

HISTORY 390R

MISSIONS AND MISSIONARIES IN AMERICAN HISTORY

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Office: 2109 JFSB

Office Hours: W, 9:30-11:30 am; Th, 9-11 am

Winter 2018

Section 003 (2114 JFSB)

MWF 2:00-2:50 pm

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course examines missions and missionaries in American history, beginning with the first Dominican, Jesuit, and Franciscan fathers and Ursuline nuns to reach the Americas in the 16th and 17th centuries and continuing through modern missions undertaken by Catholic, Protestant, and Mormon missionaries to regions around the world each year. Missionaries provide a unique vantage point from which to study not only the history of religion in America, but also the histories of race, gender, class, imperialism, and the nation.

COURSE FORMAT AND OBJECTIVES:

The central aim of the course is to prepare students to critically and thoughtfully engage with the history of missionaries and missions and understand their place and role in relationship to the broader history of the United States and the world.

This is a reading intensive course. Students are expected to read each of the assigned books, articles, and primary sources. Our time together in the classroom will feature a combination of discussion, lecture, assignments, and small group activities. I expect you to actively participate in class discussion and complete all required assignments, both in and out of class.

REQUIRED READING:

Each of the following books is available at the BYU Bookstore. You can also find copies (including e-copies) at Amazon.com, Bookfinder.com, or other online retailers. Those marked with an asterisk (*) are also available as e-books via the Harold B. Lee Library.

- Allan Greer, *Mohawk Saint: Catherine Tekakwitha and the Jesuits* (Oxford University Press, 2005)*
- Emily Conroy-Krutz, *Christian Imperialism: Converting the World in the Early American Republic* (Cornell University Press, 2015)*

- David A. Hollinger, *Protestants Abroad: How Missionaries Tried to Change the World but Changed America* (Princeton University Press, 2017)
- Craig Harline, *Way Below the Angels: The Pretty Clearly Troubled but Not Even Close to Tragic Confessions of a Real Live Mormon Missionary* (W.B. Eerdmans, 2014)
- Rebecca Y. Kim, *The Spirit Moves West: Korean Missionaries in America* (Oxford University Press, 2015)*

Additional readings will be available via Learning Suite.

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING:

There are six graded components to this course:

I. ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION – 10%

Students are expected to attend class and actively participate in class discussion. This necessitates reading the assigned material before class and coming prepared to critically and thoughtfully discuss it with both your classmates and myself. I will take roll regularly throughout the semester.

Students may miss up to four class periods without being penalized, though you are responsible for any material missed in case of absence and cannot make up any assignments missed as a result of your absence. **Your final (total) grade will be penalized one percentage point for each class period missed after that.** In addition, **I reserve the right to adjust borderline grades up or down based on attendance and participation in class discussion.**

2. RESPONSES – 5%

There will be several (~5) short responses administered at the beginning of class throughout the semester, in which you will be given ~10 minutes to respond to a prompt based on an assigned reading.

3. FILMS – 5%

Over the course of the semester, we will be watching two feature length films portraying missions and missionaries in American history. These films will be shown outside of our regular class schedule. Your attendance is required, and at least one of the written responses described above will relate to the film(s).

Further details, including dates, times, and locations, will be made available on Learning Suite.

4. DIGITAL HISTORY PROJECT – 10%

Each of you will be required to contribute ten entries to *The American Converts Database* (<https://americanconverts.org>), a collaborative research database documenting American converts and their conversion experiences. Entries will be due on a rolling basis over the course of the semester. See due dates below under “Class Readings + Schedule.”

Additional information is available on Learning Suite.

5. RESEARCH PAPER – 25%

The culminating assignment for this course will be a 10-15 page research paper on a subject of your choosing related to missions and missionaries in American history. It should be based on original research in primary sources, engage with secondary source material on the subject, and advance a clear and original argument.

All students are required to meet with me during office hours by the end of Week 4 to propose your chosen topic and to submit a preliminary bibliography by Week 6. Meeting those deadlines will count toward your final grade for the assignment.

