

RTS

O R L A N D O



HYBRID COURSE SYLLABUS

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02HT6125 AMERICAN PRESBYTERIANISM

John Muether

Summer Term 2023

## PROFESSOR'S CONTACT INFORMATION

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**NAME:** John Muether

**EMAIL:** [jmuether@rts.edu](mailto:jmuether@rts.edu)

**PHONE:** 407.278.4439

## COURSE DATES

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**COURSE DATES:** May 29, 2023 – August 11, 2023

**IN CLASS DATES:** July 10 – 14, 2023

**COURSE COMPLETION DATE:** August 11, 2023

### SUMMARY OF DUE DATES:

- June 2 at 12:00 noon: Submit response 1
- June 16 at 12:00 noon: Submit response 2
- June 30 at 12:00 noon: Submit response 3
- July 8 at 12:00 noon: Submit preliminary research outline and bibliography
- August 11 at 12:00 noon: Submit research paper
- August 11 at 12:00 noon: Submit Listening and Reading Report

## COURSE OVERVIEW

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### DESCRIPTION

A survey of the history of American Presbyterianism from its roots in the Reformed tradition to events in the twenty-first century, focusing on key historical events and controversies that gave rise to and shaped particular Presbyterian denominations, major leaders who influenced Presbyterian theology and its prominent institutions, and the reciprocal relation between Presbyterianism and American culture.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

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### READING

The following reading is required for the course:

- A. At least 100 pages from this collection of primary resources:

Armstrong, Maurice W., Lefferts A. Loetscher, and Charles A. Anderson, eds. *The Presbyterian Enterprise: Sources of American Presbyterian History*. Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock Publishers, 2001.

B. One of these two surveys of American Presbyterianism:

Feldmeth, Nathan P., et al. *Reformed and Evangelical Across Four Centuries: The Presbyterian Story in America*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2022.

Hart, D. G., and John R. Muether. *Seeking a Better Country: 300 Years of American Presbyterianism*. Phillipsburg, N.J.: P & R Pub, 2007.

C. A biography of a prominent figure in American Presbyterian History

D. Additional Reading: some will be assigned and made available on Canvas and additional reading can be of your choosing. (You are encouraged to read history of the denomination you are a member of).

*In all, 1000 pages are required.* Keep a record of your reading and submit a reading report on Canvas.

## FORTSON LECTURES ON AMERICAN PRESBYTERIANISM

Listen to twelve lectures (which vary from 20 minutes to an hour) by Dr. Donald Fortson (RTS Charlotte) on American Presbyterianism that are found here:

<https://subsplash.com/reformtheosem/learn-about-rts/li/+be98c86>

1. American Puritanism during the 17th century
2. Growth of the Presbyterian Church
3. Doctrinal Standards
4. The Adopting Act of 1729
5. The Great Awakening Controversy
6. Growth and Reunion of Presbyterianism
7. Presbyterianism in the 19th Century – Part 1
8. Presbyterianism in the 19th Century – Part 2
9. Slavery and Presbyterianism
10. The Church Debates and the Civil War
11. The Plan of Reunion
12. The Battle of Modernism and Liberalism

## DISCUSSION FORUMS

There are three Canvas online discussion forums that should be completed by the following dates:

- June 7
- June 21
- July 5

## CLASS ATTENDANCE

Given the amount of material to be covered in the time allotted, students should make every effort to attend all classes.

## READING AND LISTENING REPORT

The student must complete all of the required reading and listening. Students will be asked to report the percentage of reading/listening on Canvas.

## BIOGRAPHY ASSIGNMENT

Each student will select and read a biography of an influential American Presbyterian (200 page minimum). A list of suggested persons is included below. Students may consult the professor if they need assistance. Please notify the professor of your choice. (In the event that two students choose the same subject, it will be assigned to the one who inquired first.)

Students should be prepared to make a short presentation on this person (20-30 minutes) sometime during the class week. The presentation will cover his/her life story and contributions to the church.

