Course Description - This course is introduces the panorama of people, movements, issues, groups, events, and institutional developments which have characterized religious experience in the United States from the Colonial period to the dawn of the twenty-first century.

Course Objectives

- Demonstrate a basic understanding of the spectrum of religious movements emerging over the last four centuries in the territory that became the United States.

- Reflect critically on the way faith communities address historical issues today.

- Pray for the church’s witness in today’s context while living in intellectual and spiritual fellowship with believers from previous generations.

- Identify one or more exemplary Christians from previous generations as role models: explain their struggles, interpret their achievements and failures, and uphold their contribution to American spiritual and cultural life.

- Develop skills in research, critical and faithful analysis, and clear writing.

Required Texts


Course Assignments and Evaluation for Masters Students

- Class Attendance & Participation (20% of grade)

- Reading Quizzes (20%) - Before the beginning of each class session (except for the first), students will be required to take a quiz on the reading assignment for that session. These quizzes will be administered by Moodle. They are timed and designed solely for the purpose of encouraging students to complete a thorough reading of their assignments before the beginning of class.

- Movies & Small Group Discussion (20%)
  - Salem Witch Trials
  - The Shakers
• Lincoln
• I Have A Dream

• Writing Assignments (40%) - Students shall prepare four 800-1200 word documents on four different persons, movements, or events in the history of American Christianity. The subject selected for each paper shall correspond with the reading required the week the paper is due. The papers shall be written as blogs or as an article for your church newsletter or as information for your church web site. Each assignment is weighted at 10% of your course grade. They must be submitted by the beginning of class on the day the paper is due.

**Grading Policy on Late Work.** - Assignments submitted after posted due dates will be reduced by one full letter grade.

**Grading Scale**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>90-100</th>
<th>86-89</th>
<th>83-85</th>
<th>80-82</th>
<th>77-79</th>
<th>70-79</th>
<th>66-69</th>
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<th>60-62</th>
<th>59 and below</th>
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<td>A-</td>
<td>B+</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>C+</td>
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**Course Sessions** (Students shall read selections from Gaustad which correspond to their readings in Noll. For example, let’s take “Session 1.” Before the class meets, students shall read Noll, pages 1-21. Then, they shall read only those pages from Gaustad 1-42 which address issues covered by Noll. In other words, students need not necessarily read all 42 pages. The same pattern holds true for the other sessions.)

**Session 1**  
A New World  
Noll 1-21 & Gaustad I:1-42

**Session 2**  
Colonial Roots: Mission, Diversity, Dissent  
Noll 30-82 & Gaustad I:43-124  
Movie: “The Salem Witch Trials” (History Channel)  
Small Group Discussion 1-2 PM CST  
Class Session 2:30 CST

**Session 3**  
Great Awakening  
Noll 83-113 & Gaustad I:160-193  
Paper #1

**Session 4**  
Religion and Revolution  
Noll 114-162 & Gaustad I:195-294  
Paper #2

**Session 5**  
Revival, Reform, New Religions Landscapes  
Noll 163-244 & Gaustad I:295-327
Movie: “The Shakers” (PBS Home Video, Ken Burns)
Small Group Discussion 1-2 PM CST
Class Session 2:30 CST

Session 6  Religious Crisis of the Civil War
Noll 286-334 & Gaustad I:517-599
Movie: “Lincoln,” featuring Daniel Day-Lewis
Small Group Discussion 1-2 PM CST
Class Session 2:30 CST

Session 7  Christian America?
Noll 335-422

Session 8  The Ironic Twentieth-Century
Noll 423-500
Paper #3

Session 9  Noll 501-553
Movie: “Martin Luther King, Jr. - I Have a Dream
Read “Letters from a Birmingham Jail”
Small Group Discussion 1-2 PM CST
Class Session 2:30 CST

Session 10 The Dawn of the Twenty-First Century
Paper #4

**Supplemental Reading List**


**POLICIES FOR ALL MASTERS CLASSES**

**NOTE:** All communications from the seminary will go to your seminary email account. Contact ithelpdesk@seminary.edu if you need help forwarding your seminary email address to your personal email address.

As a seminary community we hold integrity/hospitality as core values. Individuals are able to do their best work and thinking when their peers are fully present and engaged. We expect each person to both participate in class and carefully listen to others with the belief that everyone’s contribution is equally important. Therefore, the following policies have been established in order to provide clarity in regard to attendance expectations and relationships in the classroom.

**Class Attendance Policy**

It is expected that students will attend and participate in all class sessions. Failure to attend at least 80% of class sessions is grounds for automatic failure. A professor may set other attendance expectations. Students are always expected to communicate with a professor in advance if they will be absent. Attendance expectations are higher for online and intensive courses (see syllabus for specific requirements).

**Class Tardiness Policy**

The third time a student is late to the start of class, it will be counted as a class absence. It is also expected that students will return from a break by the time specified by the professor.

**Late Work Policy**

If a student cannot complete the work for a course by the due date listed on the syllabus, they must submit a “Request for a Grade of Incomplete” form to the Registrar by 4:30 of the last day of the term. The form must be signed by the instructor and Dean of Students. The professor may set stipulations and grade reductions. In the absence of a formal request form, the student will receive a grade based upon work completed by the last day of the term.

**Plagiarism**

Plagiarism is the act of passing off as one’s own the words or ideas of someone else without
providing proper acknowledgement or documentation. See the “Academic Honesty Policy” in the Seminary Catalog for more information on plagiarism and how to avoid it.

**Electronic Format**
Unless otherwise specified by the professor, all work submitted electronically must be in a Word document format (.doc, .docx).

**Technology Use in the Classroom**
Unless it is directly tied to note-taking or research for the class, students are expected to refrain from using cell phones, laptops, or other electronic devices during class.

**Course Evaluation in Moodle**
Students must complete an online course evaluation using the seminary Moodle system at http://moodle.seminary.edu. The evaluation will be open at the end of the course. If you need assistance connecting to Moodle or accessing the evaluation, please send an email to moodlehelp@seminary.edu.