

HIST 4345/REL 4399: Religion and the American Revolution



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This course traces the development of religion in the 13 English colonies, and the role that religion played in the development of revolutionary fervor in what would become the United States of America.

COMMON TEXTS:

David Hackett Fischer, Paul Revere's Ride (not assigned per se, but important background reading)
Thomas Paine, Common Sense

INDIVIDUAL READINGS (italicized titles not in Jay-Rollins Library, but are in ALC)

Paul Boyer and Stephen Nissenbaum, Salem Possessed
Joy Buel, The Way of Duty
John Putnam Demos, Entertaining Satan
John Putnam Demos, A Little Commonwealth
Stephen Foster, The Long Argument
Philip Greven, Four Generations
Robert A. Gross, The Minutemen and their World
Janice Knight, Orthodoxies in Massachusetts
Kenneth Lockridge, A New England Town
Edmund S. Morgan, The Puritan Dilemma
Edmund S. Morgan, The Puritan Family
Sumner Powell, Puritan Village
Darret Rutman, Winthrop's Boston

READINGS: (available as a coursepack in the Printshop):

Colonial Charters

SINNERS IN THE HANDS OF AN ANGRY GOD [1741] Jonathan Edwards

BRITAIN'S MERCIES, AND BRITAIN'S DUTIES [1746] - George Whitefield

A CALM ADDRESS TO OUR AMERICAN COLONIES [1775] - John Wesley

A CONSTITUTIONAL ANSWER TO WESLEY'S CALM ADDRESS [1775] – Anonymous

AMERICA'S APPEAL TO THE IMPARTIAL WORLD [1775] - Moses Mather

A SERMON PREACHED AT LEXINGTON ON THE 19TH OF APRIL [1781] - Henry Cumings

Patricia U. Bonomi, "Religious Dissent and the Case for American Exceptionalism" in Ronald Hoffman and Peter J. Albert, eds., Religion in a Revolutionary Age (Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, 1994), pp. 31-51.

William G. McLoughlin, "The Role of Religion in the Revolution" in Stephen G. Kurtz and James H. Huston, Essays on the American Revolution (Chapel Hill, University of North Carolina Press, 1973), pp. 197-255.

ASSIGNMENTS:

A total of 700 points will be offered in this course, with grades distributed in accordance with the McMurry University Course Catalog.

Grades will be based upon the following:

CLASS PARTICIPATION: As this class meets 3 hours per day (the equivalent of a week of normal MWF classes) attendance is of paramount importance. 200 points will be offered for attendance and class participation, which may include reading quizzes given at the beginning of any class. It is expected that when discussion is called for, all members of the class will participate.

CHARTER DISSECTION: You will be assigned a charter or group of charters for one of the original 13 colonies. After carefully reading that charter, you will prepare a brief (1 page typed, double-spaced) paper describing the place of religion in that colony, in which you analyze the degree to which religion is referred to in the colonial charter, and what efforts are undertaken to protect the free expression of religion in your respective colony. This Charter Dissection and ensuing class discussion will be worth 100 points.

BOOK REVIEW: You will select 1 title from the Individual Readings list provided above. After reading the text, you will prepare a formal, scholarly book review of no less than three and no more than four typed, double-spaced pages. Your review should follow the same general format as that which is found in the William and Mary Quarterly, located at F221 .W71 in the Jay-Rollins Library. Your review should contain a succinct discussion of the author's thesis (point of view), how the author shaped his or her argument, and what sources were used to support the thesis. When you bring the completed review to class on 23 May, you should be prepared to discuss this book with the class. This Book Review and ensuing class discussion will be worth 200 points.

RUMINATIONS: During our trip to Boston, you will be required to keep a journal of your thoughts, discoveries, and comments that spark your imagination. These ruminations may relate directly to material covered in class, or may be a consequence of other things you experience while in Boston. You are also **STRONGLY ENCOURAGED** to use these ruminations as an opportunity to reflect on the material covered in Fischer, Paul Revere's Ride and how it relates to what you experience. It is expected that each day's ruminative comments should fill 1-2 regular

size (8.5 x 11) sheets of college-ruled notebook paper. These ruminations will be collectively due upon our return to Abilene, although you may turn them in when we return to Texas on 1 June. Your Ruminations will be worth 200 points.

Lecture topics, due dates, and abbreviated itinerary.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	15 Course Intro. Religious Background	16 European Background to Colonization	17 The 13 Colonies	18 Colonies and Charters/ Religious Development Charter Dissection Due	19 The Great Awakening Discuss: Whitefield and Edwards	20
21	22 Politics and the Great Awakening Discuss: Wesley, Anonymous and Mather	23 Seminar: The Colonial Community Book Review Due	24 The Road to Revolution Discuss: Paine Bonomi, McLoughlin Cumings	25 Travel: Abilene to Boston	26 Duck Tour (AM) Freedom Trail: South End (PM)	27 Freedom Trail: South End (AM) Free Time (PM)
28 Old North Church (AM) Free Time (PM)	2 Freedom Trail: North End/Charleston Navy Yard, Bunker Hill	30 Lexington And Concord, Battle Road Lunch: Concord Inn	31 Plymouth Rock, Mayflower II and Plymouth Plantation Lunch: Town Wharf Area	1 Travel: Boston to Abilene	2 Boston Rumination Due	