

**H-780: History and Theology of American
Evangelicalism
Christian Theological Seminary
Fall, 2008**

Contact Information

Instructor: Scott D. Seay, M.Div., Ph.D.
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Course Description

This advanced course offers a sympathetic but critical exploration of both the history and theology of Protestant evangelicalism in the United States. Locating the roots of Protestant evangelicalism in the reformations of the 16th century, the course traces its development in the revivalism of the 18th and 19th centuries, and its current expressions in America (the so-called “neo-evangelical” movement). The course also engages students in discussions of contemporary works of constructive theology authored by Protestant evangelicals, especially as they deal with pressing issues for its churches and ministry (race relations, the role of women in the church, homosexuality, biblical authority, etc.).

Learning Objectives

Objective	Measure
Trace out the history of Protestant evangelicalism in America from its beginnings to the present;	Class discussions; historical essay
Identify and describe the importance of key leaders, movements, and institutions that contribute to Protestant evangelicalism in America;	Class discussions; historical essay

Engage in respectful dialogue about theological issues with an understanding of the perspective of Protestant evangelicalism;	Class discussions; theological essay
Describe the range of theological perspectives that Protestant evangelicals in America have on selected issues	Class discussions; theological essay

Course Requirements

1. Class attendance and participation (20%): Because this will be a small course, the regular attendance and lively participation of every student is critical to its success. This means that you should:

- Read the assigned materials carefully and completely *before* class;
- Arrive on time for class and remain for the entire class session;
- Inform the instructor ahead of time if missing class is absolutely necessary;
- Remain attentive during all classroom activities;
- Listen closely and respond respectfully to the instructor and fellow-students;
- Submit all work for the course on time as required by the due dates; and,
- Ask relevant questions during lectures and contribute to class discussions.

You should expect this portion of your grade to be reduced significantly if you miss or are regularly late to class, appear not to have completed the readings, or fail to contribute to the class discussion. **Consistent with Seminary attendance policies, students who miss more than three class sessions—for whatever reason—will not receive credit for the course.**

2. Definitional Essay (20%): You will be expected to prepare a brief essay (4-5 pp. in length) answering the question, “What is evangelicalism in America?” Detailed instructions for completing this essay will be distributed on the first day of class. **The essay is due on or before September 16.**

3. Historical Essay (30%): You will be expected to write a fully documented, historical research paper (10-12 pp. in length) dealing with a topic of your choice related to the history of American evangelicalism. Detailed instructions for completing this essay will be distributed near the beginning of the course. **The essay is due on or before December 9.**

4. Theological Essay (30%): You will be expected to write a theological essay (10-12 pp. in length) in which you develop a constructive statement that explains your own perspective on some pressing theological issue relevant to evangelicals in America. The essay should lay out clearly biblical, theological, and practical issues involved in your position, and should contain some statement of how your study this semester has contributed to your understanding of ministry relative to the issue. **The essay is due on or before December 9.**

Late papers will be accepted only under the most extraordinary circumstances. Ordinarily, late papers will be subject to significant penalties in terms of grade.

You are strongly encouraged to consult with the instructor and begin working on these essays as early in the semester as possible. Students who wish to exercise the option to re-write the historical or theological essays must submit them initially on or before November 19.

If you have a certified learning disability or physical or emotional challenges, you are required to inform me within the first week of the course concerning any special accommodations that you require. All efforts, consistent with the overall learning objectives of the course will be made to meet these learning needs.

You are expected to adhere to the highest standards of academic integrity and honest in all of your work for this course. Accordingly, no plagiarism, fabrication, or cheating of any kind will be tolerated. I will report all incidents of academic dishonesty to the Dean of the Seminary, who will follow the disciplinary procedures outlined in the academic catalog. In cases where it has been proven that you have plagiarized, fabricated, or cheated in any way, you will fail this course.

An Important Note about Grades

You should know that I am stridently opposed to all forms of grade inflation. If you complete the basic requirements of the course satisfactorily, you can expect to receive an average final grade (C-range). If you fail to meet the basic requirements in some way, you can expect your final grade to be lower than that (D-range). Because it is not an entitlement, an above average grade (B-range) must be earned by consistent effort and solid performance on all assigned work in the course. An exceptional grade (A-range) is just that: an exception to the rule. You will earn an exceptional grade only if you consistently perform above and beyond in all aspects of the course. I invite students who wish to earn above average or exceptional grades to consult with me about strategies for doing so.

