

CH/TH SXH3/6XH6 – HISTORY OF EVANGELICALISM

McMaster Divinity College

Winter Semester 2010

Thursday 1:30pm – 3:20pm

Instructor: Dr. Gordon L. Heath

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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The purpose of this course is to trace the development of evangelicalism from its early appearance in the Church of England to its present day varieties. Evangelicalism will also be related to other forms of Protestantism before it, and other Christian movements that have continued beside it, grown up with it, separated from it, or been influenced by it. The course will conclude with an examination of global evangelicalism.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Knowing

- to provide an understanding of how the evangelicalism has grown and developed in a variety of countries and continents
- to place the contemporary issues evangelicalism faces within a broader historical context
- to know how evangelicalism is similar to, and different from, other expressions of Christianity

Being

- to explore (and ultimately appreciate) the different expressions of spirituality as practiced by various evangelicals
- to provide a sense of “place” within the many church traditions, especially within evangelicalism

Doing

- to develop in each student an ability to assess documents and situations from an historical perspective

REQUIRED TEXTS:

- Mark Noll. *The Rise of Evangelicalism: The Age of Edwards, Whitefield and the Wesleys*. IVP, 2003.
- John Wolffe. *The Expansion of Evangelicalism: The Age of Wilberforce, More, Chalmers and Finney*. IVP, 2004?
- David Bebbington. *The Dominance of Evangelicalism: The Age of Spurgeon and Moody*. IVP, 2005.
- Gordon L. Heath. *Doing Church History: A User-friendly Introduction to Researching the History of Christianity*. Toronto: Clements Publishing, 2008.
- John Wesley. *The Journal of John Wesley*. Moody, 1974.
- Selected readings distributed in class.

All required textbooks for this class are available from the College's book service, READ On Bookstore, Room 218, McMaster Divinity College. Texts may be purchased on the first day of class. For advance purchase, you may contact READ On Bookstores, 304 The East Mall, Suite 100, Etobicoke, ON M9B 6E2; phone 416-620-2934; fax 416-622-2308; e-mail books@readon.ca. Other book services may also carry the texts.

ASSIGNMENTS:

- **Research Paper:** Each student will be asked to write a fifteen-page paper on the cause of a particular event in evangelicalism's history.
- **Biographical Presentation:** Each student is to present a ten-minute presentation on the life and impact of a prominent evangelical.
- **Reflection Paper:** Each student will submit a ten-page reflection on John Wesley's *Journal*.

Advanced degree students are expected to fulfill all assignments at an advanced degree level. They will also be required to prepare an annotated bibliography of ten books and ten articles in the area of their research paper, as well as write an additional 7500 words for the research paper.

GRADING:

Research Paper	40%
Biographical Presentation	20%
Reflection Paper	30%
Participation	10%

GENERAL COMMENTS:

- Academic dishonesty is a serious offence that may take any number of forms, including plagiarism, the submission of work that is not one's own or for which previous credit has been obtained, and/or unauthorized collaboration with other students. Academic dishonesty can result in severe consequences, e.g., failure of the assignment, failure of the course, a notation on one's academic transcript, and/or suspension or expulsion from the College. Students are responsible for understanding what constitutes academic dishonesty. Please refer to the Divinity College Statement on Academic Honesty ~ www.madciv.ca/regs/honesty.php.
- McMaster Divinity College uses inclusive language for human beings in worship services, student written materials, and all of its publications. In reference to biblical texts, the integrity of the original expressions and the names of God should be respected. The NRSV and TNIV are examples of the use of inclusive language for human beings. It is expected that inclusive language will be used in chapel services and all MDC assignments.
- Essays must be handed in at the beginning of the class on the day they are due. All other essays will be considered to be late. Students may be exempted from the late penalty of 3% per day (not including weekends) if they attach to their essay a letter explaining the genuine emergency that delayed them. Late assignments (even ones

with an extension) will not receive comments and constructive criticism from the professor.

