

RLGS 240: Religion in America
Alfred University Spring 2012

Class meetings: Tue., Wed., Thu., Fri. 11:20-12:10 p.m., 106 Binns-Merrill Hall
Professor: Dr. Wakoh Shannon Hickey
Office hours: 2nd floor, Kanakadea Hall
Drop-in: Tue., 1:30 – 2:30 p.m.; Wed., 3-4 p.m.;
Thu. and Fri. 9: 30 – 10:30 a.m.

Please note: The worst time to catch me is immediately before class, *especially* if you have significant questions or concerns, because I will be focused on getting ready to leave for class. Please visit me during office hours and/or make an appointment, so I will be able to give you the undivided attention you deserve!

Phone: 607-871-2704
Email address: wakoh@alfred.edu

OVERVIEW

This course surveys American religious history from the 17th century to the late 20th century. It emphasizes the tremendous diversity of religions in the United States. We will consider the effects of race, gender, and religious minorities throughout the course. We will proceed mostly chronologically, and will consider “lineages” and “family resemblances” among different religious traditions. Students will reflect upon their own family religious history in the context of larger American trends. In addition, this course will emphasize the skills of close reading, critical reflection upon primary and secondary texts, research, discussion, self-assessment, and teamwork. Students will be expected to complete all assigned reading and writing in preparation for every class, and to discuss the readings in small groups.

Why This Class Matters

Understanding American religious history will help you to understand better the roles religion plays in American culture, the roots of current religious and political conflicts, and the history of your own family and communities. It will help you to understand people who differ from you, and to work with others more effectively. The reading, writing, thinking, speaking, and teamwork skills you develop here will serve you throughout your academic life, help you to get a job, and make you more valuable as a professional.

Methods

Students will read primary and secondary literature, take notes on lectures, use maps, complete writing assignments, participate in classroom discussions, watch films, research one’s family religious history, perform self-assessments, practice teamwork, and take exams. Class may host occasional guest speakers.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

By the end of course, you should be able to:

- Explain how the following themes shape American religious history, and illustrate each with two or three examples:
 - Immigration and migration
 - Voluntaryism and denominationalism
 - Religious diversity, prejudice, and persecution
 - Assimilation and separatism
 - Slavery and its abolition
 - Evangelical revivalism and fundamentalism
 - Regionalism
- Demonstrate your ability to read, analyze, and compare readings in primary source texts;
- Perform basic historical research using oral histories, online databases, maps, and primary and secondary written sources;
- Synthesize and apply what you have learned in class by planning, researching, designing, and presenting your family's religious history, showing how it fits into broader contexts of American religious history; and
- Assess and reflect upon your own learning: strengths, areas for improvement, and next steps.

GRADING

- Preparation for and participation in class, 20 percent of final grade. This element includes attending class, preparing answers to reading questions (to be collected periodically), and contributing actively and thoughtfully to class discussions.
- Three exams, worth 15 percent each (45 percent total).
- A final creative project, worth 35 percent total: a paper (15 percent), a map (10 percent), and a family tree (10 percent).

You will also complete the following ungraded assignments:

- A plan for success in the course and periodic assessments of your progress.
- Blog posts on topics to be announced in class.
- Progress reports on your final project.

Grading Scales

Excellent		Good			Acceptable			Poor	
A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D
96-100	91-95	86-90	81-85	76-80	71-75	66-70	61-65	56-60	51-55
10	9.5	9	8.5	8	7.5	7	6.5	6	5.5
5	4.5	4	3.5	3	2.5	2	1.5	1	.5

COURSE POLICIES

Academic or Other Difficulties:

If you are having academic or personal difficulties that affect your ability to do your work, and/or need information about support services available on campus, please see the professor right away. She will help you find appropriate resources on campus.

Disability:

If you have a disability and need an accommodation to help you succeed in class, please let the professor know right away. All such information will be treated as confidential.

A Note from Special Academic Services re: Students with Disabilities:

Alfred University is committed to upholding and maintaining all aspects of the Federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. If you are a student with a disability and wish to request accommodations, please contact Dr. Aubrey Elmore at the Office of Special Academic Services located in Crandall Hall, or call (607) 871-2148. Any information regarding your disability will remain confidential. Many accommodations require early planning; therefore requests for accommodations should be made as early as possible. Any requests for accommodations will be reviewed in a timely manner to determine their appropriateness to this setting.

