

HISTORY 526

☞ RELIGION IN THE CIVIL WAR ERA ☞

University of North Carolina at Greensboro ♦ Fall 2014

W: 3:30 – 6:20 MHRA 1209

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will examine how Americans utilized religion and lived their faith in the era of the Civil War. We will study how theology helped divide the nation in the antebellum years, how people used religion to interpret the events of the war itself, and how religious practice bound Americans together, but divided them even further in the Reconstruction years. Of particular interest are questions about the decline—or more accurately, the transformation—of religious authority because of the war. Did the war cause a loss of faith in theological authority? Did the war cause people to embrace faith more completely? How did the war facilitate the larger trajectory of change from the days of the antebellum “evangelical empire” to the post-Reconstruction rise of both bland civil religions and fundamentalist movements?

This is a reading and discussion intensive class. You will be expected to come to class prepared to discuss *all* of the assigned reading material. Additionally, you will produce a paper of original research that draws on primary sources and engages with larger historiographical questions. In reading, discussing, researching, and writing, you will be rehearsing the fundamentals of historical thinking and practice, including a sophisticated level of analysis and interpretation.

COURSE MATERIALS ♦

George Rable, *God's Almost Chosen People: A Religious History of the American Civil War* (Available in the bookstore.)

Additional articles, excerpts, and primary materials available on e-reserve, the library catalog, and weblinks through Blackboard

Graduate students will lead class discussions on an additional monograph to be selected from a list provided.

EVALUATION AND PAPERS ♦ This course evaluates students on engagement in class discussions, progress in developing historical thinking skills, and successful completion of a major research paper.

♦ **PARTICIPATION:** This consists of reading *all* assigned material and active and regular participation in classroom discussions. **%50**

♦ **RESEARCH PROJECTS:** Students will do a research project incorporating primary research, engagement with secondary historiographical material, and the development of an interpretive explanation for a historical problem. **%50**

COURSE POLICIES ♦

ATTENDANCE ♦ Attendance is mandatory and will be taken daily. It is essential to your class participation grade. There will be a 3% reduction of the student's final grade for each absence after the first two. Regular absences will result in failure of this course.

LATE ASSIGNMENTS ♦ Late assignments will not be accepted.

INCOMPLETE GRADES ♦ Incomplete grade requests must be made through the Dean of Students.

LAPTOP COMPUTERS ♦ Laptop computers are permitted for use in the class to take notes, check references, or look up a class-related item. However, any non-class related uses (email, social media) will result in you being asked to leave the class and the day recorded as an absence. Multiple offences will result in you being asked to withdraw from the class.

CELL PHONES ♦ Strictly prohibited for any reason. Cell phones must remain in your pocket, purse, bookbag or backpack. Any student observed handling or using a cell phone during class hours will be asked to leave and the day recorded as an absence. More than one offence will result in you being asked to withdraw from the class.

PROFESSIONALISM ♦ You will be expected to conduct yourself as a professional in this class. This means you will dress appropriately, arrive on time and stay until completion, treat your peers and their opinions with respect, complete all readings and assignments, and communicate with your professor in an appropriate manner.

Further, you will be expected to rehearse "real-life" behavior in this class. That means you will do the work even if you don't want to, you will be interested even if you are not interested, you will pay attention even when you are bored, you will

write and communicate in a professional manner, and you will engage respectfully with your colleagues and with ideas that you may find irrelevant or even offensive. Mastering these skills will be essential to successful navigation of a professional workplace.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY ♦Plagiarism will not be tolerated and will be reported to the Dean of Students. Please read the UNC-G Student Policy Handbook on Academic Integrity found at <http://sa.uncg.edu/handbook/academic-integrity-policy/>

COURSE SCHEDULE

(Subject to change)

☞ AUGUST 20: INTRODUCTION AND ASSUMPTIONS

Introduction to class, syllabus, and assignments
Lecture on nineteenth century American religious history

- 📁 Ben Wise and Zachary Dresser, "Introduction"
- 📁 Paludan, "Religion and the Civil War"
- ⌚ Graduate students select books to review
- 📁 George Rable's seven opportunities

☞ AUGUST 27: THE NATION AND THE NORTH

- 📁 Daniel Walker Howe, *What Hath God Wrought* Chapters 5, 8, and 12 (446-464)
- 📁 Noll, *Civil War as a Theological Crisis*, 17-29
- 📁 Laura Mitchell, "Matters of Justice between Man and Man': Northern Divines, the Bible, and the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850."
- 📁 Primary documents:
 - Methodist Conference documents (on Archive.org)
 - Baptist Association documents (on Archive.org)
 - "Charles Grandison Finney Stirs Up Religious Emotions..."
 - "Joseph Smith Explains How an Angel Guided Him..."
 - "Angelina Grimke Uses the Bible to Justify Abolition..."
 - "Frederick Douglass Compares Southern Slaveholders..."

Optional:

- 📖 Rable, Chapter 1
- 📁 John Quist, *Restless Visionaries*, Chapter 2

☞ SEPTEMBER 3: SOUTHERN RELIGION, SLAVERY, AND THE BIBLE

- 📁 Mitchell Snay, *Gospel of Disunion*, Chapter 2.
- 📁 Frederick A. Bode, "A Common Sphere: White Evangelicals and Gender in Antebellum Georgia," *Georgia Historical Quarterly* 79 (Winter 1995) (on JStor.)
- 📁 Primary documents
 - Lilly excerpt
 - Thomasson excerpt
 - "Thornton Stringfellow Argues That the Bible is Proslavery"

James Henley Thornwell, "The Rights and Duties of Masters" (on Archive.org)

Either/or

☞ Beth Schweiger, "The Restructuring of Southern Religion: Slavery, Denominations, and the Clerical Profession in Virginia."