- The essay should be handed directly to the instructor. To avoid any potential problems, students are advised to keep their working notes and a copy of their paper until a final mark has been received. Papers will be kept for a few months after the class – after that they get recycled.
- Unless noted otherwise, all written work must conform to the *McMaster Divinity College Style Guidelines for Essays and Theses*.
- Please turn off your cell phone and/or pager before the class begins.
- Please do not attend class if you are ill and contagious (e.g. the flu).

COMMENTS ON ASSIGNMENTS

• **Research Paper**

This fifteen-page typed, double-spaced, 12 point font, 1¼ inch margins paper is a paper that must argue a thesis based on primary and secondary source research. A clearly stated and argued thesis as to *why an event occurred* is central to this assignment. In order to do this, you must not only study primary sources, but also secondary sources. As you study the relevant secondary sources you will come to realize that different authors may have opposing interpretations as to why a particular event occurred. These differences are important to note and understand. See *Doing Church History* for further instructions.

- Choose an event that interests you (and one that you will be able to find enough research material).
- Use footnotes (not endnotes).
- Please include at the very end of the paper (after the bibliography) a one-page “personal reaction” to the issue you are studying. It does NOT count towards the five page total page count. This reaction can be as personal as you like, and is intended to give you a chance to react to the event outside of your more formal research paper. These comments will not be “graded.”

Near the end of the semester all students will have an opportunity to share the results of their research with the entire class.

• **Biographical Presentation**

Please keep the following in mind as you prepare for your presentation.

1. You do not need to pass in your notes to the professor. However, please have a handout for the class that includes a bibliography, outline and key information.
2. You will be given 10 MINUTES (8 minutes minimum) to give your presentation. You will be expected to finish at the 10 minute mark. If you are not finished at that time the instructor will give you a 1 minute notice. If you are not finished at the end of that minute you will be cut off. If you prepare and practise ahead of time ending at the 10 minute mark will not be a problem.
3. Please be expecting to answer some questions from the class and instructor (as time permits).
4. Feel free to use a variety of creative ways to present your material. Let the instructor know ahead of time if you need anything like an overhead projector, Powerpoint projector, etc.

5. Remember it is wise to have an (1) introduction; (2) main body; and (3) conclusion.
6. See *Doing Church History* for further instructions.

- **Reflection Paper**

Students are expected to write and submit a ten-page reflection paper on Wesley's *Journal*. This ten-page typed, double-spaced, 12 point font, 1¼ inch margins, Times New Roman font and Chicago-style endnotes reflection should answer questions such as what does this journal tell me about Wesley and early evangelicalism? What is the value of reading this journal? What does this journal not tell us? See *Doing Church History* for further instructions.

Advanced degree students are expected to fulfill all assignments at an advanced degree level. They will also be required to prepare an annotated bibliography of ten books and ten articles in the area of their research paper, as well as write an additional 7500 words for the research paper.

CLASS SCHEDULE:

Jan 7	Introduction to Course
Jan 14	The Birth of Evangelicalism 1 (18th century) Readings: Noll
Jan 21	The Birth of Evangelicalism 2 (18th century) Readings: Noll
Jan 28	Evangelicalism in Britain (19th century) Readings: Wolffe <i>*Reflection Paper Due*</i>
Feb 4	Evangelicalism in North America (19th century) Readings: Bebbington
Feb 11	Birth of Fundamentalism (20th century) Readings: Bebbington
Feb 18	<i>Reading Week</i>
Feb 25	Themes: Social Reform
Mar 4	Themes: Women
Mar 11	Themes: Missions and Manifest Destiny
Mar 18	New Evangelicalism, Global Evangelicalism (20th century) Readings: handouts <i>*Research Papers Due*</i>

Mar 25 **TBA: Contemporary Issues in Evangelicalism *or* Research Presentations**

Apr 1 **Research Paper Presentations**

Apr 8 **Research Paper Presentations**

Please Note: This syllabus is the property of the instructor and is prepared with currently available information. The instructor reserves the right to make changes and revisions up to and including the first day of class.