Tutor Services/Requests:

The office of Special Academic Services offers personalized help in the form of individual and group tutoring. Please contact Beth Niles at (607) 871-2148 for more information. Also, contact your instructor for additional support.

Writing Help:

Whether you are having trouble getting started on a writing assignment or need a little help with editing along the way, the Writing Center offers individual assistance to meet your needs. To make an appointment, go to my.alfred.edu/writing and click on the link "sign up here."

Religious Concerns:

Students who need to miss class in order to participate in the religious observances of their own traditions may do so, but they must make arrangements with the professor *in advance* to make up any required work.

Athletes:

Students who must miss class to participate in athletic events must notify the professor at the beginning of the semester *and* by e-mail at least one week before each class to be missed, and must make arrangements to get notes from class, contribute to class teamwork, and submit assignments timely. The one-week requirement will be waived in case of unscheduled playoff, but you should let the professor know as soon as possible of an expected absence.

Lateness and Absences:

You are expected to arrive in class on time and attend all class meetings. If unforeseen circumstances will make you late, please make every effort to notify the professor before class, or ask a fellow student to do so.

If you are more than 5 minutes late to class, you may be asked to sing to the class. ☺ If you are late repeatedly, your midterm and or final grade will be affected negatively.

After the first week of class, you will be allowed **two** unexcused absences. After that, each unexcused absence will reduce your final grade by one increment, e.g., from a B+ to a B. *It is possible to do all the work and still fail the course because of unexcused absences.* Even if you have straight As on all assignments, if you accumulate 12 unexcused absences, you will fail the course automatically. If you have lower grades on assignments, a lower number of unexcused absences could produce a failing grade. If you know in advance that you must miss a class because of a schedule conflict, notify the professor by phone or e-mail at least 48 hours in advance. Prearranged absences will not affect your grade (but you should get notes from a classmate, and complete assignments timely). If you are too ill to attend class, notify the professor no later than 9 a.m. the same day. If you miss more than three consecutive days of class because of illness, you will be asked to provide medical documentation.

Mobile Phones:

Turn them off before class begins. If use your phone during class, the professor will collect and hold it until the end of class. If this occurs more than once you will be asked to leave class and will receive an unexcused absence for the day.

Reading Schedule:

Complete the assigned readings and answer any questions about them *before* we begin discussing them in class. Additional course materials will be available on BlackBoard.

Conduct/Misconduct:

The classroom must be a productive environment for everyone present. Participants hold a wide variety of religious, moral, and political beliefs. In college, as in society, the ability to create a functioning community depends upon our ability to talk about such differences respectfully. You are encouraged to question or disagree with one another, but you are expected to do so politely. Insulting remarks about other's religious/moral/political beliefs or practices are not acceptable.

Because personal integrity is fundamental to both good scholarship and to good citizenship, you are also expected to uphold the university's standards for academic and personal integrity, as expressed in the Honor Code, the Student Code of Conduct, and the Academic Dishonesty policy. Cheating, plagiarism, or harassment will not be tolerated.

A violation of the Academic Dishonesty policy will result in a failing grade on the assignment and will be reported formally, in writing, to your dean and the University Provost. This will become part of your permanent academic record (unless you appeal and are exonerated by a Judicial Council). Two violations *in this course* will result in automatic failure of the course. If your dean and the provost receive two formal, written reports of academic dishonesty (from one

or more instructors), you will be dismissed from the university. *You are expected to inform yourself about and abide by school policies regarding academic integrity, plagiarism, and harassment.* If you have questions about these policies, ask the professor right away.

Alfred's Student Code of Conduct may be viewed here:

http://my.alfred.edu/index.cfm/fuseaction/student_policies.code_of_conduct_0708.cfm

Alfred's policy on Academic Dishonesty may be viewed here:

http://my.alfred.edu/index.cfm/fuseaction/academic_policies.academic_regulation_ug.cfm#700

Other campus policies and resources can be found here:

<http://my.alfred.edu/index.cfm/fuseaction/policies.menu.cfm>

REQUIRED TEXTS

The instructor will make every effort to provide reserve copies of the required texts to Herrick Library, for students who cannot afford them or whose copies are delayed in shipping.

