



Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary DR 37380-01 The Modern Era

INSTRUCTOR/CLASS INFORMATION

Professor: Dr. Jason G. Duesing
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Semester: Spring Year: 2021 Credit: 4 hours

On-Campus Dates: April 19-23, 2021

Class Times: Monday 1-5 pm; Tues-Thurs 8am – 5 pm; Friday 8 am – 12 pm

Location: MBTS Campus, Kansas City, MO

COURSE DESCRIPTION

37380 The Modern Era

A seminar on the major events in the history and thought of Christianity from the post-Reformation period onwards. The seminar will include such topics as the emergence of Baptists, Revivals and Awakenings, the Age of Enlightenment, the Modern Missions Movement, the rise of Liberal Theology, the emergence of Cults and New Religious Movements, and Christians and Social Action.

COURSE OBJECTIVES AND INDICATORS

In the process of completion of DR 373780 through reading, class participation, and papers students should be able to:

1. Clearly articulate an advanced understanding of various aspects of the history and theology of the Christian Church in the Modern Era.
2. Demonstrate competence in historical and theological research skills.
3. Clearly define and evaluate various methods of biblical interpretation used in the history and thought of the Christian church in the Modern Era.
4. Demonstrate competence in applying the lessons of the modern period of Christian history to modern issues in Christian ministry and contemporary culture.

The above outlined objectives will be measured as follows:

Types of Assignments to Objectives Matrix

Assignments	Objective 1	Objective 2	Objective 3	Objective 4
Readings		X	X	
Writing paper	X	X	X	X
Presentation	X	X	X	
Discussion/Dialogue Participation	X	X	X	X

TEXT BOOKS & REQUIRED READING

1. *Early Modern Era History and Historical Theology*

Frey, Silvia R. and Betty Wood. *Come Shouting to Zion: African American Protestantism in the American South and British Caribbean to 1830*. The University of North Carolina Press, 1998. ISBN: 780807846810 \$45.00 213 pages.

Kidd, Thomas S. *The Great Awakening: The Roots of Evangelical Christianity in Colonial America*. Yale University Press, 2009. ISBN: 9780300158465 \$27.00 324 pages.

2. *Jonathan Edwards*

Edwards, Jonathan. *The Works of Jonathan Edwards, Vol. 2: Religious Affections*. Yale University Press, 2009. ISBN: 9780300158410 \$29.00 536 pages.

Edwards, Jonathan and Kyle Strobel. *Charity and Its Fruits: Living in the Light of God's Love*. Crossway, 2012. ISBN:9781433529702 \$20.00 352 pages.

Strachan, Owen and Douglas Sweeney, *The Essential Jonathan Edwards: An Introduction to the Life and Teaching of America's Greatest Theologian*. ISBN: 78080241821X \$15.00 428 pages.

3. *Later Modern Era History and Historical Theology*

Marsden, George M. *Fundamentalism and American Culture*. Second Edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2006. ISBN: 9780195300475 \$19.00 260 pages.

Strachan, Owen. *Awakening the Evangelical Mind*. Zondervan, 2015. ISBN: 9780310520795 \$18.00 180 pages.

5. *Modern Era Primary Sources*

Yeager, Jonathan M. *Early Evangelicalism: A Reader*. Oxford University Press, 2013. ISBN: 9780199916979 \$42.95 424 pages*

*Students select and read only twenty (20) selections of interest.

6. **Required Reading: Book Review**

Please pick a (1) book that aligns with your own area of research the most or desired area for further study. Turn in your top three choices in Canvas; the professors will make a final decision. If you would like to read and review a book not listed, please submit that title for consideration.

For any of the primary sources, students are to locate their own copies of these selection via the MBTS library or online sources. As long as the original text is used, the specific edition does not matter.

Barth, Karl. *Church Dogmatics*. via Keith L. Johnson. *The Essential Karl Barth: A Reader and Commentary*. Baker Academic, 2019. 384 pages.

Ford, David. *The Modern Theologians*, 3rd Edition. Wiley-Blackwell, 2005. 842 pages.

Holifield, E. Brooks. *Theology in America: Christian Thought from the Age of the Puritans to the Civil War*. New Haven & London: Yale University Press, 2003. 640 pages.

Machen, J. Gresham. *Christianity and Liberalism*. 1923.

Walter Rauschenbusch, *A Theology for the Social Gospel*. 1917.

Schleiermacher, Friedrich. *On Religion: Speeches to Its Cultured Despisers*. 1799.

von Harnack, Adolf. *What is Christianity?* 1901.

Warfield, B.B. *Revelation and Inspiration*. 1932.

REQUIREMENTS FOR DOCTORAL CREDIT

1. Assignments:

A. Required Reading and Class Participation (10%)

Each student will be required to read the required textbooks. On or before the first day of the on-campus portion of the seminar, each student will submit a statement attesting that he or she has read all of the assigned texts with reasonable care. A reading schedule is included at the end of the syllabus in the **Seminar Outline**.

