H-780: History and Theology of American Evangelicalism
Christian Theological Seminary
Fall, 2008

Contact Information
Instructor: Scott D. Seay, M.Div., Ph.D.
Office: Room 235
Office Hours: Tue., 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.; Wed., 1:00 – 5:00 p.m.
(and by appointment)
Office Phone: (317) 931-2347
E-mail: sseay@cts.edu

Course Description
This advanced course offers a sympathetic but critical exploration of both the history and theology of Protestant evangelicalism in the United States. Locating the roots of Protestant evangelicalism in the reformations of the 16th century, the course traces its development in the revivalism of the 18th and 19th centuries, and its current expressions in America (the so-called “neo-evangelical” movement). The course also engages students in discussions of contemporary works of constructive theology authored by Protestant evangelicals, especially as they deal with pressing issues for its churches and ministry (race relations, the role of women in the church, homosexuality, biblical authority, etc.).

Learning Objectives

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>Measure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trace out the history of Protestant evangelicalism in America from its beginnings to the present;</td>
<td>Class discussions; historical essay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Identify and describe the importance of key leaders, movements, and institutions that contribute to Protestant evangelicalism in America;</td>
<td>Class discussions; historical essay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engage in respectful dialogue about theological issues with an understanding of the perspective of Protestant evangelicalism;</td>
<td>Class discussions; theological essay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Describe the range of theological perspectives that Protestant evangelicals in America have on selected issues</td>
<td>Class discussions; theological essay</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Course Requirements**

1. **Class attendance and participation (20%)**: Because this will be a small course, the regular attendance and lively participation of every student is critical to its success. This means that you should:
   - Read the assigned materials carefully and completely *before* class;
   - Arrive on time for class and remain for the entire class session;
   - Inform the instructor ahead of time if missing class is absolutely necessary;
   - Remain attentive during all classroom activities;
   - Listen closely and respond respectfully to the instructor and fellow-students;
   - Submit all work for the course on time as required by the due dates; and,
   - Ask relevant questions during lectures and contribute to class discussions.

   You should expect this portion of your grade to be reduced significantly if you miss or are regularly late to class, appear not to have completed the readings, or fail to contribute to the class discussion. **Consistent with Seminary attendance policies, students who miss more than three class sessions—for whatever reason—will not receive credit for the course.**

2. **Definitional Essay (20%)**: You will be expected to prepare a brief essay (4-5 pp. in length) answering the question, “What is evangelicalism in America?” Detailed instructions for completing this essay will be distributed on the first day of class. **The essay is due on or before September 16.**

3. **Historical Essay (30%)**: You will be expected to write a fully documented, historical research paper (10-12 pp. in length) dealing with a topic of your choice related to the history of American evangelicalism. Detailed instructions for completing this essay will be distributed near the beginning of the course. **The essay is due on or before December 9.**
4. Theological Essay (30%): You will be expected to write a theological essay (10-12 pp. in length) in which you develop a constructive statement that explains your own perspective on some pressing theological issue relevant to evangelicals in America. The essay should lay out clearly biblical, theological, and practical issues involved in your position, and should contain some statement of how your study this semester has contributed to your understanding of ministry relative to the issue. 

The essay is due on or before December 9.

Late papers will be accepted only under the most extraordinary circumstances. Ordinarily, late papers will be subject to significant penalties in terms of grade.

You are strongly encouraged to consult with the instructor and begin working on these essays as early in the semester as possible. Students who wish to exercise the option to re-write the historical or theological essays must submit them initially on or before November 19.

If you have a certified learning disability or physical or emotional challenges, you are required to inform me within the first week of the course concerning any special accommodations that you require. All efforts, consistent with the overall learning objectives of the course will be made to meet these learning needs.

You are expected to adhere to the highest standards of academic integrity and honest in all of your work for this course. Accordingly, no plagiarism, fabrication, or cheating of any kind will be tolerated. I will report all incidents of academic dishonesty to the Dean of the Seminary, who will follow the disciplinary procedures outlined in the academic catalog. In cases where it has been proven that you have plagiarized, fabricated, or cheated in any way, you will fail this course.

An Important Note about Grades

You should know that I am stridently opposed to all forms of grade inflation. If you complete the basic requirements of the course satisfactorily, you can expect to receive an average final grade (C-range). If you fail to meet the basic requirements in some way, you can expect your final grade to be lower than that (D-range).

