

1-1-2000

CH 511 History of Christianity in America

Kenneth J. Collins

Follow this and additional works at: <http://place.asburyseminary.edu/syllabi>

Recommended Citation

Collins, Kenneth J., "CH 511 History of Christianity in America" (2000). *Syllabi*. Book 494.
<http://place.asburyseminary.edu/syllabi/494>

This Document is brought to you for free and open access by the eCommons at ePLACE: preserving, learning, and creative exchange. It has been accepted for inclusion in Syllabi by an authorized administrator of ePLACE: preserving, learning, and creative exchange. For more information, please contact thad.horner@asburyseminary.edu.

History of Christianity in America

CH 5II

Kenneth J. Collins, Professor

1. Course Description and Objectives

The course will explore the role of religion (Protestant, Catholic, and Jewish) in American life from the establishment of the Jamestown colony in 1607 to the twentieth-century. Special attention will be given to Puritanism, revivalism, disestablishment, the utopian movement, black religion, evangelicalism, and the new intellectual climate which emerged at the beginning of this century. In all of this, the course will be sensitive to the interplay between religion and culture in the creation of a truly American ethos.

2. General Goals

Upon completion of the course successful students will be able to do all of the following:

- 1) Identify the major periods in American religious history and give a brief description of each
- 2) Evidence an awareness of historiographical concerns in the interpretation of American religion, especially in terms of narrow, limited or unfair (biased) perspectives
- 3) Demonstrate an awareness of religious traditions other than their own and the contributions of these traditions to the larger American culture
- 4) Explore the interplay between religion and culture, especially in terms of the intellectual developments of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries
- 5) Display an extensive knowledge of American evangelicalism in terms of both its Reformed and Wesleyan manifestations
- 6) Understand the history of church and state relations and the ongoing effects of that history for the contemporary church
- 7) Understand one's calling as a minister of the gospel in light of the history of the American Church
- 8) Articulate the relevance of American Religious History for effective pastoral ministry today

3. Texts:

Gaustad, Edwin Scott. *A Religious History of America*. San Francisco: Harper and Row, Publishers, 1990.

Marsden, George M. *Religion and American Culture*. New York: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, Publishers, 1990.

Ahlstrom, Sidney, *Theology in America*. Indianapolis: Bobbs-Merrill Educational Publishing, 1967.

4. Topical Outline

I. Christendom and American Origins

- A. The Puritan Heritage
- B. The Great Awakening
- C. Jonathan Edwards

II. Religion and the American Revolution

- A. Dissent: An American Tradition
- B. The New Order for the Ages
- C. A Secular Constitution
- D. Civil Religion

III. The Age of Democratic Revivals

- A. America's Revivalist: Charles Finney
- B. Evangelicalism and American Culture
- C. Divisions Within the Evangelical Camp
- D. Slave Religion

IV. Nonevangelical America

- A. Native Americans as Outsiders
- B. The Catholic Church
- C. Judaism
- D. Protestant Outsiders
- E. Romanticism and Transcendentalism
- F. Sectarian Innovations

V. Protestant and Progressive America: 1860 - 1917

- A. The Golden Age
- B. Women and Reform
- C. The Social Gospel
- D. The Modernist Impulse

VI. Traditional Religion and 20th Century American Culture

- A. The Last Crusade for Protestant Civilization
- B. Conflict: Fundamentalists Versus Modernists
- C. Darwinism as Symbol
- D. Bryan and the Scopes Trial.
- E. "The Acids of Modernity"
- F. The Neo-Orthodox Critique

VII. Return to Faith and Quest for Consensus: 1941 - 1963

- A. World War II and American Faith
- B. The Irony of American History
- C. From "Fundamentalist to Evangelicalist"
- D. Catholics Move into the Mainstream
- E. Secularism
- F. Civil Rights
- G. Martin Luther King, Jr.

VIII. Fragmented America -- A Nation in Search of a Soul: 1960's - 1980s

- A. The Mainline Churches in Decline
- B. The Catholic Revolution: Vatican II
- C. The Women's Movement
- D. New Age Thought
- E. Evangelical Resurgence
- F. Free Exercise of Religion in a Pluralistic Society

5. Course Procedures

Competency in this course will consist in satisfying the following criteria:

A. Two examinations will be given during the semester, a mid-term and a final. These exams will not only include the designated reading material but also the class lectures. This will constitute 50% of the grade.

B. In light of (A) it is imperative that students attend class on a regular basis. Indeed, attendance will be taken at each class by means of a seating chart, and absenteeism (missing more than 2 classes) will result in grade reduction. Class participation, attendance, and completion of the assigned readings will count as 20% of the grade.

