

## Religious Studies 374: Religion in the South

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Rutledge 325 (office)

### COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The South is “another land,” in the words of W.J. Cash, a place of “haunted childhood” in the words of Lillian Smith. Its vivid and varied religious life compels description and appraisal. Religion in Southern history is marked by extraordinary homogeneity and by notable diversity. There are many Souths. There is but one South. Here new traditions have been forged. Here older traditions have been extended and renewed.

Here, as elsewhere, religion shapes and in turn is shaped by regional culture—producing distinctive local Christianities (Judaisms, Islams, etc.). Hence our interest in the Southern “mind” and imagination, and in the region’s long cultural isolation, its tragic history, “peculiar” heritage, politics, literature, geography, and weather.

Method of inquiry: eclectic. How different is religion in the South? What are the flavors, who are the players? How has the drama evolved over time. What are the beliefs (and behaviors) of different churches and faiths? How has religious life been affected by race? Does the South have it’s own “civil religion?” Is the Lost Cause a religion?

Students will receive 30% of the information in this course from lectures, 10% from discussion, 35% from the readings, and 25% from the assignments and tests

### COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Students who successfully complete this course should be able to display broad, elementary knowledge of the several faith traditions historically engaged with Southern culture, and craft a research paper on some particular regional expression of religious life, broadly conceived.

### REQUIRED TEXTS:

Lillian Smith, “Trembling Earth” chapter from *Killers of the Dream* (hand-out)

Samuel S. Hill, ed., *Encyclopedia of Religion in the South*

William Faulkner, *Light in August*

### SUGGESTED READINGS (on Reserve in Cooper Library):

Marion Aldridge and Kevin Lewis, eds., *The Changing Shape of Protestantism in the South*

Will Campbell, *Brother to a Dragonfly*

W.J. (Wilbur) Cash, *The Mind of the South*

James McBride Dabbs, *Haunted by God*

Alonzo Johnson and Paul Jersild, eds., *Ain't Gonna Lay My 'Ligion Down*

James Baldwin, *The Fire Next Time*

Charles Lippy, ed., *Religion in South Carolina* (one chapter by Lewis)

Flannery O'Connor, "The Displaced Person" and anything else she wrote

Lillian Smith, *Killers of the Dream*  
Charles Reagan Wilson, *Baptized in Blood*

**REQUIREMENTS:**

Attendance expected. Class participation (5%) important. Readings to be completed for discussion on the days indicated.

Mid-term	25%
Quiz on <i>Light in August</i>	10%
8-10-page Paper	30%
Final Exam	30%

Grading will be on a 100-point scale as follows:

A = 90-100 / B+ = 87-89 / B = 80-86 / C+ = 77-79 / C = 70-76 / D+ = 67-69 / D= 60-66 / F = 60 or less

**CLASS SCHEDULE:**

- January 11 Introduction, methods, issues  
13 Discuss hand-out chapter from *Killers of the Dream*
- 18 *Encyclopedia*: Geography (284-8), Colonial Period (855-9), Anglicanism (33-6), Dissenters (206-7), Episcopal Church (225-7), Established Religion (229-31)  
20 Migration Southward (472-3), Presbyterianism (607-10), Great Awakening (309-10), Predestination (601-2), Calvinism (125-6)
- 25 Jefferson (346-8), Unitarianism (789-91), Quakers (627-30), Piety (581-91), Lutheranism (428-33), Augsburg Confession (79), Moravians (511-2)  
27 Influence of the Frontier (272-5), Great Revival (311-3), Brush Arbor (118-9), Cane Ridge (135), Camp Meeting (127), Evangelicals (239-45), James McGready (437f), Barton Stone (734), Campbellites (129-32), Restorationism (641-2)
- February 1 Baptists (85-8), Southern Baptist Convention (720-3), Separate Baptists (685-6), Old Regular Baptists (569f), Landmark Movement (399-400)  
2 Methodists (467-71), Arminianism (69-71), Holiness (325-9), Wesleyan Tradition (825-7), Second Blessing (678-9), Sanctification (669-70)
- 8 Darbyite Movement (193), Millennialism (477-9), Pentecostalism (584-7), Assemblies of God (72-5), Church of God (159-61)  
10 Black Religion (109-12), Invisible Institution (341-2), AME (3-6), AME Zion (6-8), National Baptists (528-30)
- 15 Church of God in Christ (528-30), Fire-Baptized Holiness (253-4), Santeria (670-1)

- 17 Jewish Immigration (351-2), Jews in the South (354-62), Beth Elohim (93).
- 22 Roman Catholicism (647-60), Nativism (530-2), John England (224)
- 24 Video: "The Displaced Person" (Flannery O'Connor)
- March 1 **Mid-Term Exam**
- 3 Video: snake-handling in Tennessee
- Spring Break
- 15 Cultural Perspective: Cash's *The Mind of the South*, Lillian Smith
- 17 " (Try C.W. Wilson's *Baptized in Blood* on Reserve)
- 22 Lost Cause (412-3), Literature and Religion (406-12), Thomas Dixon (208-9)
- 24 *Light in August*
- 29 " **Quiz**
- 31 "
- April 5 Fundamentalism (275-8), W.A. Criswell (187)
- 7 Videos (selected footage): Bill Moyers, Bob Jones, 1st Baptist Dallas
- 12 William Jennings Bryan (119-20), Scopes (677), Scopes Trial (677-8), Evolution Controversy (245-7), Video: "Creation Science on Trial" (Little Rock, Arkansas, 1980)
- 14 Liberals, Progressives, Civil Rights: James McBride Dabbs (191), Committee of Southern Churchmen (180-1), Will Campbell (128-9), Civil Rights Movement (172-5), Black Ministerial Protest Leadership (106-8), M.L. King (393-4)
- 19 South Carolina (704-20), Recent South (859-64), Women in Religion (845-51). Try *Religion in South Carolina*, ed. Charles Lippy (Reserve)
- 21 **Paper Due**
- 29 **Final Exam** (2:00 - 4:00 p.m.)

Note: the course is on Blackboard (online), reachable through the login screen: <http://blackboard.sc.edu>. To log in and proceed to your "My USC" screen you will need a userid and password. At the "My USC" screen click on the number: title of this course. Initially, I have put this syllabus up (under "course documents"). We can develop the site as interest and need dictate.