Here are some suggestions, although you are not limited to this list:

Archibald Alexander	Francis Grimke	Francis Schaeffer
Albert Barnes	A. A. Hodge	Henry B. Smith
Lyman Beecher	Charles Hodge	Gardiner Spring
L. Nelson Bell	Sheldon Jackson	R. C. Sproul
Charles Augustus Briggs	Stonewall Jackson	Billy Sunday
William Jennings Bryan	Timothy Keller	Gilbert Tennent
Henry Sloane Coffin	J. Gresham Machen	James Henley Thornwell
Robert L. Dabney	Francis Makemie	Benjamin B. Warfield
Samuel Davies	Carl McIntire	Woodrow Wilson
Jonathan Dickinson	Henrietta Mears	John Witherspoon
John Gerstner	Samuel Miller	
John L. Girardeau	Benjamin Morgan Palmer	

## RESEARCH PAPER

Students will write a 15-20 page research paper on an event, movement, controversy or person in American Presbyterian history. (You can choose to write your paper on the subject of your biography or you may venture into another topic.) The paper should include research into primary sources as well as secondary sources. Lectures and text books will assist students to identify a paper topic as well as guidance from the instructor. Approval of the research topic is required. The paper must be formatted according to Turabian style with 12-point font, double-spaced, with single spaced footnotes and a bibliography.

## RESEARCH PAPER OUTLINE AND BIBLIOGRAPHY

Students will write and submit (by July 8) a two-page proposal that describes the topic, outline, and preliminary bibliography for their research paper. The first page should include a one-paragraph description of your topic and a beginning outline for your paper. The second page should be a starting bibliography for your research paper. The bibliography should contain a minimum of ten books, essays

or articles; give full bibliographic information for each source (author, publisher, date, etc.). The instructor will give you suggestions of expanding/refining your bibliography during hybrid week.

## SUMMARY LIST OF ASSIGNMENTS

1. Listen to all recorded lectures and complete all readings
3. Participate in three online forum discussions
4. Submit paper outline and bibliography
5. Submit research paper
6. Submit reading report

## GRADING POLICY

- Completion of Listening and Reading Assignments 20%
- Discussion Forum Participation: 20%
- Class Presentation: 20%
- Paper Outline and Bibliography: 10%
- Research Paper: 30%

Late work will be penalized one letter grade per day unless prior permission for late submission was granted. The published RTS grading scale is used in this course. See the RTS Catalog.

## COURSE SCHEDULE

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### ONLINE SCHEDULE

May 29 – June 5

- Listen to: Fortson Lectures 1-4
- Read: Feldmeth *et al.* ch. 1-6 OR Hart & Muether ch. 1-4
- Participate in: Discussion Forum 1

June 6 – June 21

- Listen to: Fortson Lectures 5-8
- Read: Feldmeth *et al.* ch. 7-10 OR Hart & Muether ch. 5-8
- Participate in: Discussion Forum 2

June 22 – July 5

- Listen to: Fortson Lectures 9-12
- Read: Feldmeth *et al.* ch. 11-16 OR Hart & Muether ch. 9-13
- Participate in: Discussion Forum 3

### IN CLASS SCHEDULE

General Outline of Our In-Class Discussions (July 11-14)

- Introduction: The American Presbyterian Dilemma
- Colonial Presbyterianism

- Presbyterianism and the Evangelical Benevolent Empire
- Princeton Seminary and the Establishment of American Presbyterianism Identity
- Presbyterian Division and Reunion
- Progressive Presbyterianism
- The Presbyterian Controversy
- The Emergence of Sideline Presbyterianism
- The Southern Presbyterian Story and the Formation of the PCA
- The Rise and Fall of Mainline Presbyterianism
- Conclusion: Whither American Presbyterianism?

## AMERICAN PRESBYTERIANISM: A BASIC BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Armstrong, Maurice W., Lefferts A. Loetscher, and Charles A. Anderson, eds. *The Presbyterian Enterprise: Sources of American Presbyterian History*. Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock, 2001.

Balmer, Randall and John R. Fitzmier. *The Presbyterians*. Westport: CT: Praeger Publishers, 1994.

Briggs, Charles A. *American Presbyterianism: Its Origin and Early History*. New York: Scribner, 1885.

Calhoun, David B. *Princeton Seminary*. 2 vol. Edinburgh: Banner of Truth, 1994.

Feldmeth, Nathan P., et al. *Reformed and Evangelical Across Four Centuries: The Presbyterian Story in America*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2022.

Fortson, S. Donald ed. *Colonial Presbyterianism: Old Faith in a New Land*. Eugene, OR: Pickwick Publications, 2007.

Hart, D. G., and John R. Muether. *Seeking a Better Country: 300 Years of American Presbyterianism*. Phillipsburg, N.J.: P&R, 2007.

\_\_\_\_\_. *Fighting the Good Fight: A Brief History of the Orthodoxy Presbyterian Church*. Philadelphia: Committee for the Historian of the OPC, 1995.

Hart, D. G. and Mark A. Noll, eds. *Dictionary of the Presbyterian & Reformed Tradition in America*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1999.

Hodge, Charles. *The Constitutional History of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America*. 2 vol. Philadelphia: W. S. Martien, 1839-40.

