

HIST 541: THE STORY OF CHRISTIANITY IN CANADA

Mark A. Noll

May 23 – 27; 8:30 – 11:30 am

1 or 2 graduate credit hours; or 1 audit hour

In-person, live online & Recorded

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This class surveys the history of Christianity in Canada primarily through biographical sketches that illuminate key aspects of that history. Individuals highlighted will include church officials (like Bp. Louis-Francois LaFleche, Bp. Charles Inglis, and Rev. Nathanael Burwash), popular preachers (like Henry Alline and Aimee Semple McPherson), Indigenous leaders (like Joseph Brant and Louis Riel), public intellectuals (like Egerton Ryerson and George Monro Grant), scholars (like George Grant and George Rawlyk), literary figures (like Robertson Davies, Margaret Avison, and Margaret Clarkson), and others. The class will assess the national situation when Protestant and Catholic varieties of the faith prevailed throughout the nation, and then the rapid secularization of recent decades. The goal is increased historical understanding, but also exploration of possibilities for faithful witness in the present.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Upon the successful completion of this course, students should have a clearer understanding of:

1. Understand some of the main issues, people, denominations, and problems in the Canadian history of Christianity
2. Make an intelligent comparison of that history with the parallel history of Christianity in the United States.
3. Consider ways that historical understanding may shape Christian life, practice, and outreach in Canada today.

COURSE OUTLINE

Day 1 May 23 Creating Christian Canada: Leaders and “Liberty”

Day 2 May 24 Canada as Christendom (I)

Day 3 May 25 Canada as Christendom (II)

Day 4 May 26 First Nations Canada

Day 5 May 27 Canada after Christendom

REQUIRED TEXTS

Martin, David. “Canada in Comparative Perspective,” pp. 23-33 in *Rethinking Church, State, and Modernity: Canada between Europe and America*, ed. David Lyon and Marguerite Van Die (University of Toronto Press, 2000).

Miller, J. R. “The State, the Church, and Indian Residential Schools in Canada,” pp. 109-29 in *Religion and Public Life in Canada: Historical and Comparative Perspectives*, ed. Marguerite Van Die (University of Toronto Press, 2001).

Noll, Mark A. *What Happened to Christian Canada?* (Regent College Publishing, 2007).

Stackhouse, John G., Jr. “‘Who Whom?’ Evangelicalism and Canadian Society,” pp. 55-70 and 445-48 in *Aspects of the Canadian Evangelical Experience*, ed. G. A. Rawlyk (McGill-Queen’s University Press, 1997).

Looking for textbooks? Please [contact](#) the Regent Bookstore, or check out their [direct-fulfillment website, Aerio](#).

Note: Aerio prices are in USD.

Please Note: This Course Information Sheet is meant to assist in selecting courses. The official syllabus should be consulted for more detailed information. A full syllabus with drop deadlines, policies, and course assignment details is available on Moodle for registered students: moodle.regent-college.edu/login

