

University of New Mexico
American Studies 514
Topics in American Religion
Spring 2000
Monday 1:00-3:30
Ortega Hall 313

Religion and American Culture

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Course Description

This interdisciplinary graduate seminar explores the role of religion in American culture and of religious studies in American culture studies. The course is organized historically, providing students with a brief introduction to American religious studies, an essential background in American religious history, and a basic understanding of recent debates over American religious historiography. This course also addresses key themes in the study of American religion, exploring the role of religion in American culture by reading representative scholarship selected in light of the area rubrics of the American Studies graduate program: Gender Studies; Race, Class and Ethnicity; Southwest Studies; Popular Culture; Environment, Science and Technology. Throughout the semester, we attempt to evaluate the significance of religion as descriptive marker and as analytical category in the scholarship of American culture studies. Students who pass this course are able to think critically about religion in American culture, to engage in religious scholarship that is historically and methodologically informed, and to contribute to the ongoing public conversation about religion.

Course Requirements

Class participation	50%
Research project	50%

Course Readings

These texts are available for purchase at the UNM Bookstore and are also on two-hour closed reserve at the Reserve Desk in Zimmerman Library:

Peter W. Williams, *America's Religions: Traditions and Cultures* (Urbana, IL: University of Illinois Press, 1998).

Thomas A. Tweed (ed.), *Retelling U.S. Religious History* (Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 1997).

David G. Hackett (ed.), *Religion and American Culture: A Reader* (New York, NY: Routledge, 1995).

Catherine L. Albanese, *Nature Religion in America: From the Algonkian Indians to the New Age* (Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press, 1990).

Colleen McDannell, *Material Christianity: Religion and Popular Culture in America* (New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1995).

Ferenc M. Szasz and Richard W. Etulain (eds.), *Religion in Modern New Mexico* (Albuquerque, NM: University of New Mexico Press, 1997).

Course Schedule

January 24

Course Introductions

January 31

Williams through chapter 4

Albanese, "Introduction: The Case for Nature Religion" (Albanese)

Albanese, "Native Ground: Nature and Culture in Early America" (Albanese)

Gutiérrez, "The Pueblo Indian World of the Sixteenth Century" (Hackett)

Tweed, "Introduction: Narrating U.S. Religious History" (Tweed)

February 7

Williams through chapter 11

Frankiel, "Ritual Sites in the Narrative of American Religion" (Tweed)

McDannell, "Material Christianity" (McDannell)

McDannell, "Piety, Art, Fashion: The Religious Object" (McDannell)

Taves, "Sexuality in American Religious History" (Tweed)

February 14

Williams through chapter 15

Braude, "Women's History Is American Religious History" (Tweed)

Finke, "The Illusion of Shifting Demand: Supply-Side Interpretations of American Religious History" (Tweed)

Hall, "A World of Wonders: The Mentality of the Supernatural in Seventeenth-Century New England" (Hackett)

Maffly-Kipp, "Eastward Ho! American Religion from the Perspective of the Pacific Rim" (Tweed)

February 21

Williams through chapter 21

Albanese, "Exchanging Selves, Exchanging Souls: Contact, Combination, and American Religious History" (Tweed)

Martin, "Indians, Contact, and Colonialism in the Deep South: Themes for a Postcolonial History of American Religion" (Tweed)

Richter, "War and Culture: The Iroquois Experience" (Hackett)

Westfall, "Voices from the Attic: The Canadian Border and the Writing of American Religious History" (Tweed)

February 28

Williams through chapter 26

Albanese, "Republican Nature: From the Revolution That Was Lawful to the Destiny That Was Manifest" (Albanese)

Frankiel, "California Dreams" (Hackett)

Hackett, "The Social Origins of Nationalism: Albany, New York, 1754-1835" (Hackett)

Martin, "From 'Middle Ground' to 'Underground': Southeastern Indians and the Early Republic" (Hackett)

Ryan, "A Woman's Awakening: Evangelical Religion and the Families of Utica, New York, 1800-1840" (Hackett)

March 6

Williams through chapter 30

Albanese, "Wildness and the Passing Show: Transcendental Religion and Its Legacies" (Albanese)

Gravely, "The Dialectic of Double-Consciousness in Black American Freedom Celebrations, 1808-1863" (Hackett)

Joyner, "'Believer I Know': The Emergence of African-American Christianity" (Hackett)

Raboteau, "African Americans, Exodus, and the American Israel" (Hackett)

Shipp, "The Genesis of Mormonism: The Story of a New Religious Tradition" (Hackett)

March 13

Spring Break

March 20

Williams through chapter 35

Carnes, "Manmade Religion: Victorian Fraternal Rituals" (Hackett)

McDannell, "The Bible in the Victorian Home" (McDannell)

