

Religion in Early America

Religion 12

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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 colonization through the Civil War. We'll examine the religious pluralism that characterized the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, discuss how the First and Second Great Awakenings reshaped both religion and culture, and examine the reforming impulses that drove an angry South to secession.

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.

Gaustad, Edwin S. *Faith of the Founders: Religion and the New Nation, 1776-1826*. Foreword by Randall Balmer. Waco, TX: Baylor University Press, 2011. ISBN: 978-1-9327-9209-6.

Hatch, Nathan O. *The Democratization of American Christianity*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1989. ISBN: 978-0-3000-5060-8.

Morgan, Edmund S. *Visible Saints: The History of a Puritan Idea*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 1963. ISBN: 978-0-8014-9041-5.

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 a book relevant to religion in early 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

Native American Religions

European Prologue

Religion in New Spain

Butler, *Religion in American Life*, chaps. 1-2

April 1 & 3

Religion in New France

Diversity of Colonial Religious Life

Juggernaut of English Culture

Acadian to Cajun

Roger Marsters, “‘The Battle of Grand Pré’: The Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada and the Commemoration of Acadian History,” *Acadiensis*, 36 (Autumn/Automne 2006), 29-50.

Butler, *Religion in American Life*, chap. 4

April 8 & 10

Puritanism in England & America

Puritan Life & Thought

Puritan Spirituality & Apostasy

Butler, *Religion in American Life*, chaps. 3-4

Morgan, *Visible Saints*, chaps. 1-3

April 15 & 17

Great Awakening

Collegiate Education

Religion & the American Revolution

Butler, *Religion in American Life*, chap. 6

Morgan, *Visible Saints*, chaps. 4-5

April 22 & 24

Disestablishment & Voluntarism

Liberals & Free Thinkers

Second Great Awakening

Butler, *Religion in American Life*, chaps. 7-8

Gaustad, *Faith of the Founders*

April 29

Freemasonry

Steven C. Bullock, "A Pure and Sublime System: The Appeal of Post-Revolutionary Freemasonry," *Journal of the Early Republic*, 9 (Autumn 1989), 359-373.

Hatch, *Democratization*, 3-192

May 1

Mid-term Examination

May 6 & 8

The Legacy of Revivalism

Millerites

Millenarianism & Utopianism

The Shakers

Hatch, *Democratization*, 193-219

Butler, *Religion in American Life*, chaps. 10-11

May 13 & 15

Women in Colonial & Antebellum Religion

Mormonism

The Missionary Enterprise

Kenneth W. Godfrey, "Joseph Smith and the Masons," *Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society*, 64 (Spring 1971), 79-90.

Butler, *Religion in American Life*, chap. 12

May 20 & 22

Catholics in a Protestant World

The Crucible of Slavery

Civil War & Southern Religion

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

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.