

BRIERCREST

HIS 660 History of Modern Evangelicalism

Spring 2019

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Course Dates: May 13-17, 2019

3 Credit Hours

COURSE DESCRIPTION

In his journal following his conversion in 1738, John Wesley wrote, "I felt my heart strangely warmed." Many hearts were "strangely warmed" in the 18th century, and the Evangelical Revival had a profound impact upon the Protestant community in the North Atlantic triangle and beyond. Beginning with the Wesleys and George Whitefield in Britain and Jonathan Edwards in the United States, this course explores prominent themes, issues, and personalities in the history of the early modern and modern evangelical movements.

COURSE INTEGRATION

As an Evangelical institution, Briercrest Seminary seeks to develop in its students an appreciation for the historical development of the Evangelical movement and for its wide diversity of expression. This course assists the students in exploring that development and diversity and in recognizing their relevance in current contexts. The historic Evangelical emphases on conversionism, activism, Biblicism, and crucicentricism continue to be defining characteristics of the movement, and a deeper understanding of their origins and evolution—as well as their weaknesses—will equip the students to serve in building up their churches, in being witnesses of Christ Jesus in the community, and in providing leadership for subsequent generations of Evangelicals.

COURSE TEXTS

Hankins, Barry, ed. *Evangelicalism and Fundamentalism: A Documentary Reader*. New York: New York University Press, 2008.

Heath, Gordon L. *Doing Church History: A User-friendly Introduction to Re-searching the History of Christianity*. Toronto: Clements Publishing, 2008. [Optional]

Rawlyk, G. A., ed. *Aspects of the Canadian Evangelical Experience*. Montreal: McGill-Queen's University Press, 1997. [available online through the library]

Stanley, Brian. *The Global Diffusion of Evangelicalism: The Age of Billy Graham and John Stott*. A History of Evangelicalism. Nottingham: Inter-Varsity Press, 2013.

Students are expected to refer to Briercrest Seminary's Format and Style Guides and Guide for Writing Research Papers, available as PDF documents here: <https://www.mybriercrest.ca/seminary/documents/>.

Three of these texts are available in store and online at the Briercrest Bookstore: <http://briercrest.ca/bookstore>, while the Rawlyk text is available through the library.

Students are responsible for course materials and communication on Canvas (<https://briercrest.instructure.com>; cf. <http://briercrest.ca/online/canvas>) and their myBriercrest.ca email account.

COURSE OUTCOMES

Thinking objectives

1. To list the specific individuals and movements that pioneered or developed the various doctrinal positions within evangelicalism.
2. To examine the chronological/sequential events that shaped the evangelical wing of the church up to the present.
3. To identify the key doctrinal developments and theological issues within evangelicalism from the 18th century to the 21st.
4. To identify the various social/cultural issues that evangelicalism has had to address in the previous three centuries.
5. To identify the specific revivalist movements which have promoted evangelical goals and programs.
6. To identify the challenges which face the evangelical churches in the 21st century.

Value objectives

1. To esteem more highly one's evangelical heritage via an examination of the historic trajectory of its development.
2. To cherish the legacy of the major revivals within evangelicalism in the previous three centuries.
3. To cherish as role models various evangelical leaders and pioneers of the past.
4. To esteem the contributions of evangelicals to the social issues facing the church in the past, with particular reference to present applications.
5. To trace the impact of the various doctrines of evangelicalism on the over-all life of the church up to the present time.
6. To value more highly the particular evangelical traditions which have formed our contemporary evangelical consensus.

Living and serving objectives

1. To commit to live according to our evangelical convictions fortified with our knowledge of our previous heritage.
2. To find applicable evangelical principles lived out in the past, and commit to their application in the present.
3. To examine our contemporary culture through the lens of previous evangelical history, and commit to engage our society with the claims of the gospel.
4. To emulate the character traits in the lives of our individual "heroes of the faith" from the past.
5. To sharpen our evangelical focus regarding contemporary issues, and faithfully engage our world for Christ.
6. To identify specific areas of calling, and based on our learning from our history, courageously serve in the area to which each of us is called.

COURSE OUTLINE AND CONTENT

The following is intended as a general orientation of the course regarding its content and time priorities. Some flexibility is to be anticipated relative to classroom interaction and other factors.

Monday

Defining "Evangelicalism." Beginnings of modern Evangelicalism in the European context: conditions at the close of the 17th century. Puritans and Non-Conformists in England. Pietism and the Moravians in Germany. The Wesleys and the Methodist movement.

Tuesday

The Church in North America: comparison/contrast between Britain and North America. First Evangelical Awakening. Paradigms of revival, major personalities and enduring doctrinal issues. Baptists and disestablishment of the state church.

