Course Description
This class is an introduction to the faith and practice of Presbyterianism in America. The course will trace the historical path of the American Presbyterian family as it has unfolded from the colonial period up to the present day. Emphasis will be placed on major events, movements, controversies, institutions and personalities that have helped shape the contemporary church’s faith. In telling the uniquely American story of Presbyterianism, the course will address the changing culture of the United States and its impact on Presbyterians.

Required Texts

Course Requirements
1. **Reading Report** (due the last day of the exam period – Dec. 11)
   Students are expected to read in its entirety *The Presbyterian Enterprise, The Presbyterian Creed* and *The Presbyterian Controversy*. A Reading Report is attached.

2. **Research Paper** (due last day of exam week – Dec. 11)
   Students will write a 15-18 page (minimum) research paper on an event, movement, controversy or person in American Presbyterian history. The paper should include research into primary sources as well as secondary sources. Lectures and text books will assist students to identify a paper topic as well as guidance from the instructor. Approval of the research topic is required. Please write the paper in 12-point font, double-spaced with footnotes and bibliography. Summaries of one’s research will be presented in class to fellow students. No final exam.

3. **Class Participation** – Per seminary policy, it is required that students be present for all class sessions. In an emergency, you may notify professor that you have been providentially hindered. There will no class on September 3 (labor day) or November 12.

Grading
Class participation - 25%
Reading Report - 25%
Research Paper - 50%
Course Objectives Related to MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes

Course: HT607 American Presbyterianism  
Professor: Dr. Don Fortson  
Campus: Charlotte  
Date: Fall 2018

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<th>MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes</th>
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| **Articulation (oral & written)** | Broadly understands and articulates knowledge, both oral and written, of essential biblical, theological, historical, and cultural/global information, including details, concepts, and frameworks. | Strong | 1. Historical research papers  
2. Presentation of research to peers in classroom |
| **Scripture** | 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.) | Moderate | 1. Discuss use of Scripture in Presbyterian controversies  
2. Changing views of inspiration/authority of Scripture among Presbyterians |
| **Reformed Theology** | Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards. | Strong | 1. Reformed heritage of American Presbyterianism  
2. Historic Presbyterian subscription to Westminster Standards |
| **Sanctification** | Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student’s sanctification. | Minimal | 1. Spiritual motivation for mission and ministry |
| **Desire for Worldview** | Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God. | Minimal | 1. Presbyterian desire to glorify God in all things  
2. Presbyterian home and world missions |
| **Winsomely Reformed** | 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.) | Strong | 1. Ethos of Colonial Presbyterianism  
2. Revivalism  
3. Cooperative mission agencies |
| **Preach** | Ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm. | None | |
| **Worship** | Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service. | Minimal | 1. History of Presbyterian Worship |
| **Shepherd** | 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. | None | |
| **Church/World** | Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues. | Strong | 1. Presbyterian involvement in social issues, politics  
2. Ecclesiastical politics |
American Presbyterian Chronology

The Colonial Era
1667      Presbyterian Congregation in Newark, NJ
1706      First Presbytery in America
1717      Synod of Philadelphia
1727      Log College
1729      The Adopting Act
1741      Old Side/New Side Schism
1745      Synod of New York
1758      Reunion of Synods of Philadelphia and New York
1768      John Witherspoon, President of College of N.J.
1788      Presbyterian Constitution ratified
1789      First General Assembly

Old School/New School Period
1801      Plan of Union
1810      Cumberland Presbyterian Church
1812      Princeton Seminary
1818      GA Declaration on Slavery
1831      First Trial of Albert Barnes
1837      Auburn Declaration
1838      Old School/New School Schism
1858      United Synod of the South (NS)
1861      Presbyterian Church, C.S.A. (OS)
1864      Reunion OS/NS in the South (PCUS)
1870      Reunion OS/NS in the North (PCUSA)
1893      Trial of Professor Charles Briggs

Twentieth Century
1903      Two new chapters added to WCF
1906      Union of Cumberland and PCUSA
1910      GA adopts 5 Fundamentals
1924      Auburn Affirmation
1925      Scopes Monkey Trial
1929      Westminster Theological Seminary
1936      Orthodox Presbyterian Church (OPC)
1958      Union of UPCNA and PCUSA - UPCUSA
1964      Ordination of Women, PCUS
1967      Book of Confessions and Confession of 67, UPCUSA
1973 Presbyterian Church in America (PCA)  
1982 RPCES joins PCA  
1981 Evangelical Presbyterian Church (EPC)  
1983 Reunion of UPUSA and PCUS to form the PC (U.S.A.)

American Presbyterianism

Reading Report

Please state the percentage of the Required Reading that you have completed.

Armstrong, et.al., The Presbyterian Enterprise  __________ %

Fortson, The Presbyterian Creed  __________ %

Longfield, The Presbyterian Controversy  __________ %

___________________________________________            ________________________
Name         Date
Expected Student Academic Ethics
(From Student Handbook)

Internet Use in the Classroom
We recognize that internet access in the classroom provides opportunity for abuse and misuse. Some students have unfortunately used their internet access to engage in many activities that distract them from the classroom lectures (e.g., surfing the web, checking sports scores, playing games, texting, reading email). Not only does such activity hamper a student’s own seminary education, but it distracts other students who can see the screens of nearby students. In addition, donors and classroom guests (who often sit in the back) can see this inappropriate internet usage, which reflects poorly on RTS. We expect each student to take personal responsibility for their behavior in this area and to encourage others around them to do the same. All RTS-Charlotte students are accountable to the policies stated in the Student Handbook and the Academic Catalog, and are therefore expected to use technology in the classroom only for appropriate class-related activities.