Because it is not an entitlement, an above average grade (B-range) must be earned by consistent effort and solid performance on all assigned work in the course. An exceptional grade (A-range) is just that: an exception to the rule. You will earn an exceptional grade only if you consistently perform above and beyond in all aspects of the course. I invite students who wish to earn above average or exceptional grades to consult with me about strategies for doing so.
This is the grading scale that I will use in this course:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>94-100%</td>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87-89%</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77-79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-93%</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>84-86%</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>74-76%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-83%</td>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70-73%</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>60-63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>D-</td>
<td>60-63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>F</td>
<td>59 and below</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Required Textbooks**

The following books, in whole or in part, are required reading for this course:

- Stanley Grenz, *Theology for the Community of God* (Eerdman’s, 2000)

These textbooks may be purchased in the Seminary bookstore and copies have been placed on reserve in the seminary library. If you have difficulty accessing any of these required resources, please let me know as soon as possible and I will assist you.

In addition to the required textbooks, I will provide 15 or so pages of additional readings from primary source documents each week during the first half of the course, to be read by the following week. These primary sources will deepen and enrich your understanding of American evangelicalism by bringing you into contact with the “lived religion” of people from the past.

Finally, you may find the following reference books helpful to your work in this course:

Course Schedule

Sep 2   Course Introduction
        Lecture: What is Evangelicalism?

History of American Evangelicalism

Sep 9   The Great Awakening
        Read: Sweeney, chs. 1-2

Sep 16  Revival, Social Reform, and the Benevolent Empire
        Read: Sweeney, ch. 3

Sep 23  Emergence of Evangelical World Mission
        Read: Sweeney, ch. 4

Sep 30  The Question of Race in American Evangelical History
        Read: Sweeney, ch. 5

Oct 7   The Holiness and Pentecostal Movement
        Read: Sweeney, ch. 6

Oct 14  No Class—Reading Week

Oct 21  Evangelicalism, Fundamentalism, and Neo-Evangelicalism
        Read: Sweeney, ch. 7

Theology and Practice in Contemporary American Evangelicalism

Oct 28  Systematic Theology
        Read: Grenz, *Theology for the Community of God*, Introduction and
        your assigned section

Nov 4   Gender and Contemporary Evangelicalism
        Read: Ingersoll, chs. 1-3

Nov 11  Gender and Contemporary Evangelicalism
        Read: Ingersoll, chs. 6-10

Nov 18  Homosexuality and Contemporary Evangelicalism
        Read: Grenz, *Welcoming but Not Affirming: An Evangelical Response to
        Homosexuality* (Westminster John Knox, 1998) – on reserve
Nov 25  No Class—Thanksgiving Recess

Dec 2  Race and Contemporary Evangelicalism  
Read: Emerson and Smith, Introduction and chs. 1-9

Dec 9  The Future of American Evangelicalism  
Read: Sweeney, Conclusion  
Webber, chs. 1-2, 17 and either chs. 3-7 or chs. 8-16

Dec 16  No Class—Examination Week

Suggestions for Further Reading and Research

1. Historical Studies


David Bebbington, *The Dominance of Evangelicalism: The Age of Spurgeon and Moody* (InterVarsity, 2005)


John Patrick Daly, *When Slavery was Called Freedom: Evangelicalism, Proslavery, and the Causes of the Civil War* (University Press of Kentucky, 2004)


Geoff Treolar and Stuart Piggin, *The Disruption of Evangelicalism: The Age of Mott, Machen, and McPherson* (InterVarsity, forthcoming)


2. **Contemporary Evangelicalism**


3. **Critical Biographies**


4. **Theology, Spirituality, and Intellectual Life**


J. Daryl Charles, *The Unformed Conscience of Evangelicalism: Recovering the Church’s Moral Vision* (InterVarsity, 2002)


Stanley Grenz and John Franke, *Beyond Foundationalism: Shaping Theology in a Postmodern Context* (Eerdmans, 2001)

--------------- Renewing the Center: Evangelical Theology in a Post-Theological Era 2nd Edition (Baker, 2006)


Alister McGrath, Passion for Truth: The Intellectual Coherence of Evangelicalism (InterVarsity, 1999)


--------------- The Scandal of the Evangelical Mind (Eerdmans, 1995)


5. Political Engagement and the Culture Wars

Francis Beckwith, Law, Darwinism, and Public Education: The Establishment Clause and the Challenge of Intelligent Design (Rowman and Littlefield, 2003)

Bruce Benson and Peter Heltzel, ed., Evangelical and Empire: Christian Alternatives to the Political Status Quo (Brazos Press, 2008)


David Gushee, The Future of Faith in Politics: The Public Witness of the Evangelical Center (Baylor University Press, 2008)


6. **Race, Ethnicity, and Gender**


John Bartkowski, *Remaking the Godly Marriage: Gender Negotiation in Evangelical Families* (Rutgers University Press, 2001)


Nancy Hardeesty, *Your Daughters Shall Prophesy: Revivalism and Feminism in the Age of Finney* (Carlson Publishers, 1991)


7. Religious Pluralism


