 

# Mormonism

### Please go to [www.canvas.dartmouth.edu](http://www.canvas.dartmouth.edu) for a full description and syllabus

A survey of the history and theology of Mormonism, the largest and most successful religious tradition indigenous to America. We’ll examine the origins of the movement, read selections from the *Book of Mormon*, and look at some of the cultural expressions of Mormonism. We’ll chart, finally, Mormonism’s remarkable transition from a persecuted minority religion in the nineteenth century, one synonymous with polygamy, to the embodiment of American ideals.

TMV

West

Tuesday 9:00 & 12:00

Thursday 9:00

Also by appointment.

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Winter 2014

Religion 63

#### Randall Balmer

#### Office Hours

#### Distribution

Possible topics might include (but are by no means limited to):

Baptism for the dead

Mormon understandings of heaven

Influence of Masonry

Smith’s 1844 presidential campaign

Mormon temple garments

Mormons and Native Americans

Mormon mission work

Mormon children’s books

Brigham Young

Emma Smith

Spencer Kimball

Textbooks

*The Book of Mormon: Selections Annotated & Explained*. Annotation by Jana Riess. Woodstock, VT: Skylight Paths, 2005. ISBN: 978-1594730764.

Denton, Sally. *American Massacre: The Tragedy at Mountain Meadows, September 1857*. New York: Vintage, 2004. ISBN: 978-0375726361.

Millett, Robert L. *The Vision of Mormonism.* St. Paul, MN: Paragon House, 2007. ISBN: 978-1557788689.

Talbot, Christine. *A Foreign Kingdom: Mormons and Polygamy in American Political Culture, 1852-1890*. Urbana and Chicago: University of Illinois Press, 2013. ISBN: 978-0-252-07957-3.

Write a brief sketch (8-10 pages) of some dimension of Mormonism, giving the historical and (if appropriate) theological context (65 points). Possible topics might include (but are by no means limited to):

Baptism for the dead

Mormon understandings of heaven

Influence of Masonry

Smith’s 1844 presidential campaign

Mormon temple garments

Mormons and Native Americans

Mormon mission work

Mormon children’s books

Brigham Young

Emma Smith

Spencer Kimball

Mormons in Hawai’i

## Term Paper Topics

1.Attendance and informed participation in class (12 points).

2. Comments on Amy Bray’s blog. Amy Bray is a graduate of Dartmouth who took this course on Mormonism several years ago. Amy is now a Mormon missionary in Romania, and she has agreed to share her blog with this class. At three points during the term, you will be evaluated on your responses to Amy’s blog. In addition, Amy has agreed to respond to any queries you have about her mission assignment in Romania (45 points total).

3. Mid-term examination (60 points).

4. Final (non-cumulative) examination (60 points).

5. 10-12-page term paper on some dimension of Mormonism, giving the historical and (if appropriate) theological context, due March 4 (65 points).

## Requirements & Grading