and the contributions it makes to our understanding of the history of religion in the US.

#### Comments

Each week, the members of the seminar should engage the critical review authors through constructive and substantive comments on the individual posts.

#### Discussion

Each student will be responsible for leading discussion during the weeks that they write their critical reviews. In a blog post for that week, offer a set of 3 to 5 framing questions for class discussion.

All of the members of the seminar are responsible for engaging in the critical assessment of each work of scholarship that we read. This requires not simply reading the work, but understanding its contribution to the field of history of religion and the larger field of American history. Constructive contributions to the discussion during our seminar meetings constitute the primary evidence of that engagement, and are require for success in this course.

## **Research Project**

### **Proposal**

The 2-3 page research proposal should include the research question, an articulation of the fields touched on by the work, major works to review, and possible primary source collections.

The research proposal is due September 25, 2014.

### **Main Project**

The research project should consist of no more than 5,000 words of text, take an appropriate form (essay, website, etc.), and contain the following elements:

- Research question
- Preliminary argument
- Statement of Potential Significance
- Review of key works in the field(s) and their relationship to the research question
- Preliminary findings based on primary source research

A draft is due November 6, 2014.

### **Peer Review**

Each student will be responsible for offering critical peer review comments on two research project drafts. These comments should be conveyed through substantive narrative commentary structured by a rubric that will be distributed.

Peer review comments are due on November 13, 2014.

**The final research project is due on December 11, 2014.**

## **Readings**

### **Required:**

- Butler, Jon. "Jack-in-the-Box Faith: The Problem of Religion in Modern American History." *Journal of American History* 90:4 (March 2004). <http://www.jstor.org.mutex.gmu.edu/stable/3660356>

- Foster, Lawrence. *Religion and Sexuality: The Shakers, the Mormons, and the Oneida Community*. Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1984. ISBN-10: 0252011198
- Kilde, Jeanne Halgren. *When Church Became Theatre: The Transformation of Evangelical Architecture and Worship in Nineteenth-Century America*. New York: Oxford U. Pr., 2002. ISBN-10: 0195179722
- Higginbotham, Evelyn Brooks. *Righteous Discontent: The Women's Movement in the Black Baptist Church, 1880-1920*. Harvard University Press, 1994. ISBN-10: 0674769783
- Tweed, Thomas A. *Crossing and Dwelling a Theory of Religion*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 2006. ISBN-10: 0674027647
- Smoak, Gregory Ellis. *Ghost Dances and Identity: Prophetic Religion and American Indian Ethnogenesis in the Nineteenth Century*. 1st ed. University of California Press, 2008. ISBN-10: 0520256271
- Goldman, Karla. *Beyond the Synagogue Gallery: Finding a Place for Women in American Judaism*. Harvard University Press, 2000. ISBN-10: 0674007050
- Baker, Kelly. *Gospel according to the Klan: The KKK's Appeal to Protestant America, 1915-1930*. Lawrence, Kan.: University Press of Kansas, 2011. ISBN-10: 0700617922
- McGreevy, John T. *Parish Boundaries: The Catholic Encounter with Race in the Twentieth-Century Urban North*. [S.I.]: Univ Of Chicago, 1998. ISBN-10: 0226558746
- Yoo, David. *Contentious Spirits: Religion in Korean American History, 1903-1945*. Asian America. Stanford, Calif: Stanford University Press, 2010. ISBN-10: 080476929X
- Hollinger, David A. *After Cloven Tongues of Fire: Protestant Liberalism in Modern American History*, 2013. ISBN-10: 0691158428
- Hinojosa, Felipe. *Latino Mennonites: Civil Rights, Faith, and Evangelical Culture*, 2014. ISBN-10: 1421412837
- Bowler, Kate. *Blessed: A History of the American Prosperity Gospel*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2013. ISBN-10: 0199827699

**Recommended, but not required:**

- Ahlstrom, Sydney E. *A Religious History of the American People*. 2nd ed. New Haven, [Conn.]: Yale University Press, 2004. ISBN-10: 0300100124
- Dolan, Jay P. *The American Catholic Experience: A History from Colonial Times to the Present*. Garden City, N.Y.: Image Books, 1987. ISBN-10: 0385152078
- Sarna, Jonathan D. *American Judaism: A History*. 1st ed. Yale University Press, 2004. ISBN-10: 0300109768
- Shipps, Jan. *Mormonism: The Story of a New Religious Tradition*. University of Illinois Press, 1987. ISBN-10: 0252014170
- Marsden, George M. *Fundamentalism and American Culture*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2006. ISBN-10: 0195300475

## Schedule

**August 28, 2014**

Reading: Butler

**September 4, 2014**

Reading: Foster  
Critical Review: Everyone

**September 11, 2014**

Reading: Tweed  
Critical Review:

**September 18, 2014**

Reading: Kilde  
Critical Review:  
Research: Research Proposal Due

**September 25, 2014**

Reading: Higginbotham  
Critical Review:

**October 2, 2014**

Reading: Smoak  
Critical Review:

**October 9, 2014**

Reading: Goldman  
Critical Review:

**October 16, 2014**

Reading: Baker  
Critical Review:

**October 23, 2014**

Reading: McGreevy  
Critical Review:

**October 30, 2014**

Reading: Yoo  
Critical Review:

**November 6, 2014**

Reading: Hollinger  
Critical Review:  
Research: Draft Due

**November 13, 2014**

No Class — Research and Revisions  
Research: Peer Review Due



**November 20, 2014**

Reading: Hinojosa

Critical Review:

**November 27, 2014: Thanksgiving (No Class)**

**December 4, 2014**

Reading: Bowler

Critical Review:

**December 11, 2014**

Research: Final Revisions Due