

Dr. Karl W. Lampley  
Fall 2015

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Kenna 301, 551-3182

Office Hours: W 1:00-2:30pm, Th. 4:30-5:30pm, and by appt.

RSOC 51  
**Religion in America**  
TR 2:00-3:40pm, Kenna 304

### ***Course Description***

This course is an introduction to the development, character, and impact of religion in the United States from the pre-colonial era to the present. Course readings and discussions will center on the relationship between religion and the history of American culture and society. We will also explore the significance of chosen methodology in the construction of American religious history, as well as the influence of religious narratives on the development of U.S. identity. Given time constraints, the course cannot be exhaustive but will examine representative historical episodes that highlight larger themes and major turning points. The course will proceed in a chronological order to consider how the role of religion has changed and transformed or stayed the same over time in American history.

### ***Required Texts***

R. Marie Griffith. *American Religions: A Documentary History*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2007. [AR]

Catherine A. Brekus, ed. *The Religious History of American Women: Reimagining the Past*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2007. [RHAW]

Brian Moore, *Black Robe*. New York: Plume, 1997.

*Additional Readings:* Readings not included in the above texts will be posted on Camino.

### ***Course Objectives***

At the end of the course, students should:

- Have familiarity with major movements, moments, and turning points in American religious history
- Identify major themes that connect different periods, places, and movements across the span of American religious history
- Be able to analyze a variety of sources in the larger context of American religious history
- Be able to provide historical context for characterizations about the supposed abundance or decline of religiosity in the United States

### ***Core Curriculum: Religion, Theology and Culture 2***

The study of Religion, Theology and Culture forms an important component of a Santa Clara education. This course fulfills the requirement for the second course in Religion, Theology and Culture (RTC 2).

**Students must have completed RTC 1 in order to earn RTC 2 credit for this course (transfer students, excepted).** The RTC 2 course is part of the Explorations dimension of the Core Curriculum. It aims to foster the breadth of knowledge, habits of mind and heart, and values needed for contemporary life. In particular, as an RTC 2 course, we will focus on:

- (1) Analyzing complex and diverse religious phenomena
- (2) Drawing on multiple disciplinary approaches to analyzing religion in the United States; and
- (3) Critically articulating the way belief has shaped and continues to shape the experience and practice of American identity, ourselves included

### ***American Studies Pathway***

This course is associated with the American Studies Pathway. You can find information about Pathways on the Core Curriculum website <http://scu.edu/core> including specific Pathways, all courses associated with them, and the Reflection Essay prompt and rubric used to evaluate the final essay you will submit. <http://www.scu.edu/provost/ugst/core/pathways/managing-your-pathway-work/>

**SAVE YOUR WORK FROM THIS CLASS.** If you declare an American Studies Pathway, you may use a representative piece of work from this course as one of the Pathway materials you will upload via eCampus during your junior or senior year. Therefore, we recommend that you keep electronic copies of your work using Dropbox or Google Docs, in addition to saving copies on your computer or flash drives. This may ensure you will have a range of choices for retrieving your saved files when you analyze and assemble your Pathway materials in preparation to write the Pathway reflection essay.

### ***Course Requirements***

#### ***Intellectual Engagement:***

Your presence and participation is essential to your success in this course and to the success of the course as a whole. Discussion of assigned texts forms an important part of this course and students are expected to come prepared each class for a thoughtful and lively conversation. Attendance is only a necessary precondition for this engagement, not a measure of it. Intellectual engagement will be determined not only by attendance, but more importantly, on preparation and engagement of class material. Students should bring the assigned reading each class and be prepared with questions, comments, and observations. The use of electronic devices for purposes other than direct course engagement is disruptive to the intellectual environment of the classroom and will adversely affect one's intellectual engagement grade.

*(Core objectives 1, 2, 3)*

#### ***Attendance Policy:***

Missing three or more classes will negatively impact your Intellectual Engagement grade for each absence.

#### ***Critical Essays:***

Students will write two critical analysis essays which entail a deeper and more focused engagement of assigned reading and course subject matter. Essay #1 will be a four-page paper (1000 words) on a topic in American pre-colonial or colonial religious history. Essay #2 will be a seven-page paper on one of the required essays in *Religious History of American Women*. Topics and paper guidelines will be posted well in advance of the due date noted in the class schedule below. *(Core objectives 1, 2)*

#### ***Late Paper Policy:***

Late papers will be reduced at least one full grade for each day late unless negotiated with the professor prior to the due date. Papers turned in too late or not at all will receive a 0 and no credit for the assignment.

#### ***Exams:***

There will be a midterm and final exam consisting of short answer and essay questions covering the major themes, events, and considerations in the course.

## Grading

Intellectual Engagement	10%
Essay # 1	10%
Essay # 2	20%
Midterm Exam	25%
Final Exam	35%

Final grades will be based on the following scale: A (95 and above); A-(90-94); B+ (87-89); B (84-86); B- (80-83); C+ (77-79); C (74-76); C- (70-73); D (60-69); F (below 60). Final grades are not negotiable and cannot be changed, except in the case of clerical error.