This is the grading scale that I will use in this course:

A	94-100%	B+	87-89%	C+	77-79%	D+	67-69%
A-	90-93%	B	84-86%	C	74-76%	D	64-66%
		B-	80-83%	C-	70-73%	D-	60-63%
						F	59 and below

Required Textbooks

The following books, in whole or in part, are required reading for this course:

- Stanley Grenz, *Theology for the Community of God* (Eerdmans, 2000)
- Douglas Sweeney, *The American Evangelical Story: A History of the Movement* (Baker Academic, 2005)
- Michael Emerson and Christine Smith, *Divided by Faith: Evangelical Religion and the Problem of Race in America* (Oxford, 2000)
- Julie Ingersoll, *Evangelical Christian Women: War Stories in the Gender Battles* (New York University Press, 2003)
- Robert Webber, *The Younger Evangelicals: Facing the Challenges of the New World* (Baker, 2002)

These textbooks may be purchased in the Seminary bookstore and copies have been placed on reserve in the seminary library. If you have difficulty accessing any of these required resources, please let me know as soon as possible and I will assist you.

In addition to the required textbooks, I will provide 15 or so pages of additional readings from primary source documents each week during the first half of the course, to be read by the following week. These primary sources will deepen and enrich your understanding of American evangelicalism by bringing you into contact with the “lived religion” of people from the past.

Finally, you may find the following reference books helpful to your work in this course:

- Randall Balmer, *Encyclopedia of Evangelicalism* (Baylor University Press, 2004) BR 1640.B35
- Walter Elwell, ed., *Handbook of Evangelical Theologians* (Baker, 1993) BR 1640.H383
- Timothy Larsen, ed., *Biographical Dictionary of Evangelicalism* (InterVarsity, 2003) BV 3780.B56
- Donald Lewis, *The Blackwell Dictionary of Evangelical Biography, 1730-1860* (Blackwell, 1995) BR 1640.B53

Course Schedule

Sep 2 Course Introduction
Lecture: What is Evangelicalism?

History of American Evangelicalism

Sep 9 The Great Awakening
Read: Sweeney, chs. 1-2

Sep 16 Revival, Social Reform, and the Benevolent Empire
Read: Sweeney, ch. 3

Sep 23 Emergence of Evangelical World Mission
Read: Sweeney, ch. 4

Sep 30 The Question of Race in American Evangelical History
Read: Sweeney, ch. 5

Oct 7 The Holiness and Pentecostal Movement
Read: Sweeney, ch. 6

Oct 14 No Class—Reading Week

Oct 21 Evangelicalism, Fundamentalism, and Neo-Evangelicalism
Read: Sweeney, ch. 7

Theology and Practice in Contemporary American Evangelicalism

Oct 28 Systematic Theology
Read: Grenz, *Theology for the Community of God*, Introduction and your assigned section

Nov 4 Gender and Contemporary Evangelicalism
Read: Ingersoll, chs. 1-3

Nov 11 Gender and Contemporary Evangelicalism
Read: Ingersoll, chs. 6-10

Nov 18 Homosexuality and Contemporary Evangelicalism
Read: Grenz, *Welcoming but Not Affirming: An Evangelical Response to Homosexuality* (Westminster John Knox, 1998) – on reserve

- Nov 25 No Class—Thanksgiving Recess
- Dec 2 Race and Contemporary Evangelicalism
Read: Emerson and Smith, Introduction and chs. 1-9
- Dec 9 The Future of American Evangelicalism
Read: Sweeney, Conclusion
Webber, chs. 1-2, 17 and either chs. 3-7 or chs. 8-16
- Dec 16 No Class—Examination Week

Suggestions for Further Reading and Research

1. Historical Studies

Randall Balmer, *Blessed Assurance: A History of Evangelicalism in America* (Beacon Press, 2000)

