

HT 750 Pietism and Its Modern Heirs
Erskine Theological Seminary
J-Term 2009
Elective: 3 Credit Hours
Due West, Fridays, 9:00 – 5:00 P.M.
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Course Description: The course keys on the 18th century as a turning point in the theological development of modern Christianity. Paying special attention to such figures as John Wesley, George Whitefield, Jonathan Edwards, and Friedrich Schliermacher, students consider the theological commitments and accomplishments of this movement and trace both the impact and the legacy of Pietism into the 21st century.

Course Purpose: The purpose of this elective class in church history is (a) to investigate spiritual dynamics in history; (b) examine the success and failures of reform movements since the Protestant Reformation, and; (c) to evaluate the charges of subjectivism and anti-intellectualism leveled against Pietism.

Course Objectives: The mission of ETS is to educate persons for service in the Christian church. As a part of that mission the Theology and Church History Department offers elective classes that seek to enhance students' preparation for ministry. Elective classes allow professors and students to go beyond the survey classes by focusing more carefully on a narrow topic.

It is the goal of this instructor that upon successful completion of this course a student will be able to:

1. Identify the historical setting which produced Pietism
2. Identify the central features of Pietism
3. Define Pietism and identify its modern heirs
4. Offer a defense of Pietism against the charges of subjectivism, mysticism and anti-intellectualism.

Course Methods: The purpose and objectives of this course are achieved through three learning components. The first component requires the completion of assigned reading and the mastery of lecture content measured by two essay exams. The second component is classroom participation. Each class will include discussion and lecture. Each student is expected to complete the assigned readings and offer informed opinions when the opportunity rises. Thirdly, each student will choose two books (approved by the professor) and complete two short book critiques. The book critiques may involve both a written and an oral component. Specific details of the book critiques will be given in the first week of class.

Required Texts: (Note: Textbooks are available from the Erskine Seminary virtual bookstore at www.ecampus.com/erskine.)

Brown, Dale W. *Understanding Pietism*, Evangel Publishing House, revised ed., 1996.

Bloesch, Donald. *The Crisis of Piety: Essays Toward a Theology of the Christian Life*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 1968, reprint edition, Colorado Springs: Helmers and Howard, 1988.

Recommended Texts: (Note: most if not all are out of print)

Bloesch, Donald G. *The Evangelical Renaissance*, 1973. (Chapter 5, pp.101-57)

Coalter, Milton J. *Gilbert Tennent, son of thunder: A case study of Continental Pietism's impact on the first great awakening in the middle colonies*. 1986

Kuenning, Paul. *The Rise and Fall of American Lutheran Pietism*. 1989

Loetscher, Lefferts A. *Facing the Enlightenment*.

Lovelace, Richard. *American Pietism of Cotton Mather: Origins of American Evangelicalism*, 1979

Lovelace, Richard. *Dynamics of the Spiritual Life: An Evangelical Theology of Renewal*. InterVarsity Press, 1979.

Ritschl, Albert (1822-1889). *Three Essays*, any edition.

Schrag, Felix James. *Pietism in Colonial America*, 1945

Stoeffler, F. Ernest. ed., *Continental Pietism and Early American Christianity*, 1976

_____. *German Pietism during the Eighteenth Century*, 1973

_____. Ed., with Peter C. Erb. *Pietists: Selected Writings*, 1983

Tanis, James. *Dutch Calvinistic Pietism in the Middle colonies...*, 1967

Note: the professor may distribute additional handouts, assign additional reading and place materials on reserve in the library.

Course Requirements:

Requirement One: All students will complete 2 essay exams.

Requirement Two: All students will complete the assigned reading, be prepared to discuss the reading in class and sign a statement at the end of the course relating to the reading.

Requirement Three: each student will complete two book critiques following the specific guidelines given by the professor. Each student will write one critique on the book by Donald Bloesch, *The Crisis of Piety*. The other book critique will come from a book chosen by the student and approved by the professor. Book critiques may require both a written and an oral presentation as time permits..

The four grades carry equal weight. Class discussion and the reading assignments will enhance or detract from the final grade.

Criteria for Grading Book Critiques:

Grasp of basic information, ideas and concepts

Clarity and coherence of the thesis

Use of source materials, finding book reviews, etc.