C. Students, in consultation with the instructor, must prepare a 15-20 page paper on a topic of their choice in American religion. This paper must be coherent, clear, and penetrating in its discussion. It should, therefore, be backed by considerable research--at least 600 pages--and should evidence a competent use of the English language. It will make up 30% of the grade.

D. A reading report which indicates that students have completed all of the readings is due on the day of the final exam.

6. Bibliography

General Works of American Religious History

Ahlstrom, Sydney E., ed. *Theology In America: The Major Protestant Voices from Puritanism to Neo-orthodoxy*. Indianapolis: Bobbs-Merrill Co., 1967.

Baird, Robert. *Religion in America*. New York: Harper & Row, 1970.

Brauer, Jerald C. *Protestantism in America: A Narrative History*. Rev. ed. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1965.

Gaustad; Edwin S. *A Religious History of America*. New York: Harper & Row, 1966.

Hudson, Winthrop S. *Religion in America*. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1965.

Marty, Martin E. *Righteous Empire: The Protestant Experience in America*. New York: Dial Press, 1970.

Mead, Sidney E. *The Lively Experiment: The Shaping of Christianity in America*. New York: Harper & Row, 1963.

Moberg, David O. *The Church as a Social Institution: The Sociology of American Religion*. Englewood Cliffs, N.J.:Prentice-Hall, 1962.

Smith, Hilrie Shelton, Handy, Robert T, and Loetscher, Lefferts A. *American Christianity: An Historical Interpretation with Representative Documents*. 2 vols. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1960-63.

Sweet, William W. *The Story of Religion in America*. New York: Harper & Brothers, 1950.

Themes in Protestant History

Ahlstrom, Sydney E. *The American Protestant Encounter with World Religions*. Beloit, Wisconsin: Beloit College, 1962.

Baltzell, Edward Digby. *The Protestant Establishment: Aristocracy and Caste in America*. New York: Random House, 1964.

Brumm, Ursula, *American Thought and Religious Typology*. New Brunswick, N.J.: Rutgers University Press, 1970.

Handy, Robert T. *A Christian America: Protestant Hopes and Historical Realities*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1971.

Latourette, Kenneth Scott. *Missions and the American Mind*. Indianapolis: National Foundation Press, 1949.

McLoughlin, William G. *Modern Revivalism: Charles Grandison Finney to Billy Graham*. New York: Ronald Press Co., 1959.

Mode, Peter G. *The Frontier Spirit in American Christianity*. New York: Harper & Brothers, 1937.

Niebuhr, H. Richard, *The Kingdom of God in America*. New York: Harper & Brothers, 1937.

_____, *The Social Sources of Denominationalism*. New York: Henry Holt & Co., 1929.

Osborn, Ronald E. *The Spirit of American Christianity*. New York: Harper Brothers, 1958.

Perry, Ralph Barton. *Puritanism and Democracy*. New York: Vanguard Press, 1944.

Sweet, William W. *Revivalism in America: Its Origin, Growth and Decline*. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1944.

Weisberger, Bernard A. *They Gathered at the River: The Story of the Great Revivalists and Their Impact upon Religion in America*. Boston: Little, Brown and Co., 1958.

American Puritanism

Foster, Stephen. *Their Solitary Way: The Puritan Social Ethic in the First Century of Settlement in New England*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1971.

Hall, David, ed. *The Antinomian Controversy: A Documentary History*. Middletown, Conn.: Wesleyan University Press, 1968.

Miller, Perry. *Errand into the Wilderness*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1956.

_____, *The New England Mind: From Colony to Province*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1953.

_____, *Orthodoxy in Massachusetts, 1630-1650*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1933.

Morgan, Edmund S. *The Puritan Dilemma: The Story of John Winthrop*. Boston: Little, Brown and Co., 1958.

Morison, Samuel Eliot. *Buidlers of the Bay Colony*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co., 1930.

Pettit, Norman, *The Heart Prepared: Grace and Conversion in Puritan Spiritual Life*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1966.

Simpson, Alan. *Puritanism in Old and New England*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1955.

Later Colonial Religion

Aldridge, Owen. *Benjamin Franklin and Nature's God*. Durham, N.C.: Duke University Press, 1967.

Bailyn, Bernard. *The Ideological Origins of the American Revolution*. Cambridge, Mass. Harvard University Press, 1967.

Baldwin, Alice M. *The New England Clergy and the American Revolution*. Durham, N.C.: Duke University Press, 1928.