Introducing American Religion

Charles Lippy (Routledge, 2009)

ISBN 10: 041544859X

Routledge Historical Atlas of Religion in America

Brett E. Carroll (Routledge, 2000)

ISBN-10: 0415921376

Canaan Land: A Religious History of African Americans

Albert J. Raboteau (Oxford University Press, 2001)

ISBN-10: 0195145852

Other course materials will be available online at:

- BlackBoard,
- The companion website for the textbook *Introducing American Religion*
<http://cw.routledge.com/textbooks/9780415448598/>
- The companion website to the documentary *God in America*
<http://www.pbs.org/godinamerica/>

QUESTIONS FOR READING PRIMARY SOURCES

1. Who wrote this text, and who is the intended audience?
2. How is the text organized?
3. What is/are the main point(s) or message(s) of the text?
4. What is the historical context?
(How do Lippy and the *Atlas* help you to understand the context?)
5. What is your reaction to the text?
6. What don't you understand?
7. What questions do you have about it that you would like to discuss in class?

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		Topic	Due in class	Homework
Week 1				
Jan 17	Tue	Intro: course	Syllabus, introductions	Buy the textbooks, review syllabus
18	Wed	Websites Efficient Reading Levels of Learning		Read Ac. Dishonesty policy. Start
19	Thu	Basic background: Judaism, Christianity, Islam	Quiz: Ac. Dis. policy	Write Plan for Success
20	Fri	Basic background, continued	Plan for Success	Read Lippy, Ch. 1; Answer Lippy Ch. 1 Q 's 1-5
Week 2				
24	Tue	Background, cont'd		
25	Wed	Protestant Reformation	Lippy Ch. 1 Qs 1-5	Read: Atlas 10-19
26	Thu	Native American religions		
27	Fri	African religions & slave trade		Read: Lippy Ch. 2 pp. 17-21; Atlas 20-27; Answer Lippy Ch 2 Q's 1-3
Week 3				
31	Tue	Spanish & French Catholics (GIA 1A:1)		BBd: Requerimiento, Sublimis Deus, Jouvency
Feb 1	Wed	Discuss Handouts	Lippy Ch 2 Q's 1-3	Read: Lippy, Ch. 2 pp. 21-29; Atlas 30-43;
2	Thu	Polity: Anglicans, Puritans, Presbyterians, Quakers,		BBd: John Winthrop "Model of Christian Charity" (Griffith I:2) Answer Lippy Ch. 2 Qs 4-7
3	Fri	Puritans, Winthrop	Lippy Ch. 2 Qs 4-7	BBd: God in American Study Guide pp. 1-5

Schedule is SUBJECT TO CHANGE according to class needs as the semester proceeds. If you have questions, *please ask*.

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Week 4			
7 Tue	Anne Hutchinson (GIA 1A:2-3)		Read: Atlas 40-41; BBd: Penn Letter to Indians, Persuasive to Moderation (Griffith 1:5); Answer Lippy Ch. 3 Qs 1-2
8 Wed	Pennsylvania	Lippy Ch. 3 Qs 1-2	Read: Atlas, 52-55; Answer: Lippy Ch. 3, Q's 3-4
9 Thu	Catholics & Jews		Read: Atlas, 44-45, 56-59; BBd: Edwards on Revival (Griffith 2:6); Answer Lippy Ch. 3 Q's 5, 6
10 Fri	1st Great Awakening (GIA 1A:4)	Lippy Ch. 3 Qs 3-6	Review
Week 5			
14 Tue	Review		
15 Wed	EXAM 1		Read: Lippy Ch. 4, pp. 45-55, BBd: Jefferson, Madison (Griffith: II.10), Franklin Answer: Lippy Ch. 4 Qs 3,5
16 Thu	Revolution (GIA 1B:1-2)	Lippy Ch. 4 Qs 3,5	Read: Lippy Ch. 4, pp. 55-59, Answer: Lippy Ch. 4 Qs 6,7
17 Fri	Shakers	Lippy Ch. 4 Qs 6,7	Read: Lippy 5; Atlas 20-21, 66-69; Answer Lippy Ch. 5, Qs 1,3, 4
Week 6			
21 Tue	Native American Revitalization Mvmts.		
22 Wed	"Wiping the Tears"	Lippy Ch. 5, Qs 1,3, 4	Read: Raboteau 1-2; Atlas 84-87; Answer Lippy Ch. 5 Qs 2, 5
23 Thu	Af. Am. Churches		Read: Raboteau 3
24 Fri	Slave Religion	Ch 5 Q's 2, 5 Film: "This Far by Faith" part 1, discussion	BBd: Nat Turner, Frederick Douglass (Sernett 11, 12)

