

HC 3310: THE MODERN CHURCH IN EUROPE AND AMERICA
Fall Semester, 2009

Instructor: Walter Sundberg

Class Hours: Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays 9:00-9:50 a.m., GH 104

Description:

A survey of major events, movements, and figures that have influenced the history of the church and its mission since the French Revolution in Europe and in America since the seventeenth century with special attention to the history of Lutheranism.

Requirements:

Students are expected to complete all required reading assignments on time, attend all classes, and pass a take home mid-term due October 6th and a final due December 20th. All examinations must be submitted as hard copy, not email attachments.

Texts:

Winthrop Hudson and John Corrigan, *Religion in America*, 7th ed. (New York: Macmillan, 2004).

Roger Finke and Rodney Stark, *The Churching of America, 1776-2005* (New Brunswick: Rutgers, 2005).

Richard C. Wolf, *Lutherans in North America* (Philadelphia: Lutheran Church Press, 1965).*

Søren Kierkegaard, *Fear and Trembling* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1983)

Internet Assignments and handouts

*Note: Ecumenical students are not required to read Wolf. They must read, however, a standard history of their own denomination in America. The choice of the text is up to the student.

Schedule:

September 8, 9, 10: "Christianity and Democracy" Hudson, 41-83; Finke and Stark, 1-24

September 15, 16, 17: "The Great Awakening" Hudson, 84-127

September 22, 23, 24: "The Second Great Awakening," "Muhlenberg and Schmucker" Hudson, 105-168, Finke and Stark, 25-116; Wolf, 1-56

September 29, 30, October 1: "Christian Missions" William Carey, "An Inquiry. . ." (handout)

Questions #1 and #2 due October 6

October 6, 7, 8: "Romanticism and Schleiermacher" Walker, 627-639 (Desk Reserve)

October 13, 14, 15: "Hegel and the Oxford Movement" Walker, 639-651 (Desk Reserve), Crites, "The Gospel According to Hegel," (handout)

October 22, 27: "Liberal Theology in America" Emerson, "The Lord's Supper," "The Divinity School Address" (on line), Hudson, 169-297

October 28, 29, November 3: "Culture Wars in 19th Century America and After"

November 4, 5, 10: "The Black Church," "Civil War" Hudson, 339-368

November 11, 12, 17: "Roman Catholics and Jews": "Finke and Stark, 117-155

November 18, 19: "Developments in Lutheranism" Wolf, 57-150

Thanksgiving Break

December 1, 2, 3: "Developments in Lutheranism continued" "Rejection of Liberal Protestantism" Kierkegaard, 5-123

December 8, 9, 10: "The European Church in Crisis," Walker, 666-709 (Desk Reserve)

December 15: "Secularization, Ecumenism, Evangelical Dominance " Hudson, 369-393, 413-461, Finke and Stark, 156-283

Questions #3, #4, and #5 and #6 due December 18 at 5:00 pm in Sundberg's PO Box.

HC3310: EXAMINATION QUESTIONS

Directions: Answer each of the following questions in typed, double-spaced essays. Length is designated according to question. Questions #1 and #2 due on October 6. Questions #3, #4, #5 and #6 due December 18. All questions are to be answered in hard copy to be delivered to my P.O. Box by 9:00 a.m. on the due date.

1. Assess the influence of the Evangelical tradition in American Christianity going back to the period of the Great Awakenings. Identify three of its major strengths. What, in your opinion, are its major weaknesses. (6 pages)
2. You want your congregation to increase financial giving to foreign missions. Use the example of William Carey's life and work to inspire them. (Note: This entire essay must be about Carey, not stewardship or missions as a separate topic). (3 pages)
3. Drawing upon your reading of Walker, Crites, and class lecture, describe the main features of European Romanticism and the ways in which they are represented in the philosophy of Hegel and the Oxford Movement. (3 pages)
4. What are the strengths of the liberal tradition in religion (e.g., Deism, Schleiermacher, Unitarianism, Reformed Judaism, Liberal Protestantism, Mainline Denominations today)? What are its weaknesses? In your answer make specific reference to Ralph Waldo Emerson and Finke and Stark. (5 pages)
5. What are the main features of Christianity according Kierkegaard and Barth? Employ material from class lecture and your reading of *Fear and Trembling*. (3 pages)
6. From your reading of your denomination's history in America, what would you say are the two most important events that have shaped your denomination and what are the two most important characteristics that define your denomination? (6 pages)