

History 482: Religion in American History  
Fall 2007 M/W/F 12:10 – 1:00  
Contact: ctay356@sfsu.edu

Dr. Cynthia Taylor  
Classroom: Gym 113  
Office: SC 272 Hours: Fri 11 AM – 12PM

## Religious Experience in American History

### Course Description

In the spirit of the American philosopher William James and his classic study of American religion, *The Varieties of Religious Experience*, this course examines “Religion in America” by emphasizing the “religious experience” of the American people. By exploring the religious biographies and autobiographies of George Whitefield, Sojourner Truth, Dorothy Day, César Chávez and other known and unknown people, this course will provide the student with a complex and diverse perspective of the American religious experience from the 16<sup>th</sup> through the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

### Required Texts

Patrick Allitt, *Major Problems in American Religious History*  
Dorothy Day, *The Long Loneliness*  
Sojourner Truth, *Narrative of Sojourner Truth*  
Harry Stout, *Divine Dramatist: George Whitefield and the Rise of Modern Evangelism*  
Richard Etulain, *César Chávez: A Brief History with Documents*

James Cone, *Martin & Malcolm & America* (Go to Library Reserve)  
Diana Eck, *A New Religious America* (Go to Library Reserve)  
Online Text: *Divining America: Religion and the National Culture* (Go to [ilearn.sfsu.edu](http://ilearn.sfsu.edu)  
<http://nationalhumanitiescenter.org/tserve/divam.htm>)

### Course Requirements and Assessment

- 20% *Attendance and Class Participation*  
Class attendance is an essential part of this class. At each class there will be a sign-up sheet to track attendance. All students are expected to come to class prepared to discuss the class readings for that day. Your oral participation will be duly noted by the Instructor. Point value given to class absences: 3 or fewer absences (20 points); 4-6 absences (15 points); 7-9 absences (10 points); 10-12 absences (5 points); more than 13 absences (0 points).
- 40% *Four Book Reports/Class Discussions on the Religious Experience of George Whitefield, Sojourner Truth, Dorothy Day and César Chávez*  
Four classes will be dedicated to discussing the religious experience of the women and men described in the course description who best represent the religious issues/trends of the historical era in which they lived. See [ilearn.sfsu.edu](http://ilearn.sfsu.edu) for instructions. Click on the Book Reports folder.
- 5% *Class Debate-Discussion on James Cone’s Martin & Malcolm & America*  
There will be a two-day class debate-discussion on James Cone, a noted theologian of Black Theology, and his analysis of the theological and religious experience of Martin Luther King, Jr. and Malcolm X. See [ilearn.sfsu.edu](http://ilearn.sfsu.edu) for instructions on this assignment. Click on the Martin & Malcolm folder.
- 20% *Four Historical Review Assignments*  
Throughout the semester you will write four brief (1 – 1 ½ pages) on some aspect of American religion in the colonial era, the early national era, the modern era, and the postmodern era. The instructions for these assignments can be found on [ilearn.sfsu.edu](http://ilearn.sfsu.edu).

Due dates are listed on the class schedule. Click on the Historical Reviews folder.

15% *Final Research Project*

This assignment is a mini-research paper (5-8 pages) on one of the primary documents that you want to know more about. Throughout the semester we will be reading a variety of primary documents from various historical eras. This assignment gives you an opportunity to research in greater depth a topic and historical period that interests you.

Your paper should include three basic components:

- A historical analysis/explanation of the who, what, when, where and why questions historians ask of every historical document;
- A historiographical section relating the document to its broader place in historical scholarship, citing at least two secondary sources (books; journal articles); bibliography and proper footnoting (Turabian/Chicago)
- Your thesis/interpretation which blends your historical analysis and historiographical research on your topic's place in the larger American religious history narrative.

The assignment will be due on the last day of class, Dec 17. The paper will be worth up to 10 points (10% of the class grade.) The other 5 points are given for participation in a class discussion to share your historical research/topic on the day of our scheduled final exam, Dec 21.

