

HF 430: Topics in the History of Modern Christianity –
A History of Evangelicalism,
From Pietism to Post-modernity
Spring 2016, FH 246

Course Description:

This course traces the rise and development of evangelical Protestantism from its Pietist/Puritan roots in the seventeenth century, to its manifold expressions in the early twenty-first century. While some primary documents will be used, the required readings will focus on the historiography of the evangelical movement in the Anglo-American world. In tracing the history of evangelicalism through its key actors and institutions, the course will challenge students to understand the malleability of the movement while still retaining a recognizable identity as it grew from its cradle in the English-speaking world to become a global phenomenon.

Course Rationale:

Who or what is an evangelical? While the movement and its adherents continually defy easy categorization or tidy definition, there is growing recognition among historians of Christianity that evangelicalism has been and continues to be one of the most influential religious movements in Christianity in the modern world. Historians of global, or world Christianity see strong family resemblances and even direct lines of descent between evangelicalism and forms of indigenous Christianity rapidly spreading in many nations of the Global South. With its recently acquired clout, in both American political and intellectual circles, evangelical Christianity as of late has moved from the fringes of western culture into the mainstream. As such it has garnered attention from research scholars, both in the humanities and the social sciences. As we trace the history of evangelicalism by studying the movement's influential personalities, institutions, doctrines, and above all, its entrepreneurial activism, we hope to answer the initial question in this paragraph with a credible range of answers. At the same time we will assess its cultural significance and influence in the west over the last three centuries.

Course Goals and Objectives:

As mentioned above the goal of the course is to explain and critically assess the evangelical movement in Protestant Christianity with a view to understanding its essential nature and distinguishing characteristics. In doing so, students will also increase their knowledge and skill of the historian's craft by analyzing and interpreting a range of primary and secondary historical sources in a well-argued, correctly documented research essay. Students will also sharpen their critical thinking skills by participating in, and on occasion leading, open discussions on the work of other historians.

Listed in a more tangible way, on successfully completing this course students will be able to:

1. Explain the essential contours of evangelical Christianity by describing key leaders, institutions and outreach initiatives of the movement.
2. Explain and critique a family of doctrinal beliefs which evangelicals hold.
3. Describe important milestones in the growth of evangelical communities in the Great Britain, Canada, and the United States.
4. Recognize and explain the historiographical landscape of evangelicalism in the west.
5. Write and present a well-argued research essay on a theme in the history of evangelicalism.
6. As practicing historians, responsibly interpret and contextualize primary and secondary historical sources in both oral discussion and written essay form.

Required Reading:

Mark Noll, *The Rise of Evangelicalism* (Downers Grove: IVP Academic, 2003).

Kevin Kee, “‘The Heavenly Railroad’: an introduction to Crossley-Hunter Revivalism”, in G. A. Rawlyk (ed.), *Aspects of the Canadian Evangelical Experience* Montreal: McGill-Queen’s University Press. 320-336.

Jonathan Edwards, Sermon: ‘Sinners in the hands of an angry God’,
<http://archive.vod.umd.edu/religion/edwards1741int.htm>

D. L. Moody, Sermon: ‘Christ seeking Sinners’, <http://www.ccel.us/moody.toc.html>

George Whitefield, Sermon: ‘A Penitent Heart: the best New Year’s Gift’,
http://img.sermonindex.net/modules/articles/article_pdf.php?aid=999

Billy Graham, Sermon: ‘Christ’s answer to the world’,
<http://www.jesuschristonly.com/sermons/billy-graham/christs-answer-to-the-world.html>

Assignments and Grades:

Sermon Analysis – 15%
Critical Review – 25%
Research Essay – 35%
Take Home Final Exam – 25%

Sermon Analysis:

Using the four sermons of Edwards, Whitefield, Moody and Graham, along with the essay by Kevin Kee on the Crossley-Hunter Canadian revival meetings write a brief reflection paper on the ethos of evangelical revivalism as revealed through the lens of four of its most successful revival preachers. Based on your readings of the four sermons and the one essay, what continuities do you see in evangelicalism over the three centuries represented in by these writings? Essay length, 750 words.

