

HIST 595: GAINING THE WHOLE WORLD: THE AMBIGUOUS SUCCESS OF AMERICAN EVANGELICALISM

George Marsden & Bill Svelmoe
July 28 – Aug 1, 2014
8:00-11:00 am
1 or 2 graduate credit hours



Please Note: The Course Information Sheet is meant to assist in selecting courses.
The official syllabus should be consulted for more detailed information.
Syllabi are available to Regent students at <http://www2.regent-college.edu/courses/login>

Course Description

Evangelicalism has been a remarkably successful and resilient modern form of Christianity. One striking paradox associated with the movement's success is that it has typically involved strong condemnations of some forms of modernity while almost uncritically embracing others. The question is whether American evangelicals have typically picked the right combinations of what to critique or embrace. We will consider these issues through a number of historical case studies.

Class Outline

Monday, July 28	Nationalism, views of the state, war. Was America founded as a Christian nation?
Tuesday, July 29	The American Way of Life: materialism, capitalism, economic systems, liberty and equality, racial differences
Wednesday, July 30	Christians and modern thought, science, and intellectual life. Anti-modernism and fundamentalism. Anti-evolution
Thursday, July 31	Individual autonomy, self-fulfillment, self-expression, arts, youth culture, entertainment, worship, the church as community
Friday, August 1	Prohibitions and prevailing mores: sexual standards, family values, gender and women's roles, the gay issue, changing views of alcohol

Assignments

1. Daily Readings

Some brief specific readings will be assigned for each class from Tuesday through Friday. Some of these will be from the Hankins text. They should require no more than 1 hr per day to complete.

Due: Daily

Davis Summary (two-credit students) Due: Monday, September 15, 2014

2. Research Paper

Each student is required to write a paper reflecting with more depth on how evangelicals have dealt with one of the issues discussed in class, or comparing how they have dealt with two comparable issues. One credit students should write a paper of approximately 1,100 words (around 4 pages). Two-credit students should write a paper of approximately 2,125 (around 8 pages). Papers should be based on books or other readings (either scholarly secondary sources, or primary sources) that deal with the topic.

Due: Monday, September 15, 2014

3. Take Home Final Exam

All students are to write a take-home exam of approximately 1000 words on a topic or topics to be distributed on the last day of class. This exam will deal with materials discussed in class and found in the Hankins text or in other daily assignments.

Due: Monday, September 15, 2014

Evaluation

	1 cr hrs	2 cr hrs
Exam	50%	33.3%
Paper	50%	66.7%

Required Reading

Hankins, Barry. *American Evangelicals: A Contemporary History of a Mainstream Religious Movement* (Lanham, MD: Rowan and Littlefield, 2009). ISBN: 9780742570252.

Deadline for dropping the course with refund is 4:30 pm on July 28, 2014 (100% refund) or 4:30 pm on July 29, 2014 (75% refund). There is no refund of any tuition fees after the 75% refund deadline, but the course may be dropped, changed to audit, or reduced in credit hours up until 4:30 pm on August 1, 2014 (no refunds).