Wednesday

Growth of Evangelicalism in the nineteenth century. The Second Great Awakening. The growth of Methodism and the Holiness Movement. Princeton Theologians and the defense of the Bible. The place of Evangelicals in the Canadian Church. The golden age of Evangelicalism: major revivalists and crusaders. Impact of foreign missionary activity at home. Dispensationalist interpretation of Scripture and world events.

Thursday

Evangelicalism under siege: the threats of Darwinism, liberalism and modernism. Church and cultural issues of the early 20th century. Pentecostalism and the charismatic influence. Bible School Movement. Evangelical unity in the midst of denominational disunity and liberal ecumenism.

Friday

Evangelicalism and the modern world: realities of post WWII society. Redefining Evangelicalism as distinct from Fundamentalism. Crusade evangelism, missions and the rise of the Jesus Movement. Major conferences and doctrinal platforms. The 21st century.

ASSIGNMENTS

Pre-Course Assignments:

1. Read the article: John G. Stackhouse, "Defining 'Evangelical,'" *Church & Faith Trends*, 1, no. 1 (Oct. 2007): 1-5, as found at <http://files.efc-canada.net/min/rc/CFT-1-1-DefiningEvangelical.pdf>. Stackhouse builds his definition on a 4-fold analysis by British historian, David W. Bebbington, and expands it to include important historical factors.
2. Read the article: Molly Worthen, "Defining Evangelicalism: Questions that Complement the Quadrilateral," *Fides et Historia*, 47, no. 1 (Winter/Spring 2015): 83-86, accessible through the ATLA Religion Database, one of our library's "Electronic Resources." This issue of *Fides et Historia* has numerous contributions from a roundtable discussion of Bebbington's quadrilateral; feel free to browse others as well as Bebbington's response to each.

3. Read the article: Bruce Hindmarsh, "What is Evangelicalism?" as found at <https://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2018/march-web-only/what-is-evangelicalism.html>.

These three readings will guide our discussion when we meet Monday morning. I would encourage you to review them prior to coming to class.

4. Read the entire text of *The Global Diffusion of Evangelicalism* by Brian Stanley.

Write a 5-page critique of the book including the following: a summary of contents, an analysis of the author's key argument(s), and a personal reflection on the value of the book. Each of these three sections should be of similar length. The analysis should also include your assessment of the author's success in proving his thesis and the strengths and weaknesses of the book. Submit the book review on Canvas.

Due first day of class: May 13, 2019. Percentage of course mark: 20%

5. Read the entire text of *Evangelicalism and Fundamentalism*, edited by Barry Hankins.

Prepare a 30-minute class presentation and discussion on one of the following subjects, focusing on just one or two primary sources from the specified chapters. For the first 10 minutes present the historical context of the author and the reading selection. For the last 20 minutes lead the class in discussing the themes found in the primary source reading and their importance to the history of Evangelicalism. You will need to do additional research beyond the Hankins text in preparing the historical context.

Choose from the following topics:

- The inspiration of the Bible and Higher Criticism – ch. 1
- Fundamentalism and Modernism – ch. 2
- Dispensational Premillennialism – ch. 3
- Evangelical response to science and evolution – ch. 4
- Creation Science and Intelligent Design – ch. 5
- Prohibition and related social concerns – ch. 6
- Political involvement of Billy Graham and Jerry Falwell – ch. 6, 7
- Abortion and related social concerns – ch. 7
- International politics (nuclear war, support for Israel) – ch. 7
- Role of women – ch. 8
- Race and civil rights – ch. 8
- Evangelicals and Roman Catholics – ch. 9

The written submission will consist of the presentation of the historical context and the list of questions you have prepared to stimulate class discussion, along with a bibliography of 3-4 sources you have used in your research. The selection of topics will be first-come-first-served. To avoid duplication, you should contact me with your choice as soon as possible. The presentations will be scheduled to fit chronologically with the topics listed in the course outline.

Due on the day you make your presentation. Percentage of the course mark: 20%

6. Read the following chapters of *Aspects of the Canadian Evangelical Experience*, edited by G. A. Rawlyk: 6, 9, 11, 13, 14, 17, 18, 19, 21, 23, and 25.

On the basis of the readings in Rawlyk, write a 4-5 page essay on the history of Evangelicalism in Canada, answering questions such as the following:

- What were some of the key convictions which were common in various evangelical denominations or movements in Canada?
- What were some key areas of disagreement?
- What were some of the key social, cultural or political issues about which Canadian Evangelicals were concerned over the past 150 years?
- In your opinion, how have those convictions, disagreements, and issues changed or remained the same in the 21st century? What *should* change or remain the same?
- In your opinion, what were some of the strengths of the movement in Canada in the past, and what were some of the weaknesses?
- How do you see your own denomination or religious tradition fitting into the movement or having contrasting or unique elements?

