Course Description

This interdisciplinary graduate seminar explores the role of religion in American culture and of religious studies in American culture studies. It is designed for students enrolled in the American Studies graduate program or the Religious Studies concentration of the Philosophy graduate program, and for graduate students affiliated with other departments in the humanities or social sciences who are working on projects involving American and/or religious topics.

The course is organized in two parts, historical and thematic. Part I takes a historical approach to the study of American religion; it provides 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. Part II takes a thematic approach to the study of American religion; students explore the role of religion in American culture, and of religious studies in American culture studies, 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 are expected to participate in class on a regular basis, submit several short papers, design a syllabus for a topical undergraduate course in American religious studies, and make a public presentation on their research. Students also have the opportunity to visit selected religious communities in the Albuquerque metropolitan area by participating in two optional day-long tours. Students in this course learn to think critically about religion in American culture, engage in religious scholarship that is historically and methodologically informed, and contribute to the ongoing public
conversation about religion. Students who pass the course will possess a basic competency to conduct scholarly research on American religion and to teach an introductory college-level course in American religious studies.

Course Readings

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


Course Requirements

Final grades will be assigned according to the schedule below. Any assignment submitted after its due date will receive a lowered grade.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>50%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Preparation, Attendance, Discussion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Position Paper #1 (due January 27)</td>
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<td>Position Paper #2 (due February 3)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Proposal (due March 10)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Position Paper #3 (due April 28)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Course Syllabus (due May 5)</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public Presentation</td>
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Course Schedule

**January 20**  
Course Introductions  
*Position Paper #1 assigned*
I. American Religion in Historical Perspective

January 27  American Religious Studies
   Position Paper #1 due
   Position Paper #2 assigned
Hughes, “American Visions” (handouts)
Tweed, “Introduction: Narrating U.S. Religious History” (Tweed)
Frankiel, “Ritual Sites in the Narrative of American Religion” (Tweed)
Finke, “The Illusion of Shifting Demand: Supply-Side Interpretations of American
      Religious History” (Tweed)

February 3  Religion Before “America”
   Position Paper #2 due
   Student Discussants
Williams, “The Traditions”
Gutiérrez, “The Pueblo Indian World of the Sixteenth Century” (Hackett)
Hall, “A World of Wonders: The Mentality of the Supernatural in Seventeenth-Century
      New England” (Hackett)
Westfall, “Voices from the Attic: The Canadian Border and the Writing of American
      Religious History” (Tweed)

February 10  Religion in Colonial America
   Student Discussants
Williams, “Colonial America: Europeans, Colonials, and Traditional Peoples Before the
      Revolution”
Richter, “War and Culture: The Iroquois Experience” (Hackett)
Martin, “Indians, Contact, and Colonialism in the Deep South: Themes for a
      Postcolonial History of American Religion” (Tweed)
Maffly-Kipp, “Eastward Ho! American Religion from the Perspective of the Pacific
      Rim” (Tweed)
February 17  Religion in the American Republic
   Student Discussants
Williams, “Religious Community Formation in the New Republic”
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)

February 24  Religion in Modern America
   Student Discussants
Research Proposal assigned
Williams, “The End of the Frontier and the Rise of the City”
Frankiel, “California Dreams” (Hackett)
Wilson, “The Religion of the Lost Cause: Ritual and Organization of the Southern Civil
Religion, 1865-1920” (Hackett)
DeMallie, “The Lakota Ghost Dance: An Ethnohistorical Account” (Hackett)
Powers, “When Black Elk Speaks, Everybody Listens” (Hackett)

March 3  Religion in Contemporary American Life
   Student Discussants
Williams, “The Twentieth Century: Further Encounters with Modernity and Pluralism”
Wuthnow, “Old Fissures and New Fractures in American Religious Life” (Hackett)
Moore, “Seeking Jewish Spiritual Roots in Miami and Los Angeles” (Hackett)
Pentecostal Character” (Hackett)
Deck, “The Challenge of Evangelical/Pentecostal Christianity to Hispanic Catholicism”
(Hackett)
Eck, “Frontiers of Encounter: The Meeting of East and West in America since the 1893
World’s Parliament of Religion” (Hackett)
Albanese, “Exchanging Selves, Exchanging Souls: Contact, Combination, and American
Religious History” (Tweed)

FRIDAY, March 6  American Religious Diversity
   OPTIONAL Tour of Older Religious Communities in Albuquerque

March 10  Research and Teaching
   Research Proposal due
   Research Strategies Presentation
   Teaching Strategies Presentation
   Mid-Semester Evaluations

March 17  Spring Break Week

II. Religion and American Culture Studies
March 24  Religion and Gender

Guest Discussant
Course Syllabus assigned
Taves, “Sexuality in American Religious History” (Tweed)
Braude, “Women’s History Is American Religious History” (Tweed)
Sarna, “The Debate over Mixed Seating in the American Synagogue” (Hackett)
Carnes, “Manmade Religion: Victorian Fraternal Rituals” (Hackett)
Brown, “The Power to Heal in Haitian Vodou: Reflections on Women, Religion, and Medicine” (Hackett)

March 31  Religion and Race

Guest Discussant
Raboteau, “African Americans, Exodus, and the American Israel” (Hackett)
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)
Higginbotham, “The Feminist Theology of the Black Baptist Church, 1880-1900” (Hackett)
Cone, “Malcolm and Martin: Integrationism and Nationalism in African American Religious History” (Hackett)

April 7  Religion and the Southwest

Guest Discussant
Jensen, “Roman Catholicism in Modern New Mexico: A Commitment to Survive” (Szasz and Etulain)
Walker, “Protestantism in Modern New Mexico” (Szasz and Etulain)
Tobias, “The Religious Culture of the Jews in Modern New Mexico” (Szasz and Etulain)
Arrington, “Mormons in Twentieth-Century New Mexico” (Szasz and Etulain)
Szasz, “The United States and New Mexico: A Twentieth-Century Comparative Religious History” (Szasz and Etulain)
April 14  Religion and Popular Culture
  Guest Discussant
  Public Presentation assigned
Schmidt, “The Easter Parade: Piety, Fashion, and Display” (Hackett)
McDannell, “Catholic Domesticity, 1860-1960” (Hackett)
Schuetz, “A Rhetorical Approach to Protestant Evangelism in Twentieth-Century New
  Mexico” (Szasz and Etulain)
Fox, “Boomer Dharma: The Evolution of Alternative Spiritual Communities in Modern
  New Mexico” (Szasz and Etulain)

April 21  Religion and the Environment
  Guest Discussant
  Position Paper #3 assigned
Albanese, Nature Religion in America: From the Algonkian Indians to the New Age

FRIDAY, April 24  American Religious Diversity
  OPTIONAL Tour of Newer Religious Communities in Albuquerque

April 28  Course Conclusions
  Position Paper #3 due
  Semester Evaluations

May 5  Symposium on Religion and American Culture (part 1)
  Course Syllabus due
  Class Presentations

FRIDAY, May 8  Symposium on Religion and American Culture (part 2)
  Public Presentations
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

Mental Health Service
Student Health Center, 277-4537

Disabled Student Services
Mesa Vista Hall 2021, 277-3506

Agora Crisis Center
Student Union Building basement, 277-3013