

THE CONTENT OF THIS DESCRIPTION IS NOT A LEARNING CONTRACT AND THE INSTRUCTOR IS NOT BOUND TO IT. IT IS OFFERED IN GOOD FAITH AND INTENDED AS A HELPFUL GUIDE TO THE STUDENT.

TITLE: American Religious Biography

TERM: Fall 2018-2019

PROFESSOR: Heather Vacek

CREDIT HOURS: 3

REGISTRATION: LIMITED TO: 8
AUDITORS: -

UNLIMITED _____
NO AUDITORS X

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course offers an investigation of the history of Christianity in America through the study of religious biography. The course explores the interaction of theology, context, and religious practice in the lives of Christians from the colonial era to the twentieth century. Rather than an abstract study of published theologies, institutions, and movements, this course acknowledges that a wide variety of individuals have asserted those theologies and shaped movements and organizations, and have done so from unique social locations.

CLASS OBJECTIVES:

This course invites students to explore how Christian belief and practices have shaped one another in concrete historical settings. Reading biographical monographs of religious figures and reflecting on those narratives in writing and in conversation, students will gain an appreciation for what it means to live, worship, and serve in particular historical contexts. Writing assignments invite students to make connections between the past and present in order to shape current and future life and ministry. Upon completion of this course students will be able to: 1) describe the historical relationship between context and the shape of Christian practice and 2) narrate the value of historical study to current lives of faith.

PREREQUISITES: CH01/CH02/CH03 (CH110/CH120)

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS/READING:

1. Margaret Bendroth, *The Spiritual Practice of Remembering* (\$10.77, 978-0802868978)
2. Catherine Brekus, *Sarah Osborn's World: The Rise of Evangelical Christianity in Early America* (\$30.00, 978-0300226911)
3. Jon Sensbach, *Rebecca's Revival: Creating Black Christianity in the Atlantic World* (\$19.16, 978-0674022577)
4. John Turner, *Brigham Young: Pioneer Prophet* (\$16.70, 978-0674416857)
5. Matthew Avery Sutton, *Aimee Semple McPherson and the Resurrection of Christian America* (\$23.00, 978-0674032538)
6. Barry Hankins, *Francis Schaeffer And the Shaping of Evangelical America* (\$16.90, 978-0802863898)

Additional, short readings will be posted on the course portal.

ASSIGNMENTS & GRADING:

Historical Context Summaries - 10%; Leadership of Class Discussion - 15%; Reading Responses - 25%; Discussion Board Contributions - 20%; Weekly Tweets - 5%; Final Project/Sermon - 20%; Participation - 5%.

ATTENDANCE: Required.

*****NOTE: This is a hybrid course. Odd weeks meet online and even weeks meet face-to-face campus.*****