

Religion and War in American History

(Divinity/Religion 3230)

Fall 2004

Thursdays, 11:00 - 12:50; Divinity 138

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Course Description

This seminar invites students to explore the interactions between religion and war in American history. The course considers the various functions of religion in social and political crises, contrasting theological interpretations of violence, and the religious construction of national identity through warfare. The organization of the course will be chronological, concentrating on specific conflicts and themes.

The syllabus and readings for this course are available online through OAK ("Online Access to Knowledge"), Vanderbilt University's course management system. Students log in to OAK at <http://www.vanderbilt.edu/oak> by clicking the "log in to Blackboard" option.

Course Requirements:

1. *Attendance, Reading, and Participation.* Since the seminar meets only once per week, attendance at all sessions is particularly important. The calendar of topics and assignments lists the assigned readings for each session. Students should study the readings carefully in preparation for class discussions. (10% of final grade).
2. *Reading Notes.* Students should submit brief notes on selected reading assignments. In these notes students should clearly identify the **thesis** of the assigned essay or book, the **evidence** used to support the thesis, the progression of the **argument**, and the **implications** of the work for the study of religion in American history. Students should complete these notes for each reading assignment that is marked with an asterisk (*) in the syllabus. Along with the notes, students should submit a list of **questions** on each week's readings. These questions should demonstrate careful reflection on the assigned readings, focusing especially on drawing comparisons between the readings, identifying areas of overlap and conflict. There are eleven reading notes assignments, but the instructor will count only the ten highest scores in computing the final grade (10 @ 5% = 50% of final grade).
3. *Review Essays.* In consultation with the instructor, each student should prepare a review essay on a topic of interest within the scope of the course. In most cases the essays will focus on four books that evaluate some aspect of religion in a war or conflict. If books are not available or appropriate, a selection of articles may be used. Students should consult with the instructor in selecting topics and texts. Review essays should be approximately 5000 words in length. Review

essays should include either footnotes or endnotes, formatted according to the guidelines in Kate L. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*. Students should have topics approved by the instructor by Thursday, **4 November**. The instructor will read and comment on any draft submitted by Thursday, **18 November**. The final version of the essay is due no later than Monday, **13 December 2004**. Students should submit review essays in electronic form, through email attachment or the Digital Drop Box in OAK (40% of final grade).

In preparation for the writing assignments in this course, students should read Edward Bailey, *Writing Clearly: A Contemporary Approach* (assigned chapters available in OAK).

The Honor Code of Vanderbilt University applies to all aspects of this course.

Texts

Abzug, Robert H. *America Views the Holocaust, 1933-1945: A Brief Documentary History*. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's, 1999.

Bailey, Edward P. *Writing Clearly: A Contemporary Approach*. Columbus, Ohio: C.E. Merrill Pub. Co., 1984.

Brown, Robert M., Abraham J. Heschel, and Michael Novak. *Vietnam: Crisis of Conscience*. New York: Association Press, 1967.

Cherry, Conrad, ed. *God's New Israel: Religious Interpretations of American Destiny*. Revised and updated ed. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1998.

Heimert, Alan. *Religion and the American Mind: From the Great Awakening to the Revolution*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1966.

Hoffman, Ronald and Peter J. Albert, eds. *Religion in a Revolutionary Age: Perspectives on the American Revolution*. Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, 1994.

Katz, Stanley Nider, John M. Murrin, and Douglas Greenberg, eds. *Colonial America: Essays in Politics and Social Development*. 5th ed. New York: McGraw-Hill, 2001.

Klejment, Anne, and Nancy L. Roberts. *American Catholic Pacifism: The Influence of Dorothy Day and the Catholic Worker Movement*. Westport, Conn.: Praeger, 1996.

Lepore, Jill. *The Name of War: King Philip's War and the Origins of American Identity*. New York: Knopf/Random House, 1998.

Meyerowitz, Joanne J. *History and September 11th, Critical Perspectives on the Past*. Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 2003.

Miller, Randall M., Harry S. Stout, and Charles Reagan Wilson. *Religion and the American Civil War*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1998.