The Santa Clara University *Undergraduate Bulletin* identifies the standards for grades as follows: A (excellent), B (good), C (adequate), D (barely passing), F (not passing)

### ***Disability Accommodation Policy***

To request academic accommodations for a disability, students must be registered with Disabilities Resources, located in Benson, room 216. If you would like to register with Disabilities Resources, please go on-line to [www.scu.edu/disabilities](http://www.scu.edu/disabilities) or visit their office or call at (408) 554-4109. You will need to register and provide professional documentation of a disability prior to receiving academic accommodations.

### ***Academic Integrity***

Students are encouraged to collaborate, share ideas, and ask questions of one another. However, all written work must be your own and clearly distinguishable from the work of others. When you present others' work as your own, or fail to properly cite the contributions of others to your own work, you have engaged in plagiarism. It matters not whether the work is from a fellow student, the world-wide web, or a traditional printed source. If you have any questions as to what constitutes plagiarism, do not hesitate to ask the instructor. Santa Clara University and the Religious Studies Department take seriously the commitment to academic integrity. Any violations, including plagiarism or cheating, may result in an "F" and referral to the Office of Student Life.

### **Course Schedule**

*(Schedule and Reading subject to change if necessary)*

Tues, Sept. 22: Course Overview—Religion in America

#### **The Sixteenth Century: Religion, Culture, and Diversity before Colonization**

Thurs, Sept 24: Native American Religions and Theology  
Reading: Introduction [AR]; The Bull *Sublimis Deus* (1537) [AR]

#### **The Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries: From Colonization to Revolution**

Tues, Sept 29: Religious Conquest in the Atlantic World  
Reading: Chapters 1-6, *Black Robe*

Thurs, Oct 1: Religious Conquest in the Atlantic World  
Reading: Chapters 7-12, *Black Robe*

- Tues, Oct 6: Early Colonial Settlement  
Reading: John Winthrop, "A Model of Christian Charity" (1630) [AR]; Roger Williams, "Letter to the Town of Providence" (1654-55) [AR]; William Penn, "A Persuasive to Moderation" (1686) [AR]
- Thurs, Oct 8: Puritanism, Witchcraft, Women's Spiritual Power  
Reading: Elizabeth Reis, Chapter 2 [RHAW]
- Tues, Oct 13: Great Awakening  
Reading: Jonathan Edwards, *Some Thoughts Concerning the Present Revival of Religion in New England* (1743) [AR]; Charles Chauncy *Seasonable Thoughts on the State of Religion in New England* (1743) [AR]
- Thurs, Oct 15: Religious Freedom/Christian Nation?  
Reading: Thomas Jefferson, "A Bill for Establishing Religious Freedom" (1779) [AR]; James Madison, "Memorial and Remonstrance against Religious Assessments" (1785) [AR]  
**Essay #1 due in class or by 4:30pm in Dr. Lampley's box (Kenna 323)**

**The Nineteenth Century:  
Conflict, Creativity, and Consolidation**

- Tues, Oct 20: Women and Protestant Spirituality in Early America  
Reading: Janet Moore Lindman, Chapter 5 [RHAW]
- Thurs, Oct 22: Mormonism/Transcendentalism  
Reading: Joseph Smith, *The Articles of Faith* (1842) and *Revelation* (1835) [AR]
- Tues, Oct 27: **MIDTERM EXAM**
- Thurs, Oct 29: Religion, Slavery, and Anti-Slavery  
Reading: George D. Armstrong, *The Christian Doctrine of Slavery* (1857) [AR]
- Tues, Nov 3: Civil War and its Aftermath  
Reading: W.E.B Du Bois, "The Sorrow Songs" (1903) [AR]
- Thurs, Nov 5: Modernism, Science, and Religion  
Reading: James Woodrow, *Evolution* (1884) [AR]

**The Twentieth Century:  
Contesting America's Religious Character**

- Tues, Nov 10: Reform Judaism, Jewish American Literature, and Americanization  
Reading: Mary Antin, from *The Promised Land* (1912) [AR]; *Pittsburgh Platform* (1885) [AR]
- Thurs, Nov 12: Fundamentalism, Theological Realism  
Reading: Harry Emerson Fosdick, *Shall the Fundamentalists Win?* (1922) [AR]; Reinhold Niebuhr, *The Irony of American History* (1952) [AR]

Tues, Nov 17: Religion and Social Movements  
Reading: Ann Braude, Chapter 9 [RHAW]

Thurs, Nov 19: Catholicism, Race and Gender  
Reading: Amy Koehlinger, Chapter 10 [RHAW]

**Academic Holiday: November 23-27**

Tues, Dec 1: New Religious Pluralism and its Challenges  
No Reading

Thurs, Dec 3: Religion and American Empire; Course Conclusion  
No Reading  
**Final Essay due in class or by 4:30pm in Dr. Lampley's box (Kenna 323)**

**FINAL EXAM: Thursday, December 10th, 1:30-4:30pm**