

**Saint Louis Christian College**  
**BTH201 – Contemporary Cults**  
**Prof. Larry Doggett**  
**3 hours credit**

**Fall 2014**  
**Prerequisites: BTH102**

**Tuesday and Thursday**  
**Time: 12:00-1:15**

**MISSION STATEMENT:**

*Saint Louis Christian College pursues excellence in the Word and develops servant leaders for urban, suburban, rural, and global ministry.*

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** The Bible writers warned about those who would arise from within the church teaching another Jesus and another gospel. In this course, students will learn to evaluate specifically the views of both historical and contemporary religions regarding Jesus and the gospel. Attention will also be given to key leaders and some historical background of these groups. **3 credit hours.**

**COURSE RATIONALE:** As a Christian College it is extremely important that Students become aware of various teachings that are very close to Christianity, but when under closer inspection they would deny belief in very crucial doctrines that would put them outside of Biblical teachings. This course will show principles that need clarification to differentiate between the Bible and manmade teachings.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:** As a result of his/ her study, the student will be able to dialogue with members of non-traditional Christian groups in a **respectful, knowledgeable, and persuasive manner.**

As a result of this study, the student will:

1. Define major terms relating to the subject matter by being tested over each of the major leaders of cults.
2. Distinguish the "gospel center" or "gospel core" of Christian theology.
3. Identify the foremost leaders and the theological emphases of historical heresies.
4. Identify the foremost leaders and the theological emphases of modern cults by writing a one page paper on each chapter covered.
5. Analyze modern movements for cultic tendencies by using the formula presented in class.
6. Ascertain positive movements within cultic groups that may be used as points of contact.
7. Develop a model of witness to individuals belonging to non-traditional Christian groups.

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

**Attendance:** There are 30 days of school for this class. This class will adhere to the attendance policy of the school, which states: a student will fail the class when they have been absent for 25% of the classes. The following are the guidelines to be followed if you miss in excess of 2 classes: **Your percentage points for “Attendance and Participation” will not decrease, but 5 percentage points per absence will be taken off after you have missed two times.**

**Exam: One Mid-term examination** will be given according to the following schedule: See Class schedule. **Mid-term on Oct. 7<sup>th</sup>**

**The textbook for the course is:**

**The Challenge of the Cults and new religions, By Ron Rhodes, Zondervan, Grand Rapids, MI, 2001.**

**Reading and a Synopsis of the reading** - The student will be required to read the text as set forth in the attached course schedule. To give evidence that this reading has been completed, **the student must submit a one page abstract of the chapter highlighting the content of the chapter. This synopsis should answer the following questions.**

1. Who are the key leaders of the movement? (Identify up to five individuals).
2. How did this cult begin?
3. What does this group believe concerning Jesus?

**Due as we read and discuss the text.**

**Internet Research** - The student will examine the Internet for resources available for cult study. To give evidence that this research has been done the student will copy the first page of the website which identifies the site. Turn in at least five different websites. This report will be incorporated into a class resource list. **Due: Nov. 4<sup>th</sup>**

**Critical Book Analysis** - Instead of a term paper the student will read and analyze a book dealing with a contemporary issue relating to cults and alternative religions. He/she will critique the book in light of the class lectures, summarizing his or her findings in a seven-page paper.

**Textbook should be Chosen by Oct. 14<sup>th</sup>**

**Paper Due: Dec. 4<sup>th</sup>**

**Oral Presentation** - The student will also give an oral presentation of the Critical Book Analysis he/she has researched. The length of the presentation will depend upon the size of the class. It will be announced later. The student will verbalize the analysis of the book he or she has chosen. This will enable the class to reap some of the benefits of each other's research.

**This oral presentation will be instead of the Final exam.**

**Exemplary of the books which would serve as appropriate texts are:**

Abanes, Richard. American Militias: Rebellion, Racism, and Religion. Downers Grove: IVP, 1996.

Barron, Bruce. The Health and Wealth Gospel. Downers Grove: IVP, 1987.