Critical Review:

The critical review will be on Mark Noll's *The Rise of Evangelicalism*. The review should be approximately 1500 words and should include not only a summary of the author's key themes and arguments, but also a critical assessment of his arguments. A review may include a personal response to the book, but such a response needs to be part of a larger critique grounded in the quality of argument and research, and the author's ability to offer a convincing and engaging historical argument. It is strongly recommended that students have Noll's book read before the start of classes.

Research Essay:

Your essay may be drawn from historical sources dealing with Evangelicalism in Britain, Canada, the United States, or a region of the Global South. You may choose to research a particular person, institution, para-church organization, event or conceptual theme in evangelicalism. It is important that you find a topic on which you can secure several primary documents for your study. The back issues of *Christian History* and the selection of books in the bibliography listed below offer ideas for finding a suitable topic. Discuss the topic with the course instructor before committing to it. Essays should be 4000 –5000 words in length (12-16 pages). Citations must be done according to Turabian's/Chicago format as footnotes, not endnotes; and a full bibliography of works cited must be included at the end of your essay. The final draft should be submitted in 12-point font, double-spaced. Essays are due two weeks after the end of the course.

Take Home Final Exam:

On the last day of class students will be given a one question take home exam. The question will be some variation on the overall course theme of defining evangelicalism in a credible and satisfactory way, drawing on the historical material covered in class and in the readings. Students will have 72 hours from the last class to submit their examination paper.

Course Outline:

17th century roots; 18th century beginnings

Monday Morning:

Session A: 9 – 10:15 Course overview; defining evangelicalism

Session B: 10:40 – 11:50 Puritan, Pietist and Moravian roots

Monday Afternoon

Session A: 1:00 – 2:15 John and Charles Wesley – British awakenings

Session B: 2:40 – 3:50 Jonathan Edwards New England revivals

Tuesday Morning:

Session A: 9 – 10:15 George Whitefield: Transatlantic networks

Session B: 10:40 – 11:50 Evangelical ethos: hymns, sermons, camp meetings

Early 19th century diffusion and diversification

Tuesday Afternoon:

Session A: 1:00 – 2:15 Britain: the Clapham Sect - the reform of manners
Session B: 2:40 – 3:50 American frontier faith – F. Asbury and C. Finney

Wednesday Morning:

Session A: 9 – 10:15 Canadian evangelicalism: Maritimes and Ontario
Session B: 10:40 – 11:50 Discussion on revivalism: Crossley-Hunter essay

Later 19th century developments

Wednesday Afternoon:

Session A: 1:00 – 2:15 Industrial Britain: The Booths and George Mueller
Session B: 2:40 – 3:50 C. Spurgeon, D. L. Moody, & responses to Darwin

Thursday Morning:

Session A: 9 – 10:15 Mobilizing for Mission: W. Carey and H. Venn
Session B: 10:40 – 11:50 Mobilizing for Mission: J. H. Taylor and M. Slessor

Early 20th century adversity and advance

Thursday Afternoon:

Session A: 1:00 – 2:15 American Fundamentalism: the battle for the Bible
Session B: 2:40 – 3:50 Pentecostalism: W. Seymour and Aimee Semple

Friday Morning: **Sermon analysis due.**

Session A: 9 – 10:15 Fundamentalist networks and renewal, 1930s & 40s

Evangelicalism in the decades since World War II

Session B: 10:40 – 11:50 Post-war resurgence: YFC, BGEA, CCfC, & TWR

Friday Afternoon:

Session A: 1:00 – 2:15 Evangelicalism in the Global South
Session B: 2:40 – 3:50 Lausanne 1974, the WEF and John Stott

Saturday Morning:

Tying up loose ends and issuing the final exam
Remaining sessions given to working on the book review

Select Bibliography:

- Allen, J. D. ed. *The Evangelicals: The Story of a Great Movement*. Exeter, U.K.: Paternoster Press, 1989.
- Balmer, Randall, *Mine eyes have seen the glory: a journey into the evangelical subculture in America, (4th edition)*. New York, Oxford University Press, 2004
- Bebbington, David. *Evangelicalism in Modern Britain: A History from the 1730s to the 1980s*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1989.
- _____, *The dominance of evangelicalism*, Downers Grove: IVP, 2005.
- Blumhofer, Edith, Russell P. Spittler, Grant Wacker, eds. *Pentecostal Currents in American Experience*. Urbana and Chicago: University of Illinois Press, 1999.
- Carpenter, Joel A. *Revive Us Again: The Awakening of American Fundamentalism*. New York: Oxford Univeristy Press, 1997.
- _____ and Wilbert R. Shenk eds., in *Earthen Vessels: American Evangelicals and Foreign Missions, 1880-1990*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1990.
- Erb, Peter C. ed., *Pietists: Selected Writings*. New York: Paulist Press, 1983.
- Gauverau, Michael, *The evangelical century: college and creed in English Canada from the Great Revival to the Great Depression*. Montreal: McGill-Queen's University Press, 1991
- Hart, D. G., *The old-time religion in modern America: Evangelical Protestantism in the twentieth century*. Chicago, Ivan R Dee, 2002
- MacLeod, Donald, C. *Stacey Woods and the Evangelical discovery of the University*. Downers Grove, IVP, 2007.
- Marsden, George M., *Fundamentalism and American culture: the reshaping of twentieth century American Evangelicalism, 1870-1924*. (New York: Oxford University Press, 1980.
- Marty, Martin, *Righteous Empire: The Protestant Experience in America*. New York: Dial Press, 1970.
- Noll, Mark A. *A history of Christianity in the United States and Canada*, Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1992

_____, and, David W. Bebbington and George Rawlyk eds. *Evangelicalism: Comparative Studies of Popular Protestantism in North America, the British Isles and Beyond, 1700 – 1990*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1994.

_____, *The new shape of world Christianity: how American experience reflects a global faith*. Downers Grove: IVP, 2009.

Rawlyk, George A., and Noll, Mark A. (eds.), *Amazing Grace: Evangelicalism in Australia, Britain, Canada and the United States*. Montreal: McGill-Queen's University Press, 1994.

Rawlyk, George A. ed. *Aspects of the Canadian Evangelical Experience*, Montreal: McGill-Queen's University Press, 1997.

Rawlyk, George A. ed., *The Canadian Protestant Experience, 1760-1990*. Burlington, Ontario: Welch Publishing Co. 1990.

Robins, Keith ed., *Protestant Evangelicalism: Britain, Ireland, Germany and America c. 1750-c.1950*. Oxford: Basil Blackwell, 1990.

Rosell, Garth M., *A surprising work of God: Harold Ockenga, Billy Graham, and the rebirth of the Evangelicalism*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2008.

Sanneh, Lamin, *Disciples of all nations: pillars of world Christianity*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2008

Spener, Philip Jacob. *Pia Desideri*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1964.

Stackhouse, John Jr. *Canadian Evangelicalism in the twentieth century: an introduction to its character*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1993

Ward, W. R., *The Protestant evangelical awakening*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1992.

Westfall, William, *Two worlds: Protestant culture of nineteenth century Ontario*. Montreal: McGill-Queen's University Press, 1989

Wolfe, John, *The expansion of Evangelicalism: the age of Wilberforce, More, Chalmers and Finney*. Downers Grove: IVP, 2007.

Worthen, Molly, *Apostles of reason: the crisis of authority in American Evangelicalism*. New York, Oxford University Press, 2014.

The Following Back Issues of *Christian History and Biography (CHB)* are also available in the periodicals section of the library and can serve as helpful introductions to a variety of evangelical themes and people.

Vol. I No. 1, Zinzendorf and the Moravians
Vol II No. 1, John Wesley
Vol IV No. 4, Jonathan Edwards and the Great Awakening
Vol V No. 2, Pietism Re-examined
Vol VI No.1, Jan Comenius
Vol VII. No. 4, Charles Finney
Vol. VIII No. 3, Spiritual Awakenings in North America
Vol IX No. 1, Dwight L. Moody
Vol IX No. 2, William and Catherine Booth,
Vol X, No. 3 The Golden Age of Hymns
Vol XI No. 4 William Carey
Vol XII, No. 2, George Whitefield
Issue 41 The American Puritans
Issue 45, Camp Meetings and Circuit Riders
Issue 52, Hudson Taylor
Issue 53, William Wilberforce
Issue 55, The Scopes Trial and The Rise of Fundamentalism
Issue 56, David Livingstone
Issue 58, The Rise of Pentecostalism
Issue 66, How the West Was Really Won
Issue 69, The Wesleys: Charles and John
Issue 72, How We Got Our History
Issue 77 Jonathan Edwards