Each student will be responsible for doctoral quality class participation. This will include paper presentations, as well as general discussions. Additionally, students will be graded on their thoroughness and thoughtfulness in responding to questions posed by the instructors as well as participation in seminar discussion. The following factors will be the basis for the assignment of letter grades for class discussion:

Student attends and participates in discussion.

Student shows evidence of having read the material.

Student indicates understanding of the material.

Student can apply the information when presented with examples.

Student understands how a given point relates to the larger reading and study of the topic.

Careful reading of all assignments, as well as participation in critical discussions of all readings, are expected of each seminar participant for each seminar meetings.

B. Critical Book Reviews and Reading Discussion Notes (45%)

Students will write (1) Critical Book Review that will be presented in class and used to facilitate class discussion over that topic reading(s). The reviews should strictly follow the doctoral style guide, be doctoral level quality, and be 8-10 pages, typed, double-spaced, 12 pt. Times New Roman. The reviews should include a brief summary and use the majority of the paper for critical interaction. The review should conclude with two "Questions for Further Discussion" to help launch the in-seminar discussion. The review must be posted via Canvas **by 9 p.m., the evening prior to the start of the seminar.**

Book review selections will be given on a first come first served basis. The student should request a book to review *from the final section of the readings* or *request another related title* via the Canvas Topic Request assignment to the professors and he or she should list their first, second, and third choices from the groups listed above by **February 22, 2021**. The professors will respond with the assigned topics by February 24 so the students can begin work on their assignments.

Students will write eight (8) Discussion Notes for the first assigned readings grouped above (Required Readings #1-5) and submit to Canvas by 9:00 p.m. **the evening prior to the start of the seminar.**

The (8) Discussion Notes should be 1-2 pages minimum, typed, single-spaced, 12 pt. Times New Roman with only the student's name and titles of the reading assignments at the top of the first page. The Discussion Notes will clearly state the book(s) thesis and should be written to enable the student to participate in the seminar discussions. The Discussion Notes will conclude with three questions the student has about the reading to prompt in-seminar conversation. Each student will be assigned one of the readings to serve as the discussion leader for that in-seminar discussion. No further preparation is required. See the following example for the Discussion Notes:

[First line] Author and Book, following Book Review format. The student's name should follow justified to the far right margin:

Baptists Through the Centuries: A History of a Global People. By David W. Bebbington. Pp. xii, 315. Waco, TX: Baylor University Press, 2010. £32. 978 1 602 58204 0

Jason G. Duesing

Thesis

This should be the last thing you write. A helpful exercise might be to take a first pass at the thesis after you read the introduction and then compare once you have completed the reading.

Notes

Questions for Discussion

C. Prospectus & Bibliography (5%)

Students will prepare and submit a one (1) page prospectus and preliminary bibliography for the research paper. The prospectus is a summary of the thesis and intentions of the paper. The prospectus and bibliography must be submitted via Canvas to the professors by 11:59 pm on **March 8, 2021**.

D. Research Paper & Presentation (40%)

Students will write a theological essay of at least 20 pages on a topic related to Modern Era theology or history. The student may request permission to write on another individual. The paper must utilize primary sources and *advance and defend a clear thesis*.

Topics will be approved on a first come first served basis. The student should request a topic via the Canvas assignment by **February 22, 2021**. The professors will respond with the assigned topics by February 24 so the students can begin work on their Prospectus & Bibliography assignment.

Papers on individuals should focus on their theological contribution or significance in church history, using their biography as a lens to discuss theological themes. Papers on councils, confessions, or movements should focus on the historical setting and any theological controversy surrounding the confession or movement.

The recommended doctoral style-guide is the standard for the writing of formal papers at Midwestern. Papers with grammatical and spelling errors will be penalized. Long and lengthy block quotes are not preferred. The research paper will be shared by the professors via Canvas to all students in the course by the start of the seminar. The date of presentation will be determined during the first seminar meeting.

The student will present his or her paper during the week of class and will then rework the paper in light of the class feedback for final submission by **June 4, 2021**. The initial paper is worth 12% of the paper grade and the rewrite is worth 18% of the paper. The class presentation will constitute 10% of the paper grade. The research paper must be posted via Canvas **by 9 p.m., the evening prior to the start of the seminar**.

2. Class Attendance:

Attendance at all sessions of any doctoral seminar is mandatory. Students may not miss more than one hour of any doctoral seminar at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

3. Late Assignments:

At the doctoral level, late work is unacceptable. Late work will not be accepted although consideration will be given on a case by case basis in the event of exceptional circumstances, such as a major illness or death in the family.

4. Typing:

All assignments are to be typed with the *Midwestern Style Manual* as your template. Please use a size 12, Times New Roman with one (1) inch margins on all four sides of the text. Double-space the text and use only left margin justification. Please save documents as Last Name, First Name- Course Number- Title of Paper.