Blomberg, Craig and Stephen E. Robinson. How Wide the Divide. Downers Grove: IVP, 1997

Geisler, Norman, Correcting the Cults, Baker Book House, Grand Rapids, sec. printing 2005.

Hannegraaff, Hank. Counterfeit Revival. Daflas: Word, 1997.

Malkd, George. Scientology: The Maw Religion. New York: Delacorte Press, 1970.

Martin, Walter, The Kingdom of the Cults, Bethany House, Minneapolis, Min. 2003.

Nicholson, Shirley, ed. The Goddess Re-Awakening. Wheaton: Theosophical Publishing House, 1989.

Rhodes, Ron, Handbook on Cults and New religions, Harvest House Publishing, Eugene, Oregon, 2005

Parisen, Marie. Angels and Mortals: Their Co-Creative Power. Wheaton: Publishing House, 1989. Theosophical

Passantino, Robert and Gretchen. Harvest House, 1981. Answers to the Cultist at Your Door. Eugene, Oregon:

Singer, Margaret Thaler, Cults in our Midst, Jossey-Bass San Francisco, CA 2003.

Tucker, Ruth, Another Gospel, Zondervan, Grand Rapids, 1989.

Whittle, Thomas G. ed. The Cult Awareness Network. Anatomy of a Hate Group.

**COURSE ASSESSMENT:**

**Late Policy** - Papers are due during the class period on the day the paper is due. Late papers will have 5 points deducted from the total score for each class day they are late.

All homework assignments may be legibly (typed, or neatly written). Your grade will be dropped if your paper is sloppy and not readable. However your final research reports must be typed.

**Any cheating or plagiarism** will result in a grade of “F” or Zero being given for the assignments on which it is found. The class will follow the revised regulations on Academic Dishonesty in the 2007 College Catalog.

**Course Grading:** The student's final grade will be determined according to the SLCC grading scale. .

Attendance	20%
Reading – chapter synopsis.	20%
Internet Research	10%
Mid-term exam	20%
Critical Book Analysis	20%
Oral critique	10%