Additional information, including a list of potential topics and resources, is available on Learning Suite. **The final paper is due via Learning Suite by Friday, April 6 at 11:59 pm.** Your grade will be penalized 1.5 points for each day that it is late.

6. MIDTERM EXAMINATION – 20%

Blue book exam consisting of some combination of short-answer IDs and longer essays. **The midterm will be held in class on Monday, February 26.**

7. FINAL EXAMINATION – 25%

Blue book exam consisting of some combination of short-answer IDs and longer essays. **The university-scheduled time for the final exam is Wednesday, April 25, from 11:00 am-2:00 pm.**

POLICIES AND REMINDERS:

This class is intended to be a space to critically and thoughtfully discuss American history. Please feel free to ask questions and offer opinions during class (in fact, your grade depends on it!), but always treat your classmates and your professor with respect. Disagreement is allowed, but personal attacks and insults are not. Harassment of any kind will not be tolerated. If you experience a problem, please report the situation to the professor immediately.

A NOTE ON TECHNOLOGY AND ELECTRONIC DEVICES

You are welcome to use laptops, tablets, and other electronic devices in class for taking notes and/or viewing reading materials. Each of us learns differently and takes notes differently. Regardless of how you take notes, please do your best to not distract the class or your fellow students. To that end, please silence your electronic devices and use them only to take notes or access course materials. As a former student and a current instructor, please rest assured that I can tell when you are browsing the internet, facebooking, tweeting, snapchatting, instagramming, WhatsApping, or using any other social media app or game, or reading material not relevant to this class. I reserve the right to ask you to put your electronic devices away at any point.

Honor Code: In keeping with the principles of the BYU Honor Code, students are expected to be honest in all of their academic work. Academic honesty means, most fundamentally, that any work you present as your own must in fact be your own work and not that of another. Violations of this principle may result in a failing grade in the course and additional disciplinary action by the university. Students are also expected to adhere to the Dress and Grooming Standards. Please call the Honor Code Office at (810) 422-2847 if you have questions about those standards.

Preventing Sexual Harassment: In accordance with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Brigham Young University prohibits unlawful sex discrimination against any participant in its education programs or activities. The university also prohibits sexual harassment—including sexual violence—committed by or against students, university employees, and visitors to campus. As outlined in university policy, sexual harassment, dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking are considered forms of "Sexual Misconduct" prohibited by the university.

University policy requires all university employees in a teaching, managerial, or supervisory role to report all incidents of Sexual Misconduct that come to their attention in any way, including but not limited to face-to-face conversations, a written class assignment or paper, class discussion, email, text, or social media post. Incidents of Sexual Misconduct should be reported to the Title IX Coordinator at t9coordinator@byu.edu or (801) 422-8692. Reports may also be submitted through EthicsPoint at <https://titleix.byu.edu/report> or 1-888-238-1062 (24-hours a day).

BYU offers confidential resources for those affected by Sexual Misconduct, including the university's Victim Advocate, as well as a number of non-confidential resources and services that may be helpful. Additional information about Title IX, the university's

Sexual Misconduct Policy, reporting requirements, and resources can be found at <http://titleix.byu.edu> or by contacting the university's Title IX Coordinator.

Students With Disabilities: If you have a disability that may affect your performance in this course, you should contact the University Accessibility Center (2170 WSC). This office can evaluate your situation and assist the professor in arranging for reasonable accommodations.