5. General Requirements for Written and Oral Projects:

- A. This course is offered at the doctoral level and the work will be evaluated as such. Four credit hours will be awarded upon successful completion of the course.
- B. An exceptionally high quality of writing and grammar usage is important in the production of all class work and assignments. Assignments that show a lack of attention and low proficiency in writing and grammar skills will be returned ungraded for correction and resubmission. If that makes the paper late, late penalties will be assessed.
- C. Required resource to guide your research and writing:

Midwestern Seminary *Manual of Style* (latest edition).
- D. Make duplicates and keep copies of ALL assignments. Paper and electronic copies are like “academic insurance.”
- E. Plagiarism is forbidden. Plagiarism is the use of another person’s words or ideas in ways that cause those words or ideas to appear as if they are your own. The source of the words and ideas of others must be cited. Any assignment in which plagiarism is determined will receive an automatic zero (0) without any opportunity of make-up.

6. Computation of Final Grade:

Assignments are worth various points. The maximum points a student can accumulate is 100.

Reading and Class Participation	10%
Critical Book Review	25%
Reading Outlines	20%
Prospectus and Bibliography	5%
Research Paper	40%

TOTAL: 100 points

7. Final grades will be awarded on the following point system:

		A	97+	A-	94-96.9
B+	90-93.9	B	87-89.9	B-	85-86.9
C+	82-84.9	C	78-81.9	C-	760-77.9
D+	730-75.9	D	690-72.9	D-	650-68.9
F	64.9 or less				

In doctoral work, a grade of less than a B- is considered not passing

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. GPA System adopted by MBTS is:

A	4.0	B-	2.7	D+	1.3
A-	3.7	C+	2.3	D	1.0
B+	3.3	C	2.0	D-	0.7
B	3.0	C-	1.7	F	0.00

2. Method of Instruction:

The following methods of instruction will be included in this course:

- A. Discussion Boards
- B. Group Discussion and Dialogue
- C. Written Assignments
- D. Research Papers
- E. Reading
- F. Presentations

3. Disabilities:

The student has the responsibility of informing the professor of any medically documented disabling condition that will require modifications to avoid discrimination. Reasonable accommodations will be jointly developed between student and professor. The student is responsible to initiate any request for accommodations. Documentation may be required.

SEMINAR OUTLINE (Subject to Adjustment)

Dates	Suggested Reading Schedule	Assignments
February 22	Frey	Class begins. Students submit their top 3 books to review and preferred research paper topic
February 24		Book Review & Research Paper topics assigned
March 1	Kidd	
March 8	Edwards	Prospectus & Bibliography due
March 15	Edwards	

March 22	Edwards		
March 29	Marsden/Strachan		
April 5	Yeagar		
April 12	Book Review Selection		
April 18		Book Review due by 9 p.m. Research Paper (presentation draft) due by 9 p.m. Reading Outlines (12) due by 9 p.m.	
On Campus Date	8:30 a.m.-Noon	1:30-4:15 p.m.	7:00-9:00 p.m.
Monday April 19		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction & Professor Lectures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading & Research
Tuesday April 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Book Review Presentations & Reading Outline Discussion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Book Review Presentations & Reading Outline Discussion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading & Research
Wednesday April 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Book Review Presentations & Reading Outline Discussion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research Paper Presentations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading & Research
Thursday April 22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research Paper Presentations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research Paper Presentations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading & Research
Friday April 23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research Paper Presentations 		
June 4		Research Paper (Final Draft) Due	

COURSE BIBLIOGRAPHY

PhD The Modern Era

Methodology

Methods: Historical

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Bowden, Henry Warner. *Church History in the Age of Science: Historiographical Patterns in the United States, 1876-1918*. Carbondale: Southern Illinois University Press, 1991.

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*Bauman, Michael, and Martin I. Klauber. *Historians of the Christian Tradition: Their Methodology and Influence on Western Thought*. Nashville: Broadman and Holman, 1995.

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Fredrick, Marcille G. "Doing Justice in History: Using Narrative Frames Responsibly." In *History and the Christian Historian*, ed. Ronald A. Wells, 220-234. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1998.

- *Goode, Richard C. "The Radical Idea of Christian Scholarship: Plea For A Scandalous Historiography." In *Restoring the First-Century Church in the Twenty-First Century Essays on the Stone-Campbell Restoration Movement in Honor of Don Haymes*, eds. Warren Lewis and Hans Rollman, Studies in the History and Culture of World Christianities 1, 227-42. Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock Pub., 2005.
- Hart, Darryl G. "Christian Scholar, Secular Universities, and the Problem of the Antithesis." *Christian Scholar's Review* 30 (2001): 383-402.
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- _____. "A Christian Perspective for the Teaching of History." In *A Christian View of History?* eds. George Marsden and Frank Roberts, 31-49. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1975.
- _____. "The Spiritual Vision of History." *Fides et Historia* 14:1 (Fall/Winter 1981): 55-66.
- Marty, Martin E. "The Difference in Being a Christian and the Difference it Makes for History." In *History and Historical Understanding*, eds. C. T. McIntire and Ronald A. Wells, 41-54. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1984.
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