### **COURSE SCHEDULE:**

**Aug. 19<sup>th</sup> – Presenting the class and syllabus.**

**Aug. 21<sup>st</sup> – Defining Cults. Read the Text. Ch.1.**

**Aug. 26<sup>th</sup> – Understanding Cultic Growth. Text. Ch 2.**

**Aug. 28<sup>th</sup> Understanding Cultic Growth Continued.**

**Sept. 2<sup>nd</sup> – The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter day Saints. Read Text Chapter 3.**

**Sept. 4<sup>th</sup> - Latter day Saints continued.**

**Sept. 9<sup>th</sup> - Jehovah's Witnesses. Text. Ch. 4.**

**Sept. 11<sup>th</sup> - Infinite Influence field day. No classes**

**Sept 16<sup>th</sup> - Jehovah's Witnesses. Text. Ch. 4.**

**Sept. 18<sup>th</sup> - Jehovah's Witnesses. Text. Ch. 4.**

**Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup> - The Mind Sciences - Text Chapter 5.**

**Sept. 25<sup>th</sup> - The Mind Sciences - Text Chapter 5.**

**Sept. 30<sup>th</sup> - “ “**

**Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> - Fall Break! Time to relax!**

**Oct. 7<sup>th</sup> - Mid-term Exam.**

**Oct. 9<sup>th</sup> – The New Age Movement. . Text Ch. 6.**

**Oct. 14<sup>th</sup> - The Church of Scientology. Text. Ch. 7.**

**\*Due: Name of the Textbook you have chosen for Critical analysis due.**

**Oct. 16<sup>th</sup> - Hindu Based Cults. Text. Ch. 8.**

**Oct. 21<sup>st</sup> - The Unification Church. Text Ch. 9**

**Oct. 23<sup>rd</sup> - “ “**

**Oct. 28<sup>th</sup> - Baha’i Faith . Ch. 10.**

**Oct. 30<sup>th</sup> - Baha’i Faith**

**Nov. 4<sup>th</sup> - Unitarian Universalism. Ch. 11 \*Due: Internet Research list due.**

**Nov. 6<sup>th</sup> – Oneness Pentecostalism. Text: Ch. 12.**

**Nov. 11<sup>th</sup> - Free Masonry. Ch. 13**

**Nov. 11<sup>th</sup> - No Class**

**Nov. 13<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Missions - Columbus. Ohio**

**Nov. 18<sup>th</sup> – Free Masonry Continued.**

**Nov. 20<sup>th</sup> - Satanism Ch. 14.**

**Nov. 24<sup>th</sup> – Nov. 28<sup>th</sup> – Thanksgiving Break.**

**Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup> - Satanism Continued.**

**Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> Oral Reports. \* Critical Book Analysis Report due!**

**Dec. 9<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> - Finals week. (Oral Reports, if needed).**

**COURSE STUDENT LEARNING RESOURCES:**

Abanes, Richard. *American Militias: Rebellion, Racism, and Religion*. Downers Grove: 1996. IVP,

Barron, Bruce. *The Health and Wealth Gospel*. Downers Grove: IVP, 1987.

Blomberg, Craig and Stephen E. Robinson. *How Wide the Divide*. Downers Grove: IVP, 1997

Book of Mormon. Salt Lake City: Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Eddy, Mary Baker. *Science and Health With Key to the Scriptures*. Boston: First Church of Christ: Scientist, 1996.

Hannegraaff, Hank. *Counterfeit Revival*. Dallas: Word, 1997.

Hubbard, L. Ron. *Scientology: A New Slant On Life*. Washington DC: L. Ron Hubbard, 1965.

MacLaine, Shirley. *Dancing in the Light*. Toronto: Bantam Books, 1985.

Malko, George. *Scientology: The Now Religion*. New York: Delacorte Press, 1970.

Martin, Walter. *Kingdom of the Cults*. Minneapolis: Bethany, 1974.

McManus, Una and Cooper, John. *Dealing With Defective Cults*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1984.

Miller, Calvin. *Transcendental Hesitation*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1977.

Nicholson, Shirley, ed. *The Goddess Re-Awak-ening*. Wheaton: Theosophical Publishing House, 1989.

Parisen, Marie. *Angels and Mortals: their Co-Creative Power*. Wheaton: Theosophical, Publishing House, 1989.

Passantino, Robert and Gretchen. *Answers to the Cultist at Your Door*. Eugene, Oregon: Harvest House, 1981.

White, Ellen G. *The Great Controversy*. Omaha: Pacific Press, 1971.

Whittle, Thomas G. ed. *The Cult Awareness Network. Anatomy of a Hate Group*.

Yamamoto, J. Isamu. *The Puppet Master*. Downers Grove: IVP, 1977.

### **COURSE POLICIES:**

**Late work: If the paper is late, there will be a 5% reduction of your grade per School day.**

**Attendance:** There are 29 days of school for this class. This class will adhere to the attendance policy of the school, which states: a student will fail the class when they have been absent for 25% of the classes. The following are the guidelines to be followed if you miss in excess of 2 classes: **Your percentage points for “Attendance and Participation” will decrease accordingly.** Your percentage points of “Participation and attendance” will decrease by 5 percentage points per absence.

**Academic Dishonesty:** Any cheating or plagiarism will result in a grade of "F" or ZERO being given for the assignments on which it is found. The Class will follow the revised regulations on Academic Dishonesty in the 2006 College Catalog, p. 28.

**Missed exams – The student is responsible for arranging with the Professor to make up a missed test.**

**If you have a diagnosed learning disability, please see me privately to discuss assessment measures that would enhance your ability to learn.**

**Please understand that the Professor reserves the right to modify this course plan by changing topics, due date, or even an assignment as long as it does not add to the student’s work load.**

**COURSE INSTRUCTOR CONTACT INFORMATION:**

**Phones: Office: 837-6777 ext.1508      Home: 314-524-1747**

**Cell: 314-225-9052**

**Office hours are posted by the office door. Room #206.**

**[ldoggett@stlchristian.edu](mailto:ldoggett@stlchristian.edu) or [Indogt@yahoo.com](mailto:Indogt@yahoo.com)**