This is not a research paper, so you do not need to do additional research or cite references other than the papers in the Rawlyk text. Footnotes are not needed; if you decide to use direct quotations, simply place the author and page number in parentheses. Example: (Airhart, 91). Submit the essay on Canvas.

Due on the first day of class: May 13, 2019. Percentage of the course mark: 15%

7. Read the text of *Doing Church History* by Gordon Heath [optional].

If church history is a relatively new or unfamiliar field, I would encourage you to read this brief introduction (less than 100 pages) to familiarize yourself with the methodology of researching church history.

Mid-Course Assignments:

1. Class presentation. See #4 in the Pre-Course Assignments

Post-Course Assignments:

1. Compose and submit a 12-14 page research paper on any topic within the parameters of the course.

You may focus on an individual, institution, movement, or religious practice or issue that is part of modern Evangelicalism. Your subject should be concise enough to be examined in detail, and you should aim to be analytic and evaluative rather than merely descriptive. Format your paper according to *Briercrest Seminary's Format and Style Guides and Guide for Writing Research Papers*, with no less than 12 bibliographic entries. A thesis statement and outline, formatted according to the Format Guide, must precede the text of your paper. Use primary sources wherever possible, and

the use of peer-reviewed journal articles in addition to books is strongly encouraged. Submit the completed paper on Canvas.

Due July 12, 2019. Percentage of the course mark: 25%

2. Write a 5-7 page paper according to Briercrest Seminary guidelines and format on either:
 - (a) A topic which combines a historical situation from the period covered by the course, with a contemporary parallel your church or denomination is facing. The paper should define the issue or problem, as manifested in evangelical history with a present-day correspondence. Critique the way the situation was handled in the past, with commentary on how it is, or should be dealt with in the present.

Or:

- (b) A comparison and evaluation of two or three local church histories that have been published in the last 40 years. Give full bibliographic details at the start of the paper. Analyze which themes have been emphasized in each and critique the historiography (way of writing history) of each of the authors. The Archibald Library is building a collection of local church histories, but I would urge you to locate ones from your own community (and consider contributing them to our library!). To locate the list of nearly one hundred histories in our library, do "Series Alphabetical" search for "Canadian local church history collection."

Submit the completed paper on Canvas.

Due July 12, 2019. Percentage of the course mark: 20%

SEMINARY CALENDAR

Students are expected to be aware of the policies that govern course work at Briercrest Seminary, all of which are published in the current Seminary Calendar:
<https://www.briercrestseminary.ca/academics/calendar/>.

Attendance Policy

Students are expected to attend 100% of each modular for which they register. If this is impossible, arrangements must be made with the course professor. A maximum of 1 full day of class can be foregone. Students should request to withdraw from the course or move the course to an audit if additional time is missed.

Course Schedules

Classes begin at 9:00 a.m. on Monday morning and run a minimum of 30 hours through the course of the week. The schedule is determined by the course professor. Students should check the syllabus for specifics. When the syllabus does not state class times, students are responsible to check with the professor prior to making travel plans.

Assignment Submission

All assignments must be submitted no later than eight weeks after the last day of class as stated in the syllabus. The correct due dates will be clearly noted in the syllabus and each faculty member will state in their syllabus how assignments should be submitted. Assignments submitted within a week after the due date will be accepted with a 10 per cent penalty. For additional information refer to the late assignment policy or the extension policy in the [academic calendar](#).

Return of Graded Assignments

Professors are expected to return graded assignments within six weeks of the due date. If they fail to do so, students may submit an inquiry to the [Seminary](#). If an extension is granted, the professor is no longer obligated to meet this deadline.

Academic Honesty

Students are accountable to perform each task according to principles of academic honesty. Please refer to pages 24-25 in the [academic calendar](#) for more information.

Academic Accommodations

Any student with a disability, injury, or illness who may need academic accommodations should discuss them with the course instructor after contacting the Student Success Centre in person (located in the Library), by telephone (1-306-756-3230) or by email (studentsuccesscentre@briercrest.ca).

BIBLIOGRAPHY**General Introductions**

Bebbington, David W. *The Dominance of Evangelicalism: The Age of Spurgeon and Moody*. History of Evangelicalism series, vol. 3. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 2005.

Blumhofer, Edith Waldvogel, and Joel A. Carpenter. *Twentieth-century Evangelicalism: A Guide to the Sources*. New York: Garland, 1990.

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Dayton, Donald, and Robert K. Johnston, eds. *The Variety of American Evangelicalism*. Knoxville, TN: University of Tennessee Press, 1991.

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