SYLLABUS

1HT607: American Presbyterianism

Dr. Sean Michael Lucas

Meetings: Monday-Thursday, January 5-8, 2015, 9:00am-3:30pm
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Course description:
A survey of the history of American Presbyterianism from its roots in the Calvinist reformed tradition to the present. The course focuses on key historical events and controversies that shaped Presbyterian denominations, major leaders who influenced Presbyterian theology and its prominent institutions, movements that reflected Presbyterian leadership of American religions, and the reciprocal relation between Presbyterianism and American culture.

Goals:
1. The student will be introduced to the main outlines of Presbyterian history in America, noting major figures, events, controversies, and outcomes.
2. Through the lectures, the student will be exposed to the cultural and political contexts of Presbyterian thought and develop a greater critical appreciation for the Presbyterian tradition.
3. Through the reading and discussions, the student will be oriented to key figures, beliefs, practices, and stories in the life of the Presbyterian church and will consider how they relate to contemporary Christian life and ministry.
4. Through the critical book review essay, the student will engage in critical dialogue with one particularly significant theologian or theological event in Presbyterian history.
5. Through the final paper, the student will have the opportunity to explore a particular Presbyterian theologian or theological issue and so grow in his/her critical appreciation for Presbyterian history and identity.

Required texts:
Sean Michael Lucas, For a Continuing Church: The Roots of the Presbyterian Church in America (P&R, forthcoming, 2015); PDF of manuscript provided on self-service.

Choose one:

**Recommended text:**

**Requirements and Grading:**
1. *Regular attendance and class participation (10%).*
2. *Reading (30%).* When you turn in your final paper on February 6, 2015, you will fill out a reading report with reported percentages of the assigned materials read.
3. *Book review (20%).* You will write a book review essay on a book of your choice selected from the listed provided in the syllabus.
4. *Paper (40%).* With approval of the instructor, you will write a 12-15 page research paper on some historical topic, figure, or event relating to Presbyterian history, following the instructions below.

**Instructions on particular assignments:**
1. *Book review essay (5-7 pages)*
   a. You will select one book from the list provided to you in the syllabus
   b. Having read the book, you will seek to find at least three (3) other reviews of the book in scholarly journals (read the book first, then find the book reviews). If the book is too new, then state this at the end of your review.
   c. You will then write a book review essay with the following sections:
      - Introduction (1/2 page—summarize main argument of book)
      - Overview (2-3 pages—summarize the book’s sections). N.B. do not go chapter by chapter through the book. Pick three or four organizing themes that will allow you to cover the basic argument and movement of the book.
      - Reflection (1-2 pages). Here I want you to think about issues related to Presbyterian identity—how does this book inform your understanding of Presbyterian beliefs, practices, and stories.
      - Summary and recommendation (1 page—render an opinion regarding the value of the book)
      - Note at the end of your review, which other book reviews you read.
   d. If you refer to primary or secondary resources, please conform to the most recent edition of the Chicago Manual of Style.
   e. Do not exceed 7 pages.
   f. Your book review essay will have two grades. The first grade (approximately 65%) will be for content—how well did you understand and summarize the argument of the book? The second grade (approximately 35%) will be for style—how well did you write this review essay? These two grades will combine for this portion of your overall grade.
   g. **This book review essay will be due Friday, February 6, 2015.** No late papers accepted. You may place this in my box in the Dean Center or give a copy to my TA. Please do not email your paper to me.
2. **Research paper (12-15 pages)**
   a. You will develop a basic thesis on some topic relating to Presbyterian history and email it to the instructor for his approval.
   b. You will then research that topic and thesis, consulting primary and secondary sources. N.B. you will be graded down if you do not engage relevant secondary literature.
   c. You will structure your argument in the following fashion:
      - Introduction (1-2 pages): introduce your subject, grab readers attention, summarize significance, state argument/thesis
      - Body of the work (8-10 pages): lay out your evidence, think in terms of outline and structure, use headings.
      - Conclusion (1-2 pages): give me the “So what?” Why is this important in Presbyterian history? In American history? In Christian history? At all?
   d. You would be wise to consult with the instructor at some point during your research and writing in order to make sure you are arranging your argument well. In addition, I expect you to write with your very best style.
   e. If you refer to primary or secondary resources, please conform to latest edition of the Chicago Manual of Style.
   f. Your paper will have two grades. The first grade (approximately 65%) will be for content—how well did you set out and support your argument? The second grade (approximately 35%) will be for style—how well did you write this review paper? These two grades will combine for this portion of your overall grade.
   g. The best paper will be submitted with my recommendation to the PCA Historical Center to compete for the Aiken Taylor Prize.
   h. **This research paper will be due February 6, 2015.** No late papers accepted. You may place this in my box in the Dean Center or give a copy to my TA. Please do not email your paper to me.