Late Paper/Assignment Policy: Assignments or papers that are not ready by the due date (during the class hour) are considered late. Late assignments will automatically be graded down by 50% but can still be turned in by the next class meeting for some credit if completed properly. Please don't tell me about problems with your printer: if the assignment is not in my hands by the time I leave the classroom or the campus it is late. I may excuse late assignments if I know the reason in advance. I will not accept any assignments via email.

Online Component of the Course: All students should be able to access iLearn to get class announcements and assignments. Log into iLearn using your SFSU ID and PAC at [ilearn.sfsu.edu](http://ilearn.sfsu.edu). Click on the name of this course and click on the Participants link under the People's block.

### Schedule of Class Topics/Readings

<i>Date</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Readings/Assignments</i>
Week 1:	<i>Introductions / Defining Terms</i>	
Aug 29	Class Introduction	
Aug 31	What is American Religious History?	Handout
<b><i>Religion in Colonial America, 1492-1770 (Allitt, Ch 2 – 4)</i></b>		
Week 2:	<i>American Indians Encounter European Catholicism</i>	
Sep 3	HOLIDAY	
Sep 5	Cabeza de Vaca and Spanish Catholicism	Allitt, 2: 1, 2; Albanese, 41
Sep 7	Kateri and French Catholicism	Go to <a href="http://ilearn.sfsu.edu">ilearn.sfsu.edu</a> for Kateri Tekakwitha readings
Week 3:	<i>British Protestant Influences</i>	
Sep 10	Puritans in New England	Allitt, 3: 1, 2, 3, 8; Miller, 75

Sep 12	Anne Hutchinson Trial	Go to <a href="http://ilearn.sfsu.edu">ilearn.sfsu.edu</a> for Anne Hutchinson readings
Sep 14	Other Protestants: Quakers, Anglicans, etc.	Allitt, 3: 6, 7; Bond, 83
Week 4:	<i>First Great Awakening</i>	
Sep 17	First Great Awakening	Allitt, 4: 1, 2, 3; Bonomi, 111
Sep 19	<i>Religious Experience of George Whitefield</i>	Stout, <i>Divine Dramatist</i>
Sep 21	Review of Religion in Colonial America	Historical Review Assignment #1
<b><i>Religion and the American Republic (19<sup>th</sup> Century America): 1760s-1890s (Allitt, Ch 5-8)</i></b>		
Week 5:	<i>Religion in the Early Republic</i>	
Sep 24	American Revolution & Religion	Allitt, 4: 4 – 9; Marini, 118
Sep 26	Second Great Awakening	Allitt, 5: 1 – 5;
Sep 28	More Second Great Awakening	Allitt: Hatch, 145
Week 6:	<i>Religion, Antebellum Immigration and Social Tensions</i>	
Oct 1	Irish Catholic Immigrants	Allitt, 6:1 – 5; Dolan, 183
Oct 3	Slave Religion	Allitt, 5:6 – 8; 6:6 – 8; Raboteau, 152 or Genoveses, 188
Oct 5	<i>Religious Experience of Sojourner Truth</i>	<i>Narrative of Sojourner Truth</i>
Week 7:	<i>The New Immigration and Urban Reform</i>	
Oct 8	Italian Catholics	Allitt, 8: 1; 10: 1; Orsi, 245
Oct 10	European Jews	Allitt, 8: 6, 7; 10: 2; Hollinger, 321
Oct 12	Religious Impulse of Urban Reform	Allitt, 2, 5; Taiz, 256
Week 8:	<i>Metaphysical Religions and New Religious Movements (NRMs)</i>	
Oct 15	American Metaphysical Religions	Allitt, 8: 3; handout passed out in class
Oct 17	Eastern Religions / Chicago World's Fair	Allitt, 8: 4 handout passed out in class
Oct 19	Review on 19 <sup>th</sup> Century American Religion	Historical Review Assignment #2
<b><i>Religion in Modern (Industrial) America, 1870s – 1970s (Allitt, Ch 9-12)</i></b>		
Week 9:	<i>The Great Debate: Modernism vs Fundamentalism</i>	
Oct 22	Debating Darwin / Biblical Infallibility	Allitt, 9: 1 – 6; Marsden, 275
Oct 24	Popular Versions of Jesus	Allitt, 9: 7, 8; Allitt, 281
Oct 26	1920s Scopes Trial	Go to <a href="http://ilearn.sfsu.edu">ilearn.sfsu.edu</a> for Scopes Trial website/readings
Week 10:	<i>American Religion during Two World Wars</i>	
Oct 29	War and Religion	Allitt, 11:1 – 5; Abrams, 343 or Fox, 347
Oct 31	Film on Dorothy Day	
Nov 2	<i>Religious Experience of Dorothy Day</i>	Day, <i>The Long Loneliness</i>
Week 11:	<i>Religion and Protest Movements, Pt 1</i>	
Nov 5	Modern Civil Rights Movement	Allitt, 12: 1 – 4; Garrow, 379
Nov 7	James Cone on Martin Luther King, Jr	Selection on Reserve in Library
Nov 9	James Cone on Malcolm X	Selection on Reserve in Library
Week 12:	<i>Religion and Protest Movements, Pt 2</i>	
Nov 12	<b>Veteran's Holiday</b>	

