Reformed Theological Seminary - Charlotte

AMERICAN PRESBYTERIANISM

Fall 2020 (Wednesdays 1:00 – 3:00)

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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

- Armstrong, Maurice W., Lefferts A. Loetscher and Charles A. Anderson. *The Presbyterian Enterprise: Sources of American Presbyterian History*. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1956 (Reprint: Wipf and Stock)
- Fortson, S. Donald. *The Presbyterian Creed: A Confessional Tradition in America 1729-1870*. Paternoster Press, 2008 (Reprint: Wipf and Stock).
- Longfield, Bradley J. *The Presbyterian Controversy*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1991.

Course Requirements

1. **Reading Report** (**due the last day of the exam period – Dec. 8**)
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. 8**)
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.

Grading

Class participation - 25%
Reading Report - 25%
Research Paper - 50%

Course Objectives Related to MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes

MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes *In order to measure the success of the MDiv curriculum, RTS has defined the following as the intended outcomes of the student learning process. Each course contributes to these overall outcomes. This rubric shows the contribution of this course to the MDiv outcomes.* **As the MDiv is the core degree at RTS, the MDiv rubric will be used in this syllabus.*		**Rubric** ➢ Strong ➢ Moderate ➢ Minimal ➢ None	**Mini-Justification**
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 <u>Required Reading</u> 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*

AMERICAN PRESBYTERIAN BIBLIOGRAPHY

Surveys of American Presbyterian History

Biographical Sketches of the Founder and Principal Alumni of the Log College. Together with an Account of the Revivals of Religion Under Their Ministry, Archibald Alexander
Colonial Presbyterianism, ed. S. Donald Fortson, 2007.
The Forming of an American Tradition, Leonard Trinterud, 1949
The Constitutional History of the Presbyterian Church in United States of America, Charles Hodge, 1840
A History of the Rise, Progress, Genius, and Character of American Presbyterianism: Together with a Review of the Constitutional History of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, by Chas. Hodge, D.D. Professor in the Theological Seminary at Princeton, N.J., William Hill, 1839
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
Princeton Seminary, Vol.1, 1812-1868, Vol.2, 1869-1929, David B. Calhoun, 1996
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
American Presbyterians: A Pictorial History, James H. Smylie, *Journal of Presbyterian History*, Spring/Summer, 1985
Longfield, Bradley J. *Presbyterians and American Culture: A History*. Louisville: Westminster

John Knox Press, 2013.

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 Chruch in the United States of America, 1789-1837
Minutes of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Chruch n the United States of America (New School) Vol.1: 1838-1858, Vol.2: 1859-69
Minutes of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Chruch 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
A Digest of the Acts and Proceedings of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States, Revised Down to and Including the General Assembly of 1910, ed. W.A. Alexander and G.F. Nicolassen, 1911
Digest of the Acts and Deliverances of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, Vol. 1, ed. Lewis S. Mudge and William P. Finney, 1930
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
A Bibliography of American Presbyterianism During the Colonial Period, Leonard J. Trinterud, 1968
Bibliography of Published Articles on American Presbyterianism, 1901-1980, Harold Parker, 1985
A Bibliographic Essay in *The Presbyterians*, Balmer and Fitzmier, 1994

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)
The Biblical Repertory and Princeton Review (Princeton Review, Presbyterian Review) - Old School Journal by Princeton Faculty, Annual Reviews of GA
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)