Boorstin, Daniel J. *The Lost World of Thomas Jefferson*. New York: Henry Holt & Co., 1948.

Bushman, Richard L. *From Puritan to Yankee: Character and the Social Order in Connecticut, 1690-1795*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1967.

Carroll, Peter N. ed. *Religion and the Coming of the American Revolution*. Waltham, Mass.: Ginn&Co., 1970.

Gaustad, Edwin Scott. *The Great Awakening in New England*. New York: Harper & Row, 1957.

Gay, Peter. *The Enlightenment: An Interpretation, The Rise of Modern Paganism*. New York: Random House, 1966.

Heimert, Alan E. *Religion and the American Mind from the Great Awakening to the Revolution*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1966.

McLoughlin, William G. *Isaac Backus and the American Pietistic Tradition*. Boston: Little, Brown and Co., 1967.

Maxson, Charles H. *The Great Awakening in the Middle Colonies*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1920.

Morais, Herbert. *Deism in Eighteenth-Century America*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1934.

Antebellum Protestantism

Billington, Ray A. *The Protestant Crusade 1800-1860: A Study of the Origins of American Nativism*. New York: Macmillan Co., 1938.

Cleveland, Catharine C. *The Great Revival in the West, 1797-1805*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1916.

Cross, Whitney R. *The Burned-Over District: The Social and Intellectual History of Enthusiastic Religion in Western New York, 1800-1850*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1950.

Foster, Charles I. *An Errand of Mercy: The Evangelical United Front, 1790-1837*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1960.

Johnson, Charles A. *The frontier Camp Meeting: Religion's Harvest Time*. Dallas, Tex.: Southern Methodist University Press, 1955.

Krout, John Allen. *The Origins of Prohibition*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1925.

Marsden, George M. *The Evangelical Mind and the New School Presbyterian Experience*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1970.

Rice, Edwin W. *The Sunday School Movement and the American Sunday School Union*. Philadelphia: Union Press, 1917.

Smith, Timothy L. *Revivalism and Social Reform in Mid-Nineteenth-Century America*. Nashville, Tenn.: Abingdon Press, 1957.

Sweet, William W. *Religion in the Development of American Culture, 1765-1840*. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1952.

Sectional Issues and the Civil War

Barnes, Gilbert H. *The Antislavery Impulse, 1830-1844*. New York: D. Appleton-Century Co., 1933.

Dumond, Dwight L. *The Antislavery Origins of the Civil War in the United States*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 1965.

Filler, Louis, *The Crusade Against Slavery, 1830-1860*. New York: Harper & Row, 1960.

Korn, Bertram W. *American Jewry and the Civil War*. Cleveland: Meridian Books, 1961.

Matthews, Donald G. *Slavery and Methodism: A Chapter in American Morality, 1780-1845*. Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 1965.

Stampf, Kenneth M. *The Era of Reconstruction, 1865-1877*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1967.

Wolf, William J. *The Almost Chosen People: A Study of the Religion of Abraham Lincoln*. Garden City, N.Y.: Doubleday & Co., 1959.

Slavery and the Black Churches

- Bardolph, Richard. *The Negro Vanguard*. New York: Random House, 1959.
- Davis, David B. *The Problem of Slavery in Western Culture*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1966.
- DuBois, W.E. Burghardt. *The Souls of Black Folk*. New York: Fawcett World Library, 1961.
- Frazier, E. Franklin. *The Negro Church in America*. New York: Schocken Books, 1964.
- Nelson, Hart M., Yokley, Raytha, and Nelson, Anne. *The Black Church in America*. New York: Basic Books, 1971.
- Pipes, William H. *Say Amen, Brother! Old-Time Negro Preaching: A Study in Frustration*. New York: William-Frederick Press, 1951.
- Reimers, David M. *White Protestantism and the Negro*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1965.
- Washington, Joseph R., Jr. *Black Religion: The Negro and Christianity in the United States*. Boston: Beacon Press, 1964.
- Woodson, Carter G. *The History of the Negro Church*. 2d ed. Washington, D.C.: Associated Publishers, 1921.