Plagiarism
Research papers require borrowing other people’s ideas and words. However, the source of such borrowing must be acknowledged properly so that your ideas are clearly distinguished from ideas that you borrowed. If the source is not acknowledged properly, your work is plagiarism. For an excellent summary on what constitutes plagiarism, see Kate L. Turabian, A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertation (rev. by Wayne C. Booth, etc.; 8th ed.; Chicago: University of Chicago Pres, 2013), pp. 78-81 (section 7.9). Consult library staff for help in proper citation of sources.

Plagiarism includes word-for-word copying, lifting terms, restatement of someone’s argument or line of thought, etc.—all without acknowledgment of source. Plagiarism also includes giving a source partial credit when more is taken from that source than indicated.

Plagiarism, whether intentional or unintentional, is very serious. All plagiarism cases are referred to the Academic Dean for resolution. Consequences may include some of the following:
- Repeat the assignment and receive a maximum of a D on the assignment.
- Receive an F on the assignment
- Receive an F in the course
- Expulsion from the seminary
Surveys of American Presbyterian History

The Forming of an American Tradition, Leonard Trinterud, 1949
The Constitutional History of the Presbyterian Church in United States of America, Charles Hodge, 1840
New England Calvinism and the Disruption of the Presbyterian Church, Earl A. Pope, 1987
A History of the New School, Samuel J. Baird, 1856
A History of the Presbyterian Church in America from its Origin Until the Year 1760 with Biographical Sketches of its Ministers, Richard Webster, 1857
History of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, 2 Vols., E. H. Gillett, 1864
A History of the Southern Presbyterian Church, Thomas C. Johnson, 1894
A Brief Sketch of the United Synod of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, Thomas C. Johnson, reprint, 1894
The United Synod of the South, Harold M. Parker, 1988
American Presbyterianism: Its Orgin and Early History, Charles A. Briggs, 1885
The Presbyterian Church New School, 1837-1869, Edward D. Morris, 1905
The Presbyterian Creed, S. Donald Fortson, 2008
Evangelical Mind and New School Presbyterian Experience, George Marsden, 1970
The Broadening Church: A Study of Theological Issues in the Presbyterian Church Since 1869, Lefferts Loetscher, 1954
The Presbyterian Controversy: Fundamentalists, Modernists, & Moderates, Bradley Longfield, 1991
The Presbyterian Conflict, Ewin Rian, 1940
Presbyterian Ministry in American Culture, E.A. Smith, 1962
Presbyterian Worship in America: Changing Patterns Since 1787, Julius Melton, 1967
Presbyterians in the South, 3 Vols. E.T. Thompson, 1963
A Brief History of the Presbyterians, Loefferts Loetscher, 1978
A Brief History of the Presbyterians, James Smylie, 1996
The Presbyterians, Randall Balmer and John R. Fitzmier, 1994
Seeking a Better Country, D.G. Hart and John R. Muether, 2007
General Assembly Minutes and Digests***

Minutes of the Presbyterian Church in America, 1706-1788, ed. Guy S. Klett, 1977
Minutes of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, 1789-1837
Minutes of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America (Old School), 1837-1869
A Collection of the Act, Deliverances, and Testimonies of the Supreme Judicatory of the Presbyterian Church from its Origin in America to the Present Time, ed. Samuel J. Baird, 1856
A New Digest of the Acts and Deliverances of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, ed. William E. Moore, 1861
How Has the Gold Become Dim: The Decline of the Presbyterian Church, U.S. As Reflected in Its Assembly Actions, Morton H. Smith, 1973

***See each Denomination=s Annual Record of General Assembly Meetings in GA Minutes

Reference Works and Bibliographies

Presbyterian Encyclopedia, Alfred Nevin, 1884
Encyclopedia of the Reformed Faith, Donald McKim, 1992
Dictionary of the Presbyterian & Reformed Tradition in America, D.G. Hart and Mark Noll, 1999
Bibliography of Published Articles on American Presbyterianism, 1901-1980, Harold Parker, 1985

Selected Readings from Primary Sources

The Presbyterian Enterprise: Sources of American Presbyterian History, Armstrong, Loetscher, Anderson, 1956
American Presbyterians and the American Revolution: A Documentary Account, Journal of
Presbyterian History, ed., James Smylie, Winter 1974
Paradigms in Polity: Classic Readings in Reformed and Presbyterian Church Government, David Hall and Joseph Hall, 1994

Presbyterian Historical Journal

Journal of Presbyterian History (also known as American Presbyterians, Journal of the Presbyterian Historical Society) - Hundreds of articles on Presbyterian History, published continuously since 1901

Historical Presbyterian Theological Journals, News Magazines and Newspapers (partial list)

The Presbyterian, (Northern Old School newspaper)
The Southern Presbyterian (Southern Old School newspaper)
American Presbyterian and Theological Review - New School Journal
Presbyterian Quarterly Review - New School Journal
Southern Presbyterian Review - Southern Old School Journal
The Presbyterian Outlook - PCUSA
The Presbyterian Survey - PCUS
The Southern Presbyterian Journal (Presbyterian Journal) - conservative, PCUS
The News, (Presbyterians Today) - PC(USA)
The Presbyterian Layman - conservative, PC(USA)