McDannell, "The Religious Symbolism of Laurel Hill Cemetery" (McDannell)

Schmidt, "The Easter Parade: Piety, Fashion, and Display" (Hackett)

Wacker, "Searching for Eden with a Satellite Dish: Primitivism, Pragmatism, and the Pentecostal Character" (Hackett)

Wilson, "The Religion of the Lost Cause: Ritual and Organization of the Southern Civil Religion, 1865-1920" (Hackett)

March 27

Williams through chapter 41

Albanese, "Physical Religion: Natural Sin and Healing Grace in the Nineteenth Century" (Albanese)

DeMallie, "The Lakota Ghost Dance: An Ethnohistorical Account" (Hackett)

Higginbotham, "The Feminist Theology of the Black Baptist Church, 1880-1900" (Hackett)

McDannell, "Catholic Domesticity, 1860-1960" (Hackett)

McDannell, "Lourdes Water and American Catholicism" (Hackett)

Sarna, "The Debate over Mixed Seating in the American Synagogue" (Hackett)

April 3

Williams through chapter 44

McDannell, "Christian Kitsch and the Rhetoric of Bad Taste" (McDannell)

McDannell, "Christian Retailing" and "Epilogue" (McDannell)

Schuetz, "A Rhetorical Approach to Protestant Evangelism in Twentieth-Century New Mexico" (Szasz and Etulain)

Szasz, "The United States and New Mexico: A Twentieth-Century Comparative Religious History" (Szasz and Etulain)

Walker, "Protestantism in Modern New Mexico" (Szasz and Etulain)

Wuthnow, "Old Fissures and New Fractures in American Religious Life" (Hackett)

April 10

Williams through chapter 49

Brown, "The Power to Heal in Haitian Vodou: Reflections on Women, Religion, and Medicine" (Hackett)

Cone, "Malcolm and Martin: Integrationism and Nationalism in African American Religious History" (Hackett)

Deck, "The Challenge of Evangelical/Pentecostal Christianity to Hispanic Catholicism" (Hackett)

Jensen, "Roman Catholicism in Modern New Mexico: A Commitment to Survive" (Szasz and Etulain)

Moore, "Seeking Jewish Spiritual Roots in Miami and Los Angeles" (Hackett)

Tobias, "The Religious Culture of the Jews in Modern New Mexico" (Szasz and Etulain)

April 17

Williams through chapter 53

Albanese, "Recapitulating Pieties: Nature's Nation in the Late Twentieth Century" and "Epilogue" (Albanese)

Arrington, "Mormons in Twentieth-Century New Mexico" (Szasz and Etulain)

Chamberlain, "Competition for the Native American Soul: The Search for Religious Freedom in Twentieth-Century New Mexico" (Szasz and Etulain)

Eck, "Frontiers of Encounter: The Meeting of East and West in America since the 1893 World's Parliament of Religion" (Hackett)

Fox, "Boomer Dharma: The Evolution of Alternative Spiritual Communities in Modern New Mexico" (Szasz and Etulain)

McDannell, "Mormon Garments: Sacred Clothing and the Body" (McDannell)

Powers, "When Black Elk Speaks, Everybody Listens" (Hackett)

April 24

Research Presentations

May 1

Research Presentations (continued)

Academic Integrity

The American Studies faculty has adopted a formal policy on academic integrity, which is based on the "Policy on Academic Dishonesty" adopted by the University President:

Each student is expected to maintain the highest standards of honesty and integrity in academic and professional matters. The University reserves the right to take disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal, against any student who is found guilty of academic dishonesty or otherwise fails to meet the standards. Any student judged to have engaged in academic dishonesty in course work may receive a reduced or failing grade for the work in question and/or for the course.

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, dishonesty in quizzes, tests, or assignments; claiming credit for work not done or done by others; hindering the academic work of other students; misrepresenting academic or professional qualifications within or without the University; and nondisclosure or misrepresentation in filling out applications or other University records.

I will be happy to discuss any questions or concerns you may have about academic and professional ethics, either during class or in an office appointment.

Special Accommodations

Please notify me as soon as possible if you experience any personal circumstances that might affect your participation in this course: medical conditions, physical limitations, learning disabilities, academic problems, emotional crises, family difficulties, or religious obligations. I will be happy to make reasonable accommodations when appropriate, provided that you notify me in a timely fashion. All personal information will be kept in strict confidentiality. Several important campus offices that you may find helpful are listed below:

Learning Support Services
Zimmerman Library 339, 277-8291

Student Support Services
Mesa Vista Hall 2021, 277-3506

Counseling and Therapy Services
Student Health Center, 277-4537

Agora Crisis Center
Student Union Building 20, 277-3013