Loetscher, Lefferts. *The Broadening Church: A Study of Theological Issues in the Presbyterian Church Since 1869*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1954.

Longfield, Bradley J. *The Presbyterian Controversy: Fundamentalists, Modernists, & Moderates*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1991.

- \_\_\_\_\_. *Presbyterians and American Culture: A History*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2013.
- Lucas, Sean Michael. *For a Continuing Church: The Roots of the Presbyterian Church in America*. Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R, 2015.
- Marsden, George. *Evangelical Mind and New School Presbyterian Experience*. Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock, 2003.
- McKim, Donald. *Encyclopedia of the Reformed Faith*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 1992.
- Melton, Julius. *Presbyterian Worship in America: Changing Patterns Since 1787*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 1967.
- Nevin, Alfred. *Presbyterian Encyclopedia*. Louisville, KY: Presbyterian Encyclopedia Publishing Co., 1884.
- Parker, Harold. *Bibliography of Published Articles on American Presbyterianism, 1901-1980*. Westpoint, CT: Greenwood, 1985.
- Rian, Edwin. *The Presbyterian Conflict*. Willow Grove, PA: Committee for the Historian of the OPC, 1992.
- Smith, Morton H. *How Has the Gold Become Dim: The Decline of the Presbyterian Church, U.S. As Reflected in Its Assembly Actions*. Jackson, MS: Steering Committee for a Continuing Presbyterian Church, 1973.
- Smylie, James H. "American Presbyterians: A Pictorial History" *Journal of Presbyterian History*, Spring/Summer, 1985.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *A Brief History of the Presbyterians*. Louisville: Geneva Press, 1996.
- Thompson, E.T. *Presbyterians in the South*. 3 Vols. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 1973.
- Trinterud, Leonard J. *A Bibliography of American Presbyterianism During the Colonial Period*. Philadelphia: Presbyterian Historical Society, 1968.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *The Forming of an American Tradition: A re-examination of colonial Presbyterianism*. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1949.
- Wells, David F., Jr. *Reformed Theology in America: A History of Its Modern Development*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 1997.

## Course Objectives Related to MDiv\* Student Learning Outcomes

Course: American Presbyterianism

Professor: Muether

Campus: Orlando

Date: Summer 2023

<b><u>MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes</u></b>		<b><u>Rubric</u></b>	<b><u>Mini-Justification</u></b>
<p><i>In order to measure the success of the MDiv curriculum, RTS has defined the following as the intended outcomes of the student learning process. Each course contributes to these overall outcomes. This rubric shows the contribution of this course to the MDiv outcomes.</i></p> <p><i>*As the MDiv is the core degree at RTS, the MDiv rubric will be used in this syllabus.</i></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Strong</li> <li>➤ Moderate</li> <li>➤ Minimal</li> <li>➤ None</li> </ul>	
<b>Articulation (oral &amp; written)</b>	Broadly understands and articulates knowledge, both oral and written, of essential biblical, theological, historical, and cultural/global information, including details, concepts, and frameworks. Also includes ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.	Moderate	Integrative historical research paper based on primary sources and an understanding of Church history.
<b>Scripture</b>	Significant knowledge of the original meaning of Scripture. Also, the concepts for and skill to research further into the original meaning of Scripture and to apply Scripture to a variety of modern circumstances. (Includes appropriate use of original languages and hermeneutics; and integrates theological, historical, and cultural/global perspectives.)	Moderate	Discuss use of Scripture in Presbyterian controversies and changing views of inspiration/authority of Scripture among Presbyterians.
<b>Reformed Theology</b>	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	Strong	Reformed heritage of American Presbyterianism and historic Presbyterian subscription to Westminster Standards.
<b>Sanctification</b>	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	Minimal	Spiritual motivation for mission and ministry.
<b>Desire for Worldview</b>	Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.	Minimal	Presbyterian desire to glorify God in all things.
<b>Winsomely Reformed</b>	Embraces a winsomely Reformed ethos. (Includes an appropriate ecumenical spirit with other Christians, especially Evangelicals; a concern to present the Gospel in a God-honoring manner to non-Christians; and a truth-in-love attitude in disagreements.)	Moderate	Discussion of Presbyterian relationships with other American denominations.
<b>Pastoral Ministry</b>	Ability to minister the Word of God to hearts and lives of both church and unchurched, to include preaching, teaching, leading in worship, leading, and shepherding the local congregation, aiding in spiritual maturity, concern for non-Christians.	Minimal	Knowledge of a church's tradition is vital for effective pastoral ministry.