David Bebbington, *The Dominance of Evangelicalism: The Age of Spurgeon and Moody* (InterVarsity, 2005)

Joel Carpenter, et al., *Earthen Vessels: American Evangelicals and Foreign Missions, 1880-1980* (Eerdmans, 1990)

D. A. Carson, et al., *The Great Commission: Evangelicals and the History of World Missions* (B & H Books, 2008)

Richard Carwardine, *Transatlantic Revivalism: Popular Evangelicalism in Britain and America, 1790-1865* (Paternoster, 2007)

Joseph Conforti, *Samuel Hopkins and the New Divinity Movement: Calvinism and Reform in New England Between the Awakenings* (Wipf and Stock, 2008)

John Patrick Daly, *When Slavery was Called Freedom: Evangelicalism, Proslavery, and the Causes of the Civil War* (University Press of Kentucky, 2004)

D. G. Hart, *Reckoning with the Past: Historical Essays on American Evangelicalism* (Baker, 1995)

Christine Heyrman, *Southern Cross: The Beginnings of the Bible Belt* (University of North Carolina Press, 1998)

Curtis Johnson, *Redeeming America: Evangelicals and the Road to Civil War* (Ivan Dee, 1994)

Thomas Kidd, *The Great Awakening: The Roots of Evangelical Christianity in Colonial America* (Yale, 2007)

David Kling, *Field of Divine Wonders: The New Divinity and Village Revivals in Northwestern Connecticut, 1792-1822* (Pennsylvania State University Press, 1993)

Kathryn Teresa Long, *The Revival of 1857-1858: Interpreting an American Religious Awakening* (Oxford, 1998)

Richard Lovelace, *The American Pietism of Cotton Mather: The Origins of American Evangelicalism* (Wipf and Stock, 2007)

Edward McKinley, *Marching to Glory: The History of the Salvation Army in the USA, 1880-1992* 2nd Edition (Eerdmans, 1995)

Mark Noll, *The Rise of Evangelicalism: The Age of Edwards, Whitefield, and the Wesleys* (InterVarsity, 2004)

Leonard Sweet, ed., *The Evangelical Tradition in America* (Mercer, 1997)

Lillian Taiz, *Hallelujah Lads and Lasses: Re-Making the Salvation Army in America, 1880-1930* (University of North Carolina Press, 2000)

Geoff Treolar and Stuart Piggins, *The Disruption of Evangelicalism: The Age of Mott, Machen, and McPherson* (InterVarsity, forthcoming)

W. R. Ward, *The Protestant Evangelical Awakening* (Cambridge, 2002)

John Wigger, *Taking Heaven by Storm: Methodism and the Rise of Popular Christianity in America, 1770-1820* (University of Illinois Press, 1998)

John Wolffe, *The Expansion of Evangelicalism: The Age of More, Wilberforce, Chalmers, and Finney* (InterVarsity, 2007)

2. Contemporary Evangelicalism

Rufus Burrow, et al., *The Legacy of Billy Graham: Critical Reflections on America's Greatest Evangelist* (Westminster, 2008)

Randall Balmer, *Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory: A Journey into the Evangelical Subculture in America* 4th Edition (Oxford, 2006)

Donald Dayton and William Johnston, *The Variety of American Evangelicalism* (University of Tennessee Press, 2001)

D. G. Hart, *That Old-Time Religion in Modern America: Evangelical Protestantism in the Twentieth Century* (Ivan Dee, 2003)

James Davison Hunter, *American Evangelicalism: Conservative Religion and the Quandary of Modernity* (Rutgers University Press, 1983)

Donald Lewis, *Christianity Reborn: The Global Expansion of Evangelicalism in the Twentieth Century* (Eerdmans, 2004)

Alister McGrath, *Evangelicalism and the Future of Christianity* (InterVarsity Press, 1995)

Garth Rosell, *The Surprising Work of God: Harold John Ockenga, Billy Graham, and the Rebirth of Evangelicalism* (Baker, 2008)

Mark Shibley, *Resurgent Evangelicalism in the United States: Mapping Cultural Change Since 1970* (University of South Carolina Press, 1996)