Protestantism Since the Civil War

- Abell, Aaron I. *The Urban Impact on American Protestantism, 1865-1900*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1943.
- Bass, Clarence B. *Backgrounds to Dispensationalism: Its Historical Genesis and Ecclesiastical Implications*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: William B. Eerdmans Co., 1960.
- Cross, Robert D. *The Church and the City, 1865-1910*. Indianapolis: Bobbs-Merrill Co., 1967.
- Farish, Hunter D. *The Circuit Rider Dismounts*. Richmond, Va.: Dietz Press, 1938.
- Findlay, James F., Jr. *Dwight L. Moody: American Evangelist, 1837-1899*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1969.
- Handy, Robert T. *The Social Gospel in America, 1870-1920: Gladden, Ely, Rauschenbusch*. Library of Protestant Thought. New York: Oxford University Press, 1966.
- Kraus, C. Norman. *Dispensationalism in America: Its Rise and Development*. Richmond, Va.: John Knox Press, 1958.
- May, Henry F. *Protestant Churches and Industrial America*. New York: Harper & Brothers, 1949.
- Sandeen, Ernest R. *The Roots of Fundamentalism, British and American*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1970.

Liberal Trends in Nineteenth-Century Religious Thought

Bowden, Henry W. *Church History in the Age of Science*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1971.

Carter, Paul. *The Spiritual Crisis of the Gilded Age*. DeKalb, Ill.: Northern Illinois University Press, 1972.

Cauthen, Kenneth. *The Impact of American Religious Liberalism*. New York: Harper & Row, 1962.

Greene, John C. *Darwin and the Modern World View*. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1961.

Hofstadter, Richard. *Social Darwinism in the United States, 1860-1915*. Philadelphia: University Of Pennsylvania Press, 1945.

Hutchison, William R., ed. *American Protestant Thought: the Liberal Era*. New York: Harper & Row, 1968.

Persons, Stow, ed. *Evolutionary Thought in America*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1950.

White, Edward A. *Science and Religion in American Thought: the Impact of Naturalism*. Stanford, Calif.: Stanford University Press, 1952.

Wiener, Philip E. *Evolution and the Founders of Pragmatism*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1949.

The Twentieth Century

Bailey, Kenneth K. *Southern White Protestantism in the Twentieth Century*. New York: Harper & Row, 1964.

Carter, Paul A. *The Decline and Revival of Social Gospel, 1920-1940*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1956.

Eckardt, A. Roy. *The Surge of Piety in America: An Appraisal*. New York: Association Press, 1958.

Furniss, Norman K. *The Fundamentalist Controversy, 1918-1931*. New Haven, Yale University Press, 1954.

Gasper, Louis, *The Fundamentalist Movement*. The Hague: Mouton & Co., 1963.

Henry, Carl F. H. *Fifty Years of Protestant Theology*. Boston: W.A. Wilde Co., 1950.

Herberg, Will. *Protestant, Catholic, Jew: An Essay in American Religious Sociology*. Garden City, N.Y.: Doubleday & Co., 1955.

Machen, J. Gresham. *Christianity and Liberalism*. New York: Macmillan Co., 1923.

Marty, Martin, E. *The New Shape of American Religion*. New York: Harper & Brothers, 1959.

Merz, Charles. *The Dry Decade*. Garden City, N.Y.: Doubleday, Doran & Co., 1931.

Nash, Arnold S., ed. *Protestant Thought in the Twentieth Century*. New York: Macmillan Co., 1951.

Nash, Ronald H. *The New Evangelicalism*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Zondervan Publishing House, 1963.

Soper, David W. *Major Voices in American Theology*. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1953.

"Orthodox Christians in America breaks new scholarly ground. Should prove invaluable to scholars seeking to build on [Erickson's] work."--Harvard Divinity Bulletin. "John Erickson's book not only introduces [Orthodox Christianity] in a lucid and interesting manner, but provides the reader with enough insight and basic knowledge that you are left wanting to know more. Ample illustrations appropriately support the text and the periodic presentations of first person narratives make the experiences of Orthodox Christians vibrant and real. I highly recommend this book..." The Very Reverend John H. Erickson is Peter N. Gramowich Professor of Church History at St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary. CH 511 History of Christianity in America. K. Collins2000. CH 560 History of Christianity in America. K. Collins2006. 4 Citations. Unit 11: African-American Christianity. Black Christianity in America. Geographic Contexts of Slavery. The Apostolic Age of Black Christianity. The Slave Mission Period to Emancipation. Black Worship in the Time of Slavery. Black and White Spiritual Mutuality. Resources for Spiritual Mutuality. Dr. Armstrong wrote over 70 articles as the former managing editor of Christian History & Biography magazine, and he continues to contribute to Christian History & Biography and other publications, including Christianity Today and Leadership Journal. He has contributed chapters to Singing the Lord's Song in a Strange Land (edited by Mark A. Noll and Edith L. Blumhofer) and Portraits of a Generation: Early Pentecostal Leaders (edited by James R. Goff Jr. and Grant Wacker).