

# Religion in America

Religious Studies 321  
Hoover 113  
Fall, 2003

Joseph L. Price  
Platner 112  
MW: 11:30-12:00  
Tu: 1:30-2:00

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

Focusing on the ethos of the seventeenth, eighteenth, and nineteenth centuries in the United States, this course will examine the distinct interaction of religious life in the nation with significant events and trends in its history: exploring the religious encounters between the European settlers and Native Americans; investigating the emergence of religious “awakenings” and revivals; surveying distinct North American responses to the encounter with “the Wilderness”; probing the roles (formative and responsive, evocative and protestative) that religion assumed in relation to slavery and issues of race relations; and examining the shaping voices, visions, and vocations of women who nurtured the lives of religious communities and who lead social reforms in civic communities.

## TEXTS

John Corrigan and Winthrop Hudson, *Religion in America*, 7<sup>th</sup> edition  
Bert E. Carroll and Mark C. Carnes, *The Routledge Historical Atlas of Religion in America*  
Joel Martin, *The Land Looks after Us: A History of Native American Religion*  
Albert J. Raboteau, *Canaan Land: A Religious History of African Americans*  
Xeroxed selections on reserve

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Attendance: Daily class attendance is required. An excessive number of absences will result in the lowering of your grade and, perhaps, failure of the course.

Readings: Completion of reading assignments as scheduled is required in order to participate adequately in class sessions. In addition to the assigned texts above, there will be other assigned readings on reserve in the library.

Quizzes: Routinely, quizzes will be given in class on required readings. No make up quizzes will be given because of tardiness or absence.

Exams: There will be two mid-term exams and a final exam, each of which will require substantial writing.

Research Paper: Suggested topics and guidelines for the Research Paper will be distributed. Oral presentations of the research projects will be made during the final week of class.

## GRADING

Mid-Term Exams	30% of the final course grade
Research Paper	25% of the final course grade
Research Presentation	10% of the final course grade
Final Exam	25% of the final course grade
Quizzes & Participation	10% of the final course grade

## **DAILY SCHEDULE**

<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Topic</u></b>	<b><u>Reading</u></b>
Sept. 4	Course Introduction: The academic study of religion and the nature of American religion	<i>Religion in America</i> , xi-7
Sept. 9	Context: Natural Cosmologies among the Native Americans	<i>Land Looks after Us</i> , ix-82 <i>Atlas</i> , 8-17, 20-21
Sept. 11	Context: Natural Cosmologies among the Native Americans	<i>Land Looks after Us</i> , 83-143 <i>Religion in America</i> , 11-22
Sept. 16	Transplanted Religious Patterns: Catholic Missions	<i>Religion in America</i> , 22-40 <i>Atlas</i> , 22-29
Sept. 18	Transplanted Religious Patterns: The Routes of British Roots	<i>Religion in America</i> , 41-83 <i>Atlas</i> , 30-37
Sept. 23	Transplanted Religious Patterns: Puritan Settlements, Calvinist Perspectives, and Sectarian Movements	<i>Religion in America</i> , 41-83 <i>Atlas</i> , 32-41, 46-55
Sept. 25	<b>MID-TERM EXAM #1</b>	
Sept. 30	Emergent Religious Possibilities: The Great Awakening and the Origins of American Revivalism	<i>Religion in America</i> , 84-104 <i>Atlas</i> , 56-59
Oct. 2	Emergent Religious Possibilities: The Roots of "American" Denominations	<i>Religion in America</i> , 84-104 <i>Atlas</i> , 42-45
Oct. 7	Emergent Religious Possibilities: Religion and Democracy	<i>Religion in America</i> , 105-127
Oct. 9	Emergent Religious Possibilities: The Republic and the Churches	<i>Religion in America</i> , 131-146 Jefferson & Madison, reserve

Oct. 14	Emergent Religious Possibilities: The Second Great Awakening	<i>Religion in America</i> , 147-168 <i>Atlas</i> , 62-71
Oct. 16	Emergent Religious Possibilities: The Form and Function of Revivalism	<i>Religion in America</i> , 147-168 McGloughlin, reserve
Oct. 21	Emergent Religious Possibilities: The Roots of African American Religious Experience	<i>Religion in America</i> , 169-199 <i>Canaan Land</i> , ix-20; <i>Atlas</i> , 84-87
Oct. 23	Emergent Religious Possibilities: The Formation of African American Churches	<i>Canaan Land</i> , 21-103 Voices of Ex-Slaves, reserve
Oct. 28	Emergent Religious Possibilities: The Growth of American Denominations	<i>Religion in America</i> , 169-199 <i>Atlas</i> , 72-77
Oct. 30	Emergent Religious Possibilities: Communitarian Movements	<i>Religion in America</i> , 200-227 <i>Atlas</i> , 78-83
Nov. 4	<b>MID-TERM EXAM #2</b>	
Nov. 6	Contextual Expansion: The Restoration of American Union	<i>Religion in America</i> , 231-254
Nov. 11	Contextual Expansion: The Immigration of Ethnic Religions	<i>Religion in America</i> , 255-277 <i>Atlas</i> , 88-97
Nov. 11 7:00 p.m.	<u>Special Class Session</u> Nisreen Malhis, "A Muslim Woman's Faith and Practice"	<i>Atlas</i> , 102-103
Nov. 13	Contextual Expansion: The Growth of Immigrant Religions	<i>Religion in America</i> , 255-277
Nov. 16	Contextual Expansion: Social and Intellectual Challenges	<i>Religion in America</i> , 278-297
Nov. 18	Contextual Expansion: Revivals and Reforms	<i>Religion in America</i> , 278-297
Nov. 20	Contextual Expansion: The Frontier Spirit	<i>Religion in America</i> , 298-335
Nov. 25	Contextual Expansion: From the Frontier Spirit to Imperialism <b>RESEARCH PAPERS DUE</b>	<i>Religion in America</i> , 298-335
Dec. 2	Research Presentations	
Dec. 7	Research Presentations	
Dec. 11	The Last Judgment: <b>FINAL EXAM</b>	8:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m.