Christian Smith, *American Evangelicalism: Embattled and Thriving* (University of Chicago Press, 1998)

Jon Stone, *On the Boundaries of American Evangelicalism: The Postwar Evangelical Coalition* (Palgrave Macmillan, 1999)

Brian Stanley, *The Global Diffusion of Evangelicalism: The Age of Graham and Stott* (InterVarsity, forthcoming)

3. Critical Biographies

Edith Blumhofer, *Everybody's Sister: Aimee Semple McPherson* (Eerdmans, 1993)

Bruce Evensen, *God's Man for the Gilded Age: D. L. Moody and the Rise of Modern Mass Evangelism* (Oxford, 2003)

James Fraser, *Pedagogue for God's Kingdom: Lyman Beecher and the Second Great Awakening* (University Press of America, 1986)

Billy Graham, *Just As I Am: The Autobiography of Billy Graham* (Harper, 2007)

Roger Green and Kay Rader, *Catherine Booth: A Biography of the Co-Founder of the Salvation Army* (Eerdmans, 1996)

Charles Hambrick-Stowe, *Charles G. Finney and the Spirit of American Evangelicalism* (Eerdmans, 1996)

Roy Hattersly, *Blood and Fire: The Story of William and Catherine Booth and the Salvation Army* (Doubleday, 2000)

Adrienne Israel, *Amanda Berry Smith: From Washerwoman to Evangelist* (Scarecrow, 2003)

George Marsden, *Jonathan Edwards: A Life* (Yale, 2004)

Robert Martin, *Hero of the Heartland: Billy Sunday and the Transformation of American Society, 1862-1935* (Indiana University Press, 2002)

Harry Stout, *The Divine Dramatist: George Whitefield and the Rise of Modern Evangelicalism* (Eerdmans, 1991)

4. Theology, Spirituality, and Intellectual Life

Vincent Bacote, et al., *Evangelicals and Scripture: Tradition, Authority, and Hermeneutics* (InterVarsity, 2004)

J. Daryl Charles, *The Unformed Conscience of Evangelicalism: Recovering the Church's Moral Vision* (InterVarsity, 2002)

Gary Dorrien, *The Remaking of Evangelical Theology* (Westminster John Knox, 1998)

Timothy George, ed., *For All the Saints: Evangelical Theology and Christian Spirituality* (Westminster, 2003)

Stanley Grenz and John Franke, *Beyond Foundationalism: Shaping Theology in a Postmodern Context* (Eerdmans, 2001)

Stanley Grenz, *Revisioning Evangelical Theology: A Fresh Agenda for the 21st Century* (InterVarsity, 1993)

----- *Renewing the Center: Evangelical Theology in a Post-Theological Era* 2nd Edition (Baker, 2006)

George Marsden, *The Outrageous Idea of Christian Scholarship* (Oxford, 1998)

Alistair McGrath, *Passion for Truth: The Intellectual Coherence of Evangelicalism* (InterVarsity, 1999)

----- *The Foundations of Dialogue in Science and Religion* (Wiley-Blackwell, 1998)

Mark Noll, et al. ed., *Where Shall my Wondering Soul Begin? The Landscape of Evangelical Piety and Thought* (Eerdmans, 2000)

Mark Noll, *Between Faith and Criticism: Evangelicals, Scholarship, and the Bible in America* (Regent College Publishing, 2004)

----- *The Scandal of the Evangelical Mind* (Eerdmans, 1995)

Timothy Philips and George Lindbeck, *The Nature of Confession: Evangelicals and Postliberals in Conversation* (InterVarsity, 1996)

5. Political Engagement and the Culture Wars

Francis Beckwith, *Law, Darwinism, and Public Education: The Establishment Clause and the Challenge of Intelligent Design* (Rowman and Littlefield, 2003)

Bruce Benson and Peter Heltzel, ed., *Evangelical and Empire: Christian Alternatives to the Political Status Quo* (Brazos Press, 2008)

Jason Bivins, *The Fracture of Good Order: Christian Anti-Liberalism and the Challenge to American Politics* (University of North Carolina Press, 2002)

Fritz Detwiler, *Standing on the Premises of God: The Christian Right's Fight to Redefine America's Public Schools* (New York University Press, 1999)