Nov 14	Other Social Movements	Allitt, 12: 5 -8
Nov 16	<i>Religious Experience of César Chávez</i>	Eutalain, <i>César Chávez</i>

***Postmodern American Religion: 1970 – 2000 (Allitt, Ch 13-15)***

**Week 13: Thanksgiving Week Holiday**

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Nov 19-23 No Classes

**Week 14: Religion and Counterculture**

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Nov 26	Review of Modern American Religion	Historical Review Assignment #3
Nov 28	New Eastern Religions	Allitt, 13: 1, 3; Mann, 414
Nov 30	New Age Movements	Allitt, 13: 2, 4, 5-7; Melton, 420

**Week 15: Postwar Immigration and Religious Multiculturalism**

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Dec	New Latino and Asian Catholics	Allitt, 14:1-3; Villafane, 448
Dec 5	Muslims in America	Allitt, 14: 4, 5; Voll, 452
Dec 7	American Hindus and Buddhists	Allitt, 14: 6; Fields, 457

**Week 16: Historiographical Approaches to American Religious History**

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Dec 10	Approaches to American Religious History	Allitt, 1: Schaff / Niebuhr essays
Dec 12	Approaches to American Religious History	Allitt, 1: Finke & Stark / Moore
Dec 14	Are We Living in a Post-Christian America?	Diana Eck, "Introduction to a New America" on Reserve

**Week 17: Finals Week**

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Dec 17	Review of Postmodern American Religion	Historical Review Assignment #4 Research Project Due
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Dec 21 Final 10:45-1:15 Oral Report of Research Project

**Grade Distribution**

History 482 requires students to be very motivated and responsible about getting assignments done well and on time. Although it is not impossible to get a straight A grade, it requires a lot from the student with very little margin of error: timely and fully completed assignments, perfect attendance; a stable personal life; a professional attitude toward the Instructor and fellow students; and an excellent grasp of the class syllabus. The grade distribution generally breaks down in the following way:

100-90%	A +/-	outstanding/excellent work
89-80%	B +/-	very good work, noticeably better than satisfactory
79-70%	C +/-	satisfactory work, meeting the basic requirements
69-60%	D +/-	below standard but receiving credit for work accomplished
59- 0%	F +/-	failing or insufficient to receive credit

**Academic Honesty Honor Code**

Students are expected to adhere to the Academic Honesty Honor Code stated in the Catalog.

**Special Needs Students**

Students with special needs must consult with the instructor on the first day of class.

**Disclaimer**

This syllabus is subject to modification. The Instructor will communicate with students on any changes.