CLASS SCHEDULE + READINGS

WEEK 1 (January 8-12): INTRODUCTION

January 8 **Course Overview**

January 10 **Missions and Missionaries in Christian History**
Read: William R. Hutchison, "Introduction: God's Mission and America's," in *Errand to the World: American Protestant Thought and Foreign Missions* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1987), 1-14. (available on LS)

January 12 **Conversion and Culture**
Read: Linford D. Fisher, *The Indian Great Awakening: Religion and the Shaping of Native Cultures in Early America* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2012): 84-106. (via LS)

WEEK 2 (January 15-19): GENESIS

January 15 **NO CLASS: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day**

January 17 **Missions to New Spain and New France**
Read: Pope Paul III, *Sublimus Dei: On the Enslavement and Evangelization of Indians* – 1537; and Jean de Brébeuf, "Advice to those whom it shall please God to call to New France" – 1637 (via LS)

January 19 **Visit to Special Collections (Meet at 1130 HBLL)**

WEEK 3 (January 22-26): GENESIS

January 22 **Skype with Chris Anderson, Archivist – Yale Divinity School Special Collections**

January 24 Colonization and Conversion in New France

Read: Greer, *Mohawk Saint*, pp. vi-110

January 26 Colonization and Conversion in New France, pt. II

Read: Greer, *Mohawk Saint*, pp. 111-205

WEEK 4 (January 29-February 2): CONVERSION AND TRANSLATION

January 29 Language, Translation, and Conversion

Read: Tracy Neal Leavelle, "'Bad Things' and 'Good Hearts': Mediation, Meaning, and the Language of Illinois Christianity," *Church History* 76:2 (June 2007): 363-394. Available via [HBL](#).

January 31 Missions, Conversion, and Race

Read: Rebecca Anne Goetz, *The Baptism of Early Virginia: How Christianity Created Race* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2011), 86-111. Available via [HBL](#).

February 2 Missions to Slaves and Enslaved Missionaries

Edward E. Andrews, *Native Apostles: Black and Indian Missionaries in the British Atlantic World* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2013), 87-124.

February 2: Deadline to get topic for research paper approved

WEEK 5 (February 5-9): MISSIONS, SLAVERY, AND RACE

February 5 Missionary Connexions in the Age of Revolution

Read: John Wesley to Thomas Coke and Francis Asbury, 10 September 1784 (via LS)

February 7 Home Mission Movement in the Early American Republic

Read: *Address and Constitution of the New-York Missionary Society* – 1796 (via LS)

February 9 Missions to Slaves

Read: Excerpt from Charles C. Jones, *The Religious Instruction of the Negroes in the United States* – 1842 (via LS)

WEEK 6 (February 12-16): FOREIGN MISSIONS AND HIERARCHIES OF HEATHENISM

February 12 Hierarchies of Heathenism

Read: Conroy-Krutz, *Christian Imperialism*, xiii-101.

February 14 **Hierarchies of Heathenism, Part II**

February 16 **Skype with Emily Conroy-Krutz**

Read: Conroy-Krutz, *Christian Imperialism*, 102-213.

***Preliminary list of books and articles for research paper
due via Learning Suite by 11:59 pm on February 16***

WEEK 7 (February 19-23): MORMON MISSIONARIES AND MISSIONS TO MORMONS

February 19 **NO CLASS: President's Day**

February 20 **Missionaries and the Beginnings of Mormonism**

Read: Excerpt from Parley P. Pratt, *The Autobiography of Parley Parker Pratt* (via LS).

February 21 **Protestant and Mormon Missionaries in the Pacific**

Read: Laurie Maffly-Kipp, "Assembling Bodies and Souls: Missionary Practices on the Pacific Frontier," in *Practicing Protestants: Histories of Christian Life in America, 1630-1965*, ed. by Laurie F. Maffly-Kipp, Leigh E. Schmidt, and Mark Valeri (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2006), 51-76. Available via [HBLL](#).

February 23 **The Other Relic of Barbarism: Missions to Utah**

Jana Kathryn Reiss, "'Heathen in Our Fair Land': Presbyterian Women Missionaries in Utah, 1870-90," *Journal of Mormon History* 26:1 (Spring 2000): 165-195. Available via [HBLL](#).

