Syllabus for American Church History (CH 605)
Front Range Bible Institute
(Spring 2016)

Course Description
The course “American Church History” is a study of the church in America from the time of British colonization until the mid-nineteenth century, with special attention given to the roots and varieties of American evangelicalism. The course will have classroom lectures that are primarily based upon the professor’s notes. Students are encouraged to participate by asking and answering questions and taking notes. Notes will be provided, but the student is encouraged to make additions based upon classroom discussions.

The course will include outside reading, quizzes and exams from the classroom lectures, and a research paper. The paper is a very important tool for the student to gain first-hand acquaintance with and evaluation of American church history. The paper will be aimed at taking the classroom learning and transferring it into a useable student tool for practical ministry purposes.

Course Objectives:
• To give the student a working knowledge of the major figures and the theologies of the various forms of Christianity in early America
• To equip the student to better understand the current ecclesiastical landscape in America by understanding its roots in the colonial and founding eras.
• To sharpen the student’s ability to utilize Scripture accurately by observing the way early Americans applied the Bible to their context
• To inspire the student to be grateful for our Christian heritage
• To alert students to the particular historical strengths and weaknesses of American evangelicalism
• To deepen the student’s appreciation for how Christ builds his church

Required Course Materials
• Reading materials
  o Professor’s notes
  o *A History of Christianity in the United States and Canada* by Mark A. Noll, Eerdmans (244 pages, intro through chapter 9) – *Required reading*
  o *A Documentary History of Religion in America to the Civil War* by Edwin S. Gaustad, 2nd edition, Eerdmans (339 pages through chapter 5.1) – *Required reading*

• Computer
  o All work submitted electronically should be in Microsoft Word documents (.doc).

Course Requirements
• Attendance at all classes
  o Take notes and participate in class discussion.
- If you know in advance that you will miss a class, please notify the professor ahead of time to obtain an excused absence.
- It may be possible to listen to missed lectures via mp3 recordings.

- **Reading – Due June 14**
  - Certificate level – 500 pages from reading materials list
  - B.B.S. – 600 pages from reading materials list
  - M.B.S. – 900 pages from reading materials list
  - M.Div. – 900 pages from reading materials list

- **Quizzes/Examinations**
  - All students will take periodic quizzes over the material covered in class. These will be unannounced and at the discretion of the professor.
  - There will be one mid-term exam and one final exam.

- **Research paper – Due June 7**
  - All students will complete a paper of original historical research on a topic of the student’s choosing.
  - The professor must approve the topic.
  - **Paper requirements**
    - Certificate level – 5 page (double spaced)
    - B.B.S. – 10 page (double spaced)
    - M.B.S. – 20 page (double spaced)
    - M.Div. – 20 page (double spaced)

**Course Grading Criteria**
- **10%** Attendance and participation
- **30%** Reading
- **30%** Quizzes/Examinations
- **30%** Paper

**Course Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Requirements and Lecture Topic:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Apr 5</td>
<td>Introduction to course&lt;br&gt;European Background&lt;br&gt;Anglicanism in Virginia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr 12</td>
<td>Pilgrims&lt;br&gt;Puritans in New England</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr 19</td>
<td>New England Puritans (continued)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr 26</td>
<td>Deadline for paper topic selected and approved&lt;br&gt;Minority Groups in New England&lt;br&gt;Christianity in the Middle and Southern Colonies</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
May 3    Mid-term exam
          The Great Awakening

May 10   The Revolutionary Era and Separation of Church and State

May 17   Unitarians and Rational Religion

May 24   The Second Great Awakening

May 31   Methodists and Baptists

June 7   Papers due
          Explosion of Democratic Religion

June 14  Final Examination
          Reading Reports Due

SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY


Jefferson, Thomas. *Notes on the State of Virginia*