Plumstead, A. W., editor. *The Wall and the Garden: Selected Massachusetts Election Sermons, 1670-1775*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1968.

Sittser, Gerald L., *A Cautious Patriotism: The American Churches and the Second World War*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1997.

Slotkin, Richard, and James K. Folsom, eds. *So Dreadfull a Judgment: Puritan Responses to King Philip's War, 1676-1677*. 1st ed. Middletown, Conn.: Wesleyan University Press, 1978.

Calendar of Topics and Assignments

Introduction to the Course

(26 August)

I. Native American Conflicts

(2-16 September)

Contact and Conflict (9/2)

Primary sources:

Bartolomé de Las Casas, *Tears of the Indians* (1656)

Secondary studies:

*Seed, Patricia. "Taking Possession and Reading Texts: Establishing the Authority of Overseas Empires." *William and Mary Quarterly* 49 (1992): 183-209.

David Weber, "Conquistadores of the Spirit" in Katz, Stanley Nider, John M. Murrin, and Douglas Greenberg, eds. *Colonial America: Essays in Politics and Social Development*, 47-89.

Ramón Gutiérrez, "Pueblo Revolt and Its Aftermath" in Katz, Stanley Nider, John M. Murrin, and Douglas Greenberg, eds. *Colonial America: Essays in Politics and Social Development*, 419-430.

Naming Wars (9/16)

Primary sources:

Increase Mather, *A Brief History of the War With the Indians in New England* (1676) in Slotkin, Richard, and James K. Folsom, eds. *So Dreadfull a Judgment: Puritan Responses to King Philip's War*, 79-85; 170-200.

Rowlandson, Mary. *Narrative of the Captivity and Restoration of Mrs. Mary Rowlandson*. (1682), <http://www.gutenberg.net/dirs/etext97/crmmr10.txt>

Secondary study:

*Lepore, Jill. *The Name of War : King Philip's War and the Origins of American Identity*. 1st ed. New York: Knopf : Distributed by Random House, 1998.

II. American Revolution

(23 September – 7 October)

Religious Revival and American Revolution: Historiographical Conversations (9/23)

Heimert, Alan. *Religion and the American Mind: From the Great Awakening to the Revolution*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1966. P. 1-24.

Morgan, Edmund S. "Review of *Religion and the American Mind*, by Alan Heimert." *William and Mary Quarterly*, 3d ser., 24 (1967): 454-459.

Mead, Sidney E. "Through and beyond the Lines." *Journal of Religion* 48 (1968): 274-288.

McLoughlin, William G. "The American Revolution as a Religious Revival: 'The Millennium in One Country.'" *New England Quarterly* 40 (1967):99-110.

Murrin, John. "No Awakening, No Revolution? More Counterfactual Speculations." *Reviews in American History* (June 1983): 161-171.

*Goff, Philip. "Revivals and Revolution: Historiographic Turns since Alan Heimert's *Religion and the American Mind*." *Church History* 67 (1998): 695-721

Revolution and Millennialism (9/30)

Primary sources:

Samuel Langdon, "Government corrupted by Vice, and recovered by Righteousness" (1775) in Plumstead, A. W., editor. *The Wall and the Garden: Selected Massachusetts Election Sermons, 1670-1775*, 356-373.

Thomas Paine, *Common Sense* (1776) <http://www.constitution.org/tp/comsense.htm>

Secondary studies:

*Hatch, Nathan O. *The Sacred Cause of Liberty : Republican Thought and the Millennium in Revolutionary New England*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1977. Pp. 1-20; 139-175.

Endy, Melvin B., Jr. "Just War, Holy War, and Millennialism in Revolutionary America." *William and Mary Quarterly* 42, no. June (1985): 3-25.

Religion in Revolutionary America: Assessments and Legacies (10/7)

Primary source:

Ezra Stiles, *The United States Elevated to Glory and Honour*. In Cherry, Conrad. *God's New Israel:*

Religious Interpretations of American Destiny, 82-92.

Secondary Studies:

Wilson, John F. "Religion and Revolution in American History." *Journal of Interdisciplinary History* 23, no. 3 (1993): 597-613.