***First four (4) entries due to *The American Converts*
Database by 11:59 pm on February 23***

WEEK 8 (February 26-March 2)

February 26 **Midterm exam: In Class**

February 28 **NO CLASS: Work on research paper**

March 2 **NO CLASS: Work on research paper**

WEEK 9 (March 5-9): MISSIONARIES, RECONSTRUCTION, AND RACE

March 5 Religion and Reconstruction

Judith Weisenfeld, "Who is Sufficient for These Things?" Sara G. Stanley and the American Missionary Association, 1864-1868," *Church History* 60:4 (December 1991): 493-507. Available via [HBLL](#).

March 7 Global Missions in the Gilded Age

Edward J. Blum, *Reforging the White Republic: Race, Religion, and American Nationalism, 1865-1898* (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 2005), 209-243. (via LS)

March 9 Missions and the Great Migration

Matthew J. Cressler, *Authentically Black and Truly Catholic: The Rise of Black Catholicism in the Great Migration* (New York: New York University Press, 2017), 19-48. (via LS)

WEEK 10 (March 12-16): PENTECOSTAL MISSIONS IN THE PROGRESSIVE ERA

March 12 Home Missions in Native America

Read: Angela Tarango, *Choosing the Jesus Way: American Indian Pentecostals and the Fight for the Indigenous Principle* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2014), 21-46. Available via [HBLL](#).

March 14 Black Women Missionaries in the Great Migration

Read Anthea Butler, *Women in the Church of God in Christ: Making a Sanctified World* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2007), chapter 3. Available via [HBLL](#).

March 16 NO CLASS: Spring Break

WEEK 11 (March 19-23): PROTESTANTS ABROAD

March 19 Protestants Abroad

Read; Hollinger, *Protestants Abroad*, 1-116.

March 21 Protestants Abroad, pt. II

Read; Hollinger, *Protestants Abroad*, 117-213.

March 23 Protestants Abroad, pt. III

Read; Hollinger, *Protestants Abroad*, 214-299.

*Additional four (4) entries due to *The American Converts*
Database by 11:59 pm on March 23*

WEEK 12 (March 26-30): MORMON MISSIONARIES IN THE 20th CENTURY

- March 26** **Mormon Missions in Transition**
- March 28** **Mormon Missionaries in a Changing Church**
Read: Harline, *Way Below the Angels*, all
- March 30** **Mormon Missionaries in a Changing Church, pt. II**

WEEK 13 (April 2-6): MINISTERING TO CHRISTIANS IN MODERN AMERICA

- April 2** **Muslim Missionaries to America**
Read: Excerpts from *The Moslem Sunrise* (via LS)
- April 4** **Every Member a Missionary: Jehovah's Witnesses**
Read: Andrew Holden, *Jehovah's Witnesses: Portrait of a Contemporary Religious Movement* (New York: Routledge, 2002), chapter 4. Available via [HBLL](#).
- April 6** **Mormon Missionaries on Stage and Screen**

*Research Paper due via Learning Suite by 11:59 pm"

WEEK 14 (April 9-13): EVANGELICAL MISSIONARIES IN MODERN AMERICA

- April 9** **Campus Missionaries**
Read: John G. Turner, *Bill Bright and Campus Crusade for Christ* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2008), 41-68.
Available via [HBLL](#).
- April 11** **Corporate Missionaries**
Read: Darren E. Grem, *The Blessings of Business: How Corporations Shaped Conservative Christianity* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2016). 121-161. (Via LS)
- April 13** **Political Missionaries**
Read: Lauren Frances Turek, "To Support a 'Brother in Christ': Evangelical Groups and U.S.-Guatemalan Relations during the Ríos Montt Regime," *Diplomatic History* 39:4 (September 2015): 689-

719. Available via [HBL](#).

***Final two (2) entries due to *The American Converts*
Database by 11:59 pm on April 13***

WEEK 15 (April 16-18): THE AMERICAN MISSION FIELD

April 16 **America as a Mission Field, Redux**
Read: Kim, *The Spirit Moves West* (all)

April 18 **Concluding Thoughts**

FINAL EXAM: WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25, 11:00 AM-2:00 PM