A survey of the history of American Presbyterianism from its roots in the Reformed tradition to events in the twenty-first century, focusing on key historical events and controversies that gave rise to and shaped particular denominations, major leaders who influenced Presbyterian theology and its prominent institutions, and the reciprocal relation between Presbyterianism and American culture.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. **TEXTS**: The following texts are required for the course:


   A biography of a prominent figure in American Presbyterian History

   Additional reading: to be assigned. In all, 1000 pages are required for the course.

2. **EXAMS**: There will be midterm and final exams containing both objective and essay questions. The tests will cover readings assigned and lecture material. Additional information about the exams will be given at a later date so that students may successfully prepare for them.

3. **CLASS FORMAT**: We will adopt a seminar format for this course. Students are to download the lecture outline for each class and read the sections from the texts assigned for that lecture. Class will be devoted to discussion and clarification of those notes and readings. **Come prepared to contribute to the discussion.**

4. **WRITING ASSIGNMENT**: Students will select a figure or a topic in the history of American Presbyterian as the subject of a 10-15 page term paper. You will present the results of your research in class at the point in the semester when your topic appears in the schedule of lectures.

5. **GRADES**: Grades for the course will be based upon the following elements:

   Paper and class presentation 40%
   Reading Report on assigned pages 10%
   Midterm Exam 20%
   Final Exam 30%
**CLASS ATTENDANCE:** Given the amount of material to be covered in the time allotted, students should make every effort to attend all classes.

**GENERAL OUTLINE OF THE CLASS MATERIAL**

1. Introduction: The American Presbyterian Dilemma
2. Colonial Presbyterianism
3. A National Church
4. The Evangelical Social Empire
5. Princeton Seminary and the Flowering of American Presbyterianism
6. Civil War
7. The Gilded Age and Progressive Presbyterianism
8. The Presbyterian Controversy
9. Karl Barth and the Split P’s
10. The Southern Presbyterian Story and the Formation of the PCA
11. Mainline Demise and Vanishing Presbyterianism
12. Conclusion: Whither Presbyterianism?
READING REPORT FOR AMERICAN PRESBYTERIANISM

Complete and sign this form and return along with final exam.

Assigned reading:  

# of pages read

Armstrong, et. al., *The Presbyterian Enterprise*  

___________

Hart and Muether, *Seeking a Better Country*  

___________

Biography (title: ________________________________)  

___________

Additional Reading (use back if necessary):

The total number of pages I have read for this course is ____________.

Signed: ____________________________________________ Date: ___________
Student’s Name

Please Print: ________________________________
Student’s Name
### Course Objectives Related to MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes

**Course:** American Presbyterianism  
**Professor:** John Muether  
**Campus:** Orlando  
**Date:** Spring 2015

*As the MDiv is the core degree at RTS, the MDiv rubric will be used in this syllabus.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes</th>
<th>Rubric</th>
<th>Mini-Justification</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Articulation (oral &amp; written)</strong></td>
<td>Broadly understands and articulates knowledge, both oral and written, of essential biblical, theological, historical, and cultural/global information, including details, concepts, and frameworks.</td>
<td>Strong</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Scripture</strong></td>
<td>Significant knowledge of the original meaning of Scripture. Also, the concepts for and skill to research further into the original meaning of Scripture and to apply Scripture to a variety of modern circumstances. (Includes appropriate use of original languages and hermeneutics; and integrates theological, historical, and cultural/global perspectives.)</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Reformed Theology</strong></td>
<td>Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sanctification</strong></td>
<td>Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student’s sanctification.</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Desire for Worldview</strong></td>
<td>Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.</td>
<td>Strong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Winsomely Reformed</strong></td>
<td>Embraces a winsomely Reformed ethos. (Includes an appropriate ecumenical spirit with other Christians, especially Evangelicals; a concern to present the Gospel in a God-honoring manner to non-Christians; and a truth-in-love attitude in disagreements.)</td>
<td>Strong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Preach</strong></td>
<td>Ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Worship</strong></td>
<td>Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service.</td>
<td>Minimal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Shepherd</strong></td>
<td>Ability to shepherd the local congregation: aiding in spiritual maturity; promoting use of gifts and callings; and encouraging a concern for non-Christians, both in America and worldwide.</td>
<td>Minimal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Church/World</strong></td>
<td>Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.</td>
<td>Strong</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>