Adherence to instructions, length, structure, etc.

Identification and analysis of the thesis
Proper use of the English language
Completion according to the latest edition of Turabian, *A Manual for Writers*.

Grading Scale:

Note: See current catalog pp. 42-43 for grading scale.

Course Expectations and Seminary Policies:

Attendance at each class is crucial for success. A student cannot miss more than one class period and expect to pass the class. Attendance issues are especially critical for a J-term or Saturday class that meets only four days. Only under extraordinary circumstances will a student be “allowed” to miss more than one class. It is the students’ responsibility to contact the Professor in the event of an absence. Students should arrive at class. Students who are habitually late will be dropped from the roll if the problem persists.

Each student must understand that upon registration, the signed document is a **BINDING CONTRACT** for which you are **BILLED**. If you decide not to take the class you must complete the “drop/add” form including appropriate signatures. Failure to properly withdraw from the class will result in a grade of “F” for the course and full tuition charges will apply. It is important to note that there are **NO EXCEPTIONS TO THIS POLICY**.

Notice regarding office hours for J-Term:

I am typically in my office most days during J-term except for Friday when I am teaching.

I will do my best to follow these posted office hours. However, due to meetings and unforeseen circumstances that may arise, my schedule may change. If you need to see me, I strongly recommend that you call to schedule an appointment.

Language about God and Humanity

Although God transcends the distinction between male and female, the Bible and the Church’s historic creeds and confessions use masculine language in reference to God. Thus, the Seminary encourages all students to retain this masculine language in reference to God. Furthermore, the Seminary recognizes that all human beings, male and female, are created equally in the image of God (Gen. 1:26-27), and believers of both sexes are fellow heirs of the grace of life (I Pet. 3:7). Accordingly, whenever students are speaking and writing about males and females, they should use language that clearly includes both men and women (for example by saying/writing “humanity” rather than “man” or “people” rather than “men.”

Conduct in Theological Discussions

Erskine Seminary is committed to the one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church, and it expects its students to show respect for all who identify with that one Church. In all written work, oral presentations, and discussions both inside and outside the classroom, the Seminary expects students to conduct discussions of controversial issues in a context

of respect for those with whom one disagrees. Please see the Community Life Statement in the *Catalog* for more information.

Plagiarism

Any student guilty of plagiarism or cheating is in violation of Seminary policy and is liable for dismissal. While honesty and integrity are expected of all students and professors, those associated with a theological seminary are obviously under special scrutiny. We must walk circumspectly as servants of Christ, our walk blameless.

All written work must conform to the Turabian manual of style.

A grade of incomplete (I) is rare and must conform to policy statements in the catalog.

Course Outline and Reading Schedule

Part One: Continental Pietism

WEEK 1:

January 9 Distribution of the syllabus, course requirements, etc.

Lecture- "Defining Pietism"

Topics: -Background and historical setting of Pietism

-Johann Arndt

Topic: -Philip Jacob Spener

Topic:- August Hermann Franke

Reading Assignment: Brown, Chap. 1-3

WEEK 2:

January 16 Topic: Count von Zinzendorf and the Moravians

Part Two: Pietism in the British Isles

Topic: Wesley and the Evangelical Movement, Part 1

Topic: The Wesleyan and Whitefield Movement, Part 2

Essay Test #1 (After Lunch)

Lecture – As time permits

Reading Assignment: Brown, Chap. 4-7

Handout(s) from the professor

WEEK 3

Part Three: Pietism in America

January 23

Topics: -Early Colonial Pietism, Puritan Piety,
-Cotton Mather
-Henry Muhlenberg and German-American Piety

Topics: -Theodore Frelinghysen, Pietism and the 1st Great. Awak.

Film of David Brainerd, *Wings of the Morning*
(if available)

Topics: -Pietism and the 2nd Great Awakening
-Moses Hoge
-Archibald Alexander
Reading Assignment: Handout TBA

WEEK 4

January 30

Discussion: Bloesch, *The Crisis of Piety*
-Turn in your Bloesch Book Critique

-Catch up with materials/content as necessary
Q & A prior to the Exam

Final Examination (after Lunch)

Course evaluations by students