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Week 7			
28	Tue	Slave Religion	Discuss Turner, Douglass Read: Lippy 6; Atlas 62-65, Answer Lippy Ch. 6 Q's 1-3, 5-6
29	Wed	Evangelicalism, 2nd Great Awakening	Review
March 1	Thu	Review	Review
2	Fri	EXAM 2	Ch. 6 Q's 1-3, 5-6 Watch: www.pbs.org/mormons, parts 1-4 (either at home where you have better bandwidth, or on reserve at Herrick Library); Write: Final Project Progress Report
Week 8			
SPRING BREAK			
Week 9			
13	Tue	2nd GA (GIA 1B: 3-4)	Final Project Progress Report Due Read: Lippy 7; Atlas 70-83; Bbd: Mormonism Handout; Answer Lippy Ch. 7, Q's 2, 3, 5, 6
14	Wed	Mormonism	Ch. 7, Q's 2, 3, 5, 6
15	Thu	Mormonism	Read: Atlas 74-77;
16	Fri	Metaphysical religions	Read: Lippy 8; BBd: Ralph Waldo Trine
Week 10			
20	Tue	Metaphysical religions	Read: Atlas 94-97; BBd: Pittsburgh Platform (Griffith IV.17), Roth; Answer Lippy Ch. 8 Qs 5-7
21	Wed	Jewish Movements (GIA 2B: 1-2)	Ch. 8 Q's 1, 3-7 Read: Atlas 90-93; BBd: Monk, Maguire; Answer Lippy Ch. 8 Q's 1-4
22	Thu	Catholic Migrations	Discuss Handouts
23	Fri	Nativism (GIA 1B: 5)	Lippy Ch. 8 Q's 1-4 Read: Lippy 9; BBd: Grimké, Beecher, Armstrong (Griffith: III.14), Answer Lippy Ch. 9 Q's 2, 3, 6

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Week 11			
27	Tue	Civil War	Bbd: Lincoln's Gettysburg & 2nd Inaugural Addresses
28	Wed	Civil War (GIA 2A)	Ch. 9 Q's 2, 3, 6 Read: Raboteau Ch. 4
29	Thu	Reconstruction, Great Migration	Blog post Due by Midnight
30	Fri	Privilege	Discussion Read: Lippy 10; Atlas 98-103
		Cities, Social Gospel (GIA 2B:1-2)	Answer Lippy 10, Q's 1-5; Write: Final Project Progress Report
Week 12			
April 3	Tue	Ghost Dance, "Wiping the Tears"	Final Project Progress Report Due Read: Lippy Ch. 11, Bbd: Seneca Falls Declaration
4	Wed	Apocalypticism	Lippy 10, Q's 1-5
5	Thu	World's Parliament	Read: Atlas 104-107; Answer Ch. 11 Qs 2,5,7
6	Fri	Asian Religions in America	Lippy Ch. 11 Qs 2,5,7 Read: Lippy 12; Atlas 114-115;
Week 13			
10	Tue	Evolution, Fundamentalism	Answer Lippy Ch. 12 Q's 1-7
11	Wed	Fundamentalism (GIA 2B:3-5)	Ch. 12 Q's 1-7 Read: Atlas 116-119
12	Thu	Pentecostalism	Film: Sister Aimee Read: Raboteau Ch. 5; Atlas 120-123; Bbd: Rabbi Matthew, Father Divine, W.D. Muhammad (Sernett 49, 50, 52)
13	Fri	Af. Am. urban alternatives	Read: Raboteau 6; Lippy 13; Answer Lippy Ch. 13 Q's 1,3-5

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Week 14			
17 Tue	Af. Am. urban alternatives, Civil Rights Mvmt.		Read: Lippy 14; BBd: MLK Letter from Birmingham Jail (Sernett 54)
18 Wed	Civil Rights Mvmt.	Ch. 13 Q's 1, 3-5 "I Have a Dream"	Review; Answer Lippy Ch. 14 Q's 1, 5, 8, 9, 11
19 Thu	Review		Review
20 Fri	EXAM 3	Ch. 14 Q's 1, 5, 8, 9, 11	Read: Lippy 15, 16, Answer Ch. 15 Qs 1, 4, 7
Week 15			
24 Tue	Cold War (GIA 3A)	Ch. 15 Qs 1, 4, 7;	Answer Ch. 16 Q's 2-6
25 Wed	Pluralism	Ch. 16 Q's 2-6	
26 Thu	Review		Prepare brief oral Religious Family Tree Project report
27 Fri	Reports		

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