David Gushee, *The Future of Faith in Politics: The Public Witness of the Evangelical Center* (Baylor University Press, 2008)

Angela Lahr, *Millennial Dreams and Apocalyptic Nightmares: The Cold War Origins of Political Evangelicalism* (Oxford, 2007)

D. Michael Lindsay, *Faith in the Halls of Power: How Evangelicals Joined the American Elite* (Oxford, 2007)

Ronald Sider, *The Scandal of Evangelical Politics: Why are Christians Missing the Chance to Really Change the World?* (Baker, 2008)

Christian Smith, *A Christian America? What Evangelicals Really Want* (University of California Press, 2002)

6. Race, Ethnicity, and Gender

Antony Alumkal, *Asian American Evangelical Churches: Race, Ethnicity, and Assimilation in the Second Generation* (LBF Scholarly Publishing, 2003)

John Bartkowski, *Remaking the Godly Marriage: Gender Negotiation in Evangelical Families* (Rutgers University Press, 2001)

Nicola Hoggard Creegan and Christine Pohl, *Living on the Boundaries: Evangelical Women, Feminism, and the Theological Academy* (InterVarsity Press, 2006)

Betty DeBerg, *Ungodly Women: Gender and the First Wave of American Fundamentalism* (Mercer, 2000)

Elaine Eckmund, *Korean American Evangelicals: New Models for Civic Life* (Oxford, 2006)

Bruce Fields, *Introducing Black Theology: Three Crucial Questions for the Evangelical Church* (Baker Academic, 2001)

Sally Gallagher, *Evangelical Identity and Gendered Family Life* (Rutgers University Press, 2003)

Edward Gilbreath, *Reconciliation Blues: A Black Evangelical's Inside View of White Christianity* (InterVarsity, 2006)

Stanley Grenz and Denise Kjesbo, *Women in the Church: A Biblical Theology of Women in Ministry* (InterVarsity, 1995)

Marie Griffith, *God's Daughters: Evangelical Women and the Power of Submission* (University of California Press, 2000)

Nancy Hardesty, *Your Daughters Shall Prophesy: Revivalism and Feminism in the Age of Finney* (Carlson Publishers, 1991)

Susan Juster, *Disorderly Women: Sexual Politics and Evangelicalism in Revolutionary New England* (Cornell University Press, 2006)

Rebecca Kim, *God's New Whiz Kids: Korean American Evangelicals on Campus* (New York University Press, 2006)

John Piper and Wayne Grudem, ed., *Recovering Biblical Manhood and Womanhood: A Response to Evangelical Feminism* (Crossway Books, 2006)

Dwight Perry, *Breaking Down Barriers: A Black Evangelical Explains the Black Church* (Baker, 1998)

Douglas Sharp, *No Partiality: The Idolatry of Race and the New Humanity* (InterVarsity, 2002)

7. Religious Pluralism

Yaakov Ariel, *Evangelizing the Chosen People: Missions to the Jews in America, 1880-2000* (University of North Carolina Press, 2000)

Charles Colson and Richard Neuhaus, *Evangelicals and Catholics Together Toward a Common Mission* (Thomas Nelson, 1995)

Dwight Longnecker and John Martin, *Challenging Catholics: A Catholic Evangelical Dialogue* (Paternoster, 2002)

Gerald McDermott, *Can Evangelicals Learn from World Religions? Jesus, Revelation, and Religious Traditions* (InterVarsity, 2000)

Mark Pinsky, *A Jew Among the Evangelicals: A Guide to the Perplexed* (Westminster John Knox, 2006)

William Shea, *The Lion and the Lamb: Evangelicals and Catholics in America* (Oxford, 2004)

Timothy Tennent, *Christianity at the Religious Roundtable: Evangelicalism in Conversation with Hinduism, Buddhism, and Islam* (Baker Academic, 2002)

Terrence Tiessen, *Who Can Be Saved? Reassessing Salvation in Christ and World Religions* (InterVarsity, 2004)

Timothy Weber, *On the Road to Armageddon: How Evangelicals Became Israel's Best Friend* (Baker Academic, 2005)