Noll, Mark A. "The American Revolution and Protestant Evangelicalism." *Journal of Interdisciplinary History* 23, no. Winter (1993): 615-38.

Frey, Sylvia R. "the Year of Jubilee Is Come: Black Christianity in the Plantation South in Post-Revolutionary America" in Hoffman, Ronald, Peter J. Albert, editors. *Religion in a Revolutionary Age: Perspectives on the American Revolution*, chapter 4.

Patricia U. Bonomi, "Religious Dissent and the Case for American Exceptionalism" in Hoffman, Ronald, Peter J. Albert, editors. *Religion in a Revolutionary Age: Perspectives on the American Revolution*, chapter 2.

*Jon Butler, "Coercion, Miracle, Reason: Rethinking the American Religious Experience in the Revolutionary Age" in Hoffman, Ronald, Peter J. Albert, editors. *Religion in a Revolutionary Age: Perspectives on the American Revolution*, chapter 1.

III. Civil War

(14 – 28 October)

Religious Catalysts for War (10/14)

Primary source:

Henry Ward Beecher, "The Battle Set in Array," in Cherry, Conrad. *God's New Israel: Religious Interpretations of American Destiny*, 169-183.

Secondary studies:

Carwardine, Richard J. "Methodists, Politics, and the Coming of the American Civil War." *Church History* 69 (September 2000): 578-609.

Eugene D. Genovese, "Religion in the Collapse of the American Union" in Miller, Randall M., Harry S. Stout, and Charles Reagan Wilson. *Religion and the American Civil War*, ch. 3.

*C. C. Goen, "Broken Churches, Broken Nation: Regional Religion and North-South Alienation in Antebellum America," *Church History* 52 (March 1983): 21-35.

Bertram Wyatt-Brown, "Church, Honor, and Secession" in Miller, Randall M., Harry S. Stout, and Charles Reagan Wilson. *Religion and the American Civil War*, chapter 4.

Slavery and the Ideologies of War (10/21)

Primary source:

Benjamin M. Palmer, National Responsibility before God in Cherry, Conrad. *God's New Israel: Religious Interpretations of American Destiny, 184-200*.

Secondary studies:

Haynes, Stephen R. "Original Dishonor: Noah's Curse and the Southern Defense of Slavery." *Journal of Southern Religion* 3, (January 2000) <http://jsr.as.wvu.edu/honor.htm>.

Elizabeth Fox-Genovese, "Days of Judgment, Days of Wrath: The Civil War and the Religious Imagination of Women Writers" in Miller, Randall M., Harry S. Stout, and Charles Reagan Wilson. *Religion and the American Civil War*, chapter 10.

Dan McKanan, *Identifying the Image of God: Radical Christians and Nonviolent Power in the Antebellum United States*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2002 (chapter 6, "Epics of Ambivalence: Nonviolent Power in Harriet Beecher Stowe's Antislavery Novels").

*Noll, Mark A. *America's God : From Jonathan Edwards to Abraham Lincoln*. Oxford ; New York: Oxford University Press, 2002. (chapter 19, "The Bible and Slavery").

Religious Legacies of the Civil War (10/28)

Primary source:

Abraham Lincoln, *Second Inaugural Address*,
<http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/presiden/inaug/lincoln2.htm>

Secondary studies:

Ronald C. White, Jr., "Lincoln's Sermon on the Mount: The Second Inaugural" in Miller, Randall M., Harry S. Stout, and Charles Reagan Wilson. *Religion and the American Civil War*, chapter 9.

Drew Gilpin Faust, "Without Pilot or Compass: Elite Women and Religion in the Civil War South" in Miller, Randall M., Harry S. Stout, and Charles Reagan Wilson. *Religion and the American Civil War*, chapter 11.

Samuel S. Hill, "Religion and the Results of the Civil War" in Miller, Randall M., Harry S. Stout, and Charles Reagan Wilson. *Religion and the American Civil War*, chapter 15.

Harry S. Stout and Christopher Grasso, "Civil War, Religion, and Communications: The Case of Richmond" in Miller, Randall M., Harry S. Stout, and Charles Reagan Wilson. *Religion and the American Civil War*, chapter 14.