**Possible Lecture Topics and Assigned Readings**

**Monday, January 5, 2015**

*Morning*

Syllabus

**Lecture 1: Presbyterians in the New World: Ethnicity, Theology, and Polity in the Colonies**
Hart and Muether, 1-32
*Presbyterian Enterprise*, 11-27

**Lecture 2: The Adopting Act: Theological Tensions and Confessional Solutions**
Hart and Muether, 33-49
*Presbyterian Enterprise*, 27-32.

*Afternoon*

**Lecture 3: Old Side/New Side: Presbyterians in the Great Awakening**
Hart and Muether, 50-69
*Presbyterian Enterprise*, 33-49, 54-57, 62-68

**Lecture 4: Presbyterians in a Revolutionary Age: Republicanism in Church and Country**
Hart and Muether, 70-88
Tuesday, January 6, 2015

Morning
Lecture 5: Presbyterians United and Divided: From the Plan of Union to the Old School/New School Division
Hart and Muether, 91-127
*Presbyterian Enterprise*, 102-4, 111-118, 143-149, 151-71

Lecture 6: The Professionalization of Presbyterian Theology: Theological Schools, Streams, and Stands
Hart and Muether, 128-146

Afternoon
Lecture 7: Slavery and the Civil War
Hart and Muether, 147-165
*Presbyterian Enterprise*, 199-221
Lucas, *Dabney*

Wednesday, January 7, 2015

Morning
Lecture 8: Northern Presbyterians from the Civil War to the Great War
Hart and Muether, 169-87

Afternoon
Lecture 9: Northern Presbyterian Fundamentalism
Hart and Muether, 188-204
*Presbyterian Enterprise*, 268-9, 276-8, 280-288
Hart, *Defending the Faith*

Lecture 10: The Various Streams of Northern Conservative Presbyterianism
Hart and Muether, 205-221

Thursday, January 8, 2015

Morning
Lecture 11: Southern Presbyterians during Reconstruction and Redemption
Hart and Muether, 222-237

Afternoon:
Lecture 12: For a Continuing Church: Southern Presbyterians and the Formation of the PCA
Hart and Muether, 238-262
*Presbyterian Enterprise*, 289-90
Lucas, *For a Continuing Church.*
Possible Books for Book Review Essay

Milton J. Coalter, Jr., Gilbert Tennent, Son of Thunder (Greenwood, 1986).
Jeffry H. Morrison, John Witherspoon and the Founding of the American Republic (U of Notre Dame, 2005).
David B. Calhoun, Our Southern Zion: Old Columbia Seminary, 1828-1927 (Banner of Truth, 2012).
Erskine Clarke, Dwelling Place: A Plantation Epic (Yale UP, 2005). [Charles Colcock Jones]
Harold M. Parker, The United Synod of the South: The Southern New School Presbyterian Church (Greenwood, 1988).
Lefferts A. Loetscher, The Broadening Church: A Study of Theological Issues in the Presbyterian Church since 1869 (UPenn Pr, 1954).
D. G. Hart and John Muether, Fighting the Good Fight: A Brief History of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church (OPC, 1995).
George P. Hutchinson, The History Behind the Reformed Presbyterian Church, Evangelical Synod (Mack, 1974).
Peter Slade, Open Friendship in a Closed Society: Mission Mississippi and a Theology of Friendship (OUP, 2009).
Sean Michael Lucas, Blessed Zion: First Presbyterian Church, Jackson, Mississippi, 1837-2012 (FPC, 2013).