☞ Kenneth M. Startup, "'A Mere Calculation of Profits and Loss': The Southern Clergy and the Economic Culture of the Antebellum North."

☞ SEPTEMBER 10: AFRICAN AMERICAN AND SLAVE RELIGION

☞ Raboteau, "The Black Experience"

☞ Paul Harvey, *Through the Storm, Through the Night*, Chapter 3.

☞ Eddie Glaude, *Exodus!: Religion, Race, and Nation*, Chapters 6 & 7

☞ Carol George, "Widening Circle"

☞ Charles Irons, "Zion in Black and White: African American Evangelicals and Missionary Work in the Old South"

☞ Primary documents:

Black Religion and Slavery, from Gaustad and Noll.

"Anonymous Ex-Slave Sees Ghost of Her Dead Master"

"Henry Bibb, a Slave, Uses Conjuring..."

"Samuel Ringgold Ward Escapes from Slavery..."

☞ SEPTEMBER 17: SECESSION AND WAR

📖 Rable, Chs. 2, 3, 4.

☞ Primary documents:

Moravian material

Adolphus Mangum poster

Spring Resolutions

☞ SEPTEMBER 24: SOLDIERS AND CHAPLAINS

📖 Rable, Chs. 5, 6, 7.

☞ David Rolfs, "No Nearer Heaven but Rather Farther Off"

☞ Kent Dollar, "Strangers in a Strange Land"

☞ John Jones, *Christ in Camp*, Ch. 5-7 (on Google Book Search)

☞ Primary documents:

Betts, Experience of a C.S. Chaplain (DocSouth)

Concord Presbyterians and chaplains

“Chaplain Gregg Describes the Union Army at War”
“Thomas W. Higginson Witnesses the Religious Life of Black Soldiers”

☞OCTOBER 1: DEATH AND RECONSIDERATION

- 📖 Rable, Chs. 8, 9, 10.
- 📁 Sean A. Scott, “Earth Has No Sorrow That Heaven Cannot Cure”: Northern Civilian Perspectives on Death and Eternity During the Civil War. *Journal of Social History* 41 (Summer 2008): 843-66. (on JStor)
- 📁 Drew Faust “The Civil war Soldier and the Art of Dying,” *Journal of Southern History* 67, No. 1 (February 2001). (on JStor)
- 📁 Primary documents:
 - “Bishop Quintard of Tennessee...”

☞OCTOBER 8: APATHY AND ATROPHY

- 📖 Rable, Chs. 11-14
- 📁 Randall Miller, “Catholic Ethnicity”
- 📁 George M. Frederickson, *The Inner Civil War*, Chapter 9-10
- 📁 Primary sources:
 - TBA

☞OCTOBER 15: TURNING POINTS AND REVIVALS

- 📖 Rable, Chs. 14-17
- 📁 Drew Faust, “Christian Soldiers: The Meaning of Revivalism in the Confederate Army,” 53, No. 1 (February 1987) (on JStor)
- 📁 Kurt O. Berends, “Confederate Sacrifice and the ‘Redemption’ of the South”
- 📁 Zachary Dresser, “Providence Revised: The Southern Old School in the Civil War and Reconstruction”
- 📁 Primary documents:
 - “William Bennett Describes Revivals...”
 - Lafferty Sermon

☞OCTOBER 22: FINAL YEARS

- 📖 Rable, Chs. 18-20, epilogue
- 📁 Primary documents:
 - “Gettysburg Address and 2nd Inaugural Address.”
 - “Isaac Lane, A Freed Slave, Becomes a Preacher.”

📅 OCTOBER 29: RECONSTRUCTION

- 📁 Daniel W. Stowell, *Rebuilding Zion*, Chapters 1-4
- 📁 Matt Harper, "Emancipation and African American Millennialism"
- 📁 Charles Irons, "Two Divisions of the Same Great Army."
- 📁 Scott Nesbit, "A Sharecropper's Millennium."
- 📁 Primary documents:
TBA

📅 NOVEMBER 5: MEMORY

- 📁 Ed Blum, *Reforging the White Republic*, Chapter 4.
- 📁 Ed Blum, "To Doubt This Would Be To Doubt God."
- 📁 Charles R. Wilson, "Lost Cause"
- 📁 Frederickson, Chapters 12 and 13.

📅 NOVEMBER 12: EXTRA WEEK

📅 NOVEMBER 19: REPORTS/Papers due

Selected books for HIS 526

David Rolfs, *No Peace for the Wicked: Northern Protestant Soldiers and the American Civil War*

Timothy L. Wesley, *The Politics of Faith During the Civil War*

Drew Faust, *This Republic of Suffering: Death and the American Civil War*

Mark Schantz, *Awaiting the Heavenly Country: The Civil War and America's Culture of Death*

Kent Dollar, *Soldiers of the Cross: Confederate Soldier-Christians and the Impact of the War on Their Faith*

Allen Guelzo, *Abraham Lincoln, Redeemer President*

Gardiner Shattuck, *A Shield and a Hiding Place: The Religious Life of Civil War Armies*

Sean A. Scott, *A Visitation of God: Northern Civilians Interpret the Civil War*

Stephen Woodworth, *While God is Marching On: The Religious World of Civil War Soldiers*

John Patrick Daly, *When Slavery Was Called Freedom: Evangelicalism, Proslavery, and the Causes of the Civil War*