*Charles Reagan Wilson, "The Religion of the Lost Cause: Ritual and Organization of the Southern Civil Religion, 1865-1920" *The Journal of Southern History* XLVI, no. 2 (May 1980): 219-238.

IV. World Wars (4-18 November)

World War I (11/4)

Primary sources:

C.F. Thomas, "Patriotism" in Cherry, Conrad. *God's New Israel: Religious Interpretations of American Destiny*, 273-78.

Woodrow Wilson, "Presenting the Treaty for Ratification" in Cherry, Conrad. *God's New Israel: Religious Interpretations of American Destiny*, 279-88.

Secondary studies:

Marsden, George M. *Fundamentalism and American Culture: The Shaping of Twentieth Century Evangelicalism, 1870-1925*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1980 (chapter XVI, "World War I, Premillennialism, and American Fundamentalism: 1917-1918").

*Putney, Clifford. *Muscular Christianity: Manhood and Sports in Protestant America, 1880-1920*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 2001 (chapter 7, "Christians in Khaki").

Piper, John F. "American Churches in World War I." *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 38 (1970): 147-155.

Klejment, Anne. "The Radical Origins of Catholic Pacifism: Dorothy Day and the Lyrical Left during World War I." In *American Catholic Pacifism*. Westport, Conn: Praeger, 1996. p. 15-32.

Juhnke, James C. "Mennonites and Ambivalent Civil Religion in World War I." *Mennonite Quarterly Review* 65 (1991): 160-168.

World War II (11/11)

Primary sources:

Fosdick, Harry Emerson. "If America Is Drawn into the War." *Christian Century* 58 (January 22 1941): 115-18.

Niebuhr, Reinhold. "The Christian Faith and the World Crisis." *Christianity and Crisis* 1 (February 10 1941): 4-6.

Niebuhr, Reinhold. "Pacifism and America First." *Christianity and Crisis* 1 (June 16, 1941): 2-6.

Franklin D. Roosevelt, "Annual Message to Congress, January 6, 1942," in Cherry, Conrad. *God's New Israel: Religious Interpretations of American Destiny*, 289-95.

Secondary studies:

*Sittser, Gerald Lawson. *A Cautious Patriotism: The American Churches and the Second World War*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1997 (chapters 4-6, 14).

Orser, W. Edward. "Racial Attitudes in Wartime: The Protestant Churches during the Second World War." *Church History* 41: (1972): 337-353.

The Holocaust and America (11/18)

Abzug, Robert H. *America Views the Holocaust, 1933-1945: A Brief Documentary History*. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's, 1999.

V. Vietnam War

(2 December)

Primary sources:

Robert M. Brown, Abraham J. Heschel, and Michael Novak. *Vietnam: Crisis of Conscience*. New York: Association Press, 1967.

Secondary studies:

Klejment, Anne, and Nancy L. Roberts. "The Catholic Worker and the Vietnam War." In *American Catholic Pacifism*. Westport, Conn: Praeger, 1996. P. 153-169.

*Porterfield, Amanda. *The Transformation of American Religion: The Story of a Late Twentieth-Century Awakening*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2001 (chapter 3, "Vietnam and the Ethics of Disenchantment")

VI. War, Terrorism, and America's "Religious" Identity

(9 December)

George W. Bush, "State of the Union Address (January 29, 2002)," <http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2002/01/20020129-11.html>

R. Scott Appleby, "History in the Fundamentalist Imagination" and Bruce Lawrence, "Conjuring with Islam, II," in Joanne Meyerowitz, ed., *History and September 11th*, 157-190. (Also available in *The Journal of American History* 89 (September 2002))

*Coles, Roberta L. "Manifest Destiny Adapted for 1990s' War Discourse: Mission and Destiny Intertwined." *Sociology of Religion* 63, no. 4 (2002): 403-26.

Fineman, Howard. "Bush and God." *Newsweek*, March 10, 2003, 22.

Johnson, Dirk. "A Nation Bounded by Faith." *Newsweek (International ed.)*, February 24, 2003, 18.