

**College of Charleston
Department of Religious Studies
Spring 2015**

**RELS 115: RELIGION AND SOCIETY
EVANGELICALISM IN AMERICA
Tues and Thurs 9:25 – 10:40; Ed Center 103**

Instructor: Dr. Elijah Siegler
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Office: 4 Glebe St. #103 (Entryway C)
Office Hours: Tues 11-3 or by appointment

This course looks at evangelicalism in America culture from an interdisciplinary perspective. After defining “evangelicalism” and placing it in its historical contexts, we will focus on how evangelical beliefs and practices play out in American society. The last part of the course will examine how evangelicalism impacts the every day lives of those who follow it, looking in particular through the lenses of age and gender. We will attempt to understand how evangelicalism shapes (and is shaped by) various aspects of American society.

Required Texts:

1. Randall **Balmer**, Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory, Fourth ed.
2. Mark **Noll**, The Work We Have to Do: A History of Protestants in America
3. Tom **Perrotta**, The Abstinence Teacher
4. Daniel **Radosh**, Rapture Ready!

There are also required short readings on OAKS. Print these out. Please bring the relevant book or printout to class. (Warning: some readings may be offensive.)

Course Requirements:

- * Participation and attendance including small group discussion, random attendance checks, and in-class writing assignments: **10%**
- * One 3-4 pp. site visit paper: **15%**
- * One 4-5 pp. critical analysis paper: **20%**
- * Two out of three “surprise” quizzes, which will be announced the class before. (The lowest quiz will be dropped.): **2 x 5% = 10%**
- * A midterm exam on February 26: **20%**
- * A final exam on April 30 from 9 to 11 AM: **25%**

We will review and discuss each assignment before it is due. All work must be original and all sources correctly cited. The university’s honor code will be strictly enforced. Students can find a complete version of the Honor Code and all related processes in the Student Handbook, available online. Use of electronic devices during class time is strictly prohibited! Any exceptions must be cleared with me in advance.

This course will fulfill the **General Education Student Learning Outcomes:**
Student Learning Outcome #1: Students analyze how ideas are represented, interpreted or valued in various expressions of human culture.
Student Learning Outcome #2: Students examine relevant primary source materials as understood by the discipline and interpret the material in writing assignments. These two learning outcomes will be assessed in the second “critical analysis” paper (worth 20%), which will ask students to analyze primary sources in terms of their religious ideas.

Grading Scale: A: 93-100; A-: 90-92; B+: 87-89; B: 83-86; B-: 80-82; C+: 77-79; C: 73-76; C-: 70-72; D+: 67-69; D: 63-66; D-: 61-62 F: 60 or below.

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

PART I: INTRODUCTIONS

Tues Jan 13: Why Study Religion?
Read: studyreligion.org; “Nacirema” handout

Thurs Jan 15: Who is an Evangelical?
Read: Radosh 1-8; Balmer xv-xviii; “Awakenings” (OAKS); Goldberg 1-10 (OAKS)

Tues Jan 20: What does Evangelicalism have to do with popular culture?
Read: Radosh 9-43

Thurs Jan 22: What does Evangelicalism have to do with politics?
Read: Goldberg 10-49 (OAKS); Balmer 41-45

Tues Jan 27: What does Evangelicalism have to do with family structure?
Watch in Class: *Jesus Camp*
Read: Radosh 118-132; Balmer 91-93

Thurs Jan 29: What have we learned so far? A Catch-up Discussion

PART II: HISTORIES

Tues Feb 3: What is the role of evangelicalism in American history (1620-1865)?
Read: Noll 14-72; Balmer 231-234

Thurs Feb 5: What is the role of evangelicalism in American history (1865-1925)?
Read: Noll 82-96; Balmer 32-38, 45-47, 246-254

Tues Feb 10: What is the role of evangelicalism in American history (1925-1988)?

Special Guest Speaker: Dr. Charles Lippy

Read: Noll 98-123; Balmer 127-138, 146-175 (skim 147-155, 166-171)

Thur Feb 12: What is the role of evangelicalism in American history (1988-present)?

Read: Willow Creek (OAKS); Balmer 326-350

PART III: BELIEFS AND MOVEMENTS

Tues Feb 17: What are biblicism and conversionism?

Read: Radosh 59-71; Balmer 193-199; "Book of Jerry Falwell" (OAKS); Balmer 93-106 (skim 93-106)

Thurs Feb 19: What is premillennialism?

Read: Radosh 72-76; Balmer 48-66 (until "evangelistic ends")

Midterm exam study guide handed out

Tues Feb 24: How does premillennialism influence modern society?

Read: Johnson Frykholm (OAKS); Radosh 76-87

Thurs Feb 26: **Midterm Exam**

Spring Break!

Tues Mar 10: What is creationism?

Read: Jennings Bryan (OAKS); Goldberg II 80-93 (OAKS)

Thurs Mar 12: How does creationism influence modern society?

Read: Goldberg II 93-105 (OAKS); Radosh 276-294

Tues Mar 17: What is spiritual warfare?

Read: Radosh 88-117 (skim 105-110); "This Present Darkness" (skim 331-end) (OAKS); Monteith (OAKS)

PART IV: LIVED RELIGION

Thurs Mar 19: College Life

Read: Balmer 138-149; Rosin (OAKS)

Tues Mar 24: Gender Roles

Read: Carpenter (OAKS)

Thurs Mar 26: Love and Sex

Read: Radosh 260-275; "Sex and Submission" (OAKS)

Tues Mar 31: Abstinence

Read: Radosh 249-259; "Dutch Teen Sex" (OAKS); Perrotta 3-69

Thurs Apr 2: Sports

Read: Wolverton (OAKS); Perrotta 73-149

Tues Apr 7: Youth Culture

Read: Radosh 133-151; Perrotta 153-242

Thurs Apr 9: Manhood

Read: Perrotta 243-358, reading guide; "Promise Keepers" (OAKS)

Tues Apr 14: Music and Festivals

Special Guest Speaker: Prof. Courtney Tepera

Read: Radosh 152-186 (skim 175-184); Balmer 295-311 (skim 303-311)

Thurs Apr 16: The evangelical critique of evangelicalism

Read: Wallis (OAKS); "Building Congregations" (OAKS); Balmer 258-277, 375-377; Radosh 186-199

Tues Apr 21: What are evangelicals afraid of?

Read: Bivins (OAKS); Radosh 295-302

Thurs Apr 23: What have we learned?

Read: Radosh 303-308; Balmer 351-359, 363, 372-275, 377-378

Final exam study guide handed out

Thurs Apr 30, 9-11 AM: Final Exam

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Note: Students with documented disabilities who have been approved to receive accommodation through SNAP should feel free to discuss this during office hours. For more information, contact Disability Services at 953-1431.

A good resource for how to write a religious studies paper:

<http://writingcenter.unc.edu/handouts/religious-studies/>

*Visit the **Center for Student Learning** for help with study strategies, speaking & writing skills, and course content. They offer tutoring, Supplemental Instruction, study skills appointments, and workshops. Students of all abilities have become more successful using these programs throughout their academic career and the services are available to you at no additional cost. For more information regarding these services please visit the CSL website at <http://csl.cofc.edu> or call (843)953-5635.*