

Religion in Modern America

Religion 13

Spring 2014

10A

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Office Hours Tuesday 9:00 and 12:00, and Thursday 9:00, and by appointment
X-hours Occasionally, as needed

Course Description

A survey of religion in North America from the Civil War to the present. We'll examine the plight of immigrants in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, discuss how urbanization and industrialization recast social norms, gender roles, and religious ideology, and chart the emergence of evangelicalism as a political movement late in the twentieth century.

Learning Style & Expectations

This course combines lectures with discussions based on the readings, so it will be essential that you come to class having done the assigned readings and prepared to contribute to class discussions.

Textbooks

Butler, Jon; Grant Wacker; and Randall Balmer. *Religion in American Life: A Short History*. 2d ed. New York: Oxford University Press, 2011. ISBN: 978-0-19-983269-9.

Orsi, Robert Anthony. *The Madonna of 115th Street: Faith and Community in Italian Harlem, 1880-1950*. 3rd ed. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2010. ISBN: 9780300157529.

Potok, Chaim. *The Chosen: A Novel*. New York: Ballantine Books, 1996. ISBN: 9780449915549.

Syman, Stefanie. *The Subtle Body: The Story of Yoga in America*. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2011. ISBN: 9780374532840.

Grading

In addition to attendance and informed participation in class discussions, you will be given a mid-term and final examination (60 points each). The final assignment (55 points) is a review (6-8 pages) of one of a book relevant to religion in modern America (due May 20).

I will post samples of book reviews on Blackboard.

Weekly Schedule of Topics & Readings (May change to accommodate student needs)

March 25 & 27

American Religion to the Civil War

Religious Education

Apocalypticism in America

Butler, *Religion in American Life*, chap. 13-14

April 1 & 3

Judaism in America

Hasidic Judaism

Cult of Domesticity

Butler, *Religion in American Life*, chap. 15

Potok, *Chosen*

April 8 & 10

Spiritualism

Religion & Health

Protestant & the City

Robert W. Delp, "Andrew Jackson Davis: Prophet of American Spiritualism," *Journal of American History*, 54 (June 1967), 43-56.

Butler, *Religion in American Life*, chaps. 16-18

April 15 & 17

Embattled Orthodoxy

Pentecostalism

Fundamentalism

Making of a Subculture

Butler, *Religion in American Life*, chaps. 19, 21

April 22 & 24

Catholicism in the Twentieth Century

Religions of Free Blacks

Religion & the Cold War

Jill Watts, “‘This Was the Way’: Father Divine’s Peace Mission Movement in Los Angeles during the Great Depression,” *Pacific Historical Review*, 60 (November 1991), 475-496.

Butler, *Religion in American Life*, chap. 20

April 29

Religion & Civil Rights

“Letter from Birmingham Jail”

May 1

Mid-term Examination

May 6 & 8

Malcolm X & the Nation of Islam

Making of Multiculturalism

Rise of the Religious Right

Butler, *Religion in American Life*, chap. 21

Syman, *Subtle Body*, 3-142

May 13 & 15

Russian Orthodoxy in America

Islam in North America

Scientology

Medeia Csoba DeHass, “Daily Negotiation of Traditions in a Russian Orthodox Sugpiaq Village in Alaska,” *Ethnology*, 46 (Summer, 2007), 205-216.

Butler, *Religion in American Life*, chaps. 22-25

May 20 & 22

Asia in North America

Yoga in America

Religion in the New Age

Syman, *Subtle Body*, 143-294

Student Needs

Students with disabilities enrolled in this course and who may need disability-related academic adjustments and services are encouraged to see me privately as early as possible in the term. Students requiring disability-related academic adjustments and services must consult the Student Accessibility Services office (301 Collis Student Center, 646-9900, Student.Accessibility.Services@Dartmouth.edu). Once SAS has authorized services, students must show the originally signed SAS Services and Consent Form and/or a letter on SAS letterhead to their professor. As a first step, if students have questions about whether they qualify to receive academic adjustments and services, they should contact the SAS office. All inquiries and discussions will remain confidential.