

**PhD – CHTH G125 - C04
MA – CH/MS/NT/OT/TH 6ZD6
INTERDISCIPLINARY SEMINAR:
MINISTRY AND EVANGELICAL THOUGHT**

McMaster Divinity College

Winter Semester 2014

Monday, 10:30am - 12:20pm

Instructor: Dr. Gordon L. Heath

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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The purpose of this course is to explore how evangelicals have thought about and practiced ministry since the eighteenth century. Attention will be placed on the diversity of ministry structures, theologies, and dominant personalities, as well as on having students develop their own vocational objectives in the light of previous evangelical people and patterns.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Knowing

- to provide an understanding of how the evangelical ministry has grown and developed in a variety of countries and continents
- to understand the various forms of ministry practiced by evangelicals over the centuries

Being

- to explore (and ultimately appreciate) the different expressions of spirituality and models of ministry as practiced by various evangelicals
- to provide a sense of “place” within the many evangelical traditions, as well as a sense of direction for one’s own ministry

Doing

- to develop a pattern for one’s own vocational direction
- to develop in each student an ability to assess documents and situations from an historical perspective

REQUIRED TEXTS:

- David Bebbington. *Evangelicalism in Modern Britain: A History from the 1730s to the 1980s*. Baker, 1992.
- George M. Marsden. *The Outrageous Idea of Christian Scholarship*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1998.
- Mark Noll. *The Scandal of the Evangelical Mind*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1994.

- Mark Noll. *Jesus Christ and the Life of the Mind*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2011.
- Gordon L. Heath. *Doing Church History: A User-friendly Introduction to Researching the History of Christianity*. Toronto: Clements Publishing, 2008.
- Selected readings distributed in class for seminars.

All required textbooks for this class are available from the College's book service, READ On Bookstore, Room 145, McMaster Divinity College. Texts may be purchased on the first day of class. For advance purchase, you may contact READ On Bookstores, 304 The East Mall, Suite 100, Etobicoke, ON M9B 6E2: phone 416-620-2934; fax 416-622-2308; e-mail books@readon.ca. Other book services may also carry the texts.

ASSIGNMENTS:

- **Position Paper:** Write a position paper on evangelicals in the academy.
- **Research Paper:** Present on the life, thought, and impact of a prominent evangelical.
- **Seminar:** Each student will lead the class in a seminar. The topics for seminars are listed below.
- **Participation:** All reading must be completed, and active engagement in each class is expected.

GRADING:

Research Paper	45%
Position Paper	10%
Seminar Leadership	40%
Participation	5%

GENERAL COMMENTS:

- Academic dishonesty is a serious offence that may take any number of forms, including plagiarism, the submission of work that is not one's own or for which previous credit has been obtained, and/or unauthorized collaboration with other students. Academic dishonesty can result in severe consequences, e.g., failure of the assignment, failure of the course, a notation on one's academic transcript, and/or suspension or expulsion from the College. Students are responsible for understanding what constitutes academic dishonesty. Please refer to the Divinity College Statement on Academic Honesty ~ <http://www.mcmasterdivinity.ca/programs/rules-regulations>
- McMaster Divinity College uses inclusive language for human beings in worship services, student written materials, and all of its publications. In reference to biblical texts, the integrity of the original expressions and the names of God should be respected. The NRSV and TNIV are examples of the use of inclusive language for human beings. It is expected that inclusive language will be used in chapel services and all MDC assignments.
- Essays must be handed in at the beginning of the class on the day they are due. All other essays will be considered to be late. Students may be exempted from the late penalty of 3% per day (not including weekends) if they attach to their essay a letter explaining the genuine emergency that delayed them. Late assignments (even ones with an extension) will not receive comments and constructive criticism from the professor.

- Written work should be handed directly to the instructor. To avoid any potential problems, students are advised to keep their working notes and a copy of their papers until a final mark has been received. Papers will be kept for a few months after the class – after that they get recycled.
- Unless noted otherwise, all written work must conform to the *McMaster Divinity College Style Guidelines for Essays and Theses*.
- Please turn off your cell phone and/or pager before the class begins.
- Please do not attend class if you are ill and contagious (e.g. the flu).

COMMENTS ON ASSIGNMENTS

• **Position Paper**

Students are to prepare a ten-page position paper on how they envision their own discipline in the academy. Particular attention is to be paid to evangelical distinctives and how they relate to the student's own position and discipline. Students must be prepared to present, discuss and defend their position in class. Questions that should be addressed in the paper are (but not limited to): What is unique about the evangelical academy? Do I want to serve in the evangelical academy – why/why not? What does it mean to be an evangelical in the academy? What is evangelical scholarship – is there such a thing? Who do I model my ministry after? If I am not an evangelical, what do I think of evangelical scholarship, and how will I relate to it in my discipline? What needs to be done in evangelical scholarship in my discipline? How does the academy relate to the church?

Include in your position responses to items such as (but not limited to):

- George M. Marsden, *The Outrageous Idea of Christian Scholarship*.
- Mark Noll, *The Scandal of the Evangelical Mind*.
- <http://chronicle.com/free/v54/i35/35b01201.htm>

• **Research Paper**

This twenty-page typed, double-spaced, 12 point font, 1¼ inch margins paper is a paper that focuses on a variety of inter-related topics. First, it is a biographical study of a prominent evangelical. See *Doing Church History* for more details on biographical research. Second, it is a study of the person's particular approach to, and theology of, ministry. Third, it is a critical evaluation of the person theology and ministry. Fourth, it is a commentary on what can be appropriated for today from the pattern of the person's life and ministry. The paper should integrate all four of these concerns into the structure of the paper.

Particular attention should be paid to the actual writings of the person being studied.

Near the end of the semester all students will have an opportunity to share the results of their research with the entire class.

• **Seminar**

Students are required to lead a class seminar (perhaps two – depending on the size of class). Possible topics for a seminar are:

- Evangelicals and the Sacraments
- Evangelicals and Preaching
- Evangelicals and Revivalism
- Evangelicals and Public Education
- Evangelicals and Theological Education
- Evangelicals and Ecumenism
- Evangelicals and Social Reform
- Evangelicals and Ministry in the a Post-Christendom Context
- Evangelicals and Children
- Evangelicals and Missions
- Evangelicals and Media

Students do not have to submit their notes to the instructor, but will be required to bring a handout(s) that includes an outline, questions to discuss, and a bibliography. A seminar should have a presentation led by the student, and then a time of engaging questions raised by material. Students must also submit readings one week in advance so that those in attendance are well-prepared for discussion.

CLASS SCHEDULE:

Jan 6	Introduction to Course
Jan 13	Birth and Growth of Evangelicalism 1 Reading: Bebbington
Jan 20	Birth and Growth of Evangelicalism 2 Reading: Bebbington
Jan 27	Position Papers: Evangelicals and the Academy <i>*Personal Position Papers Due*</i>
Feb 3	Seminar
Feb 10	Seminar
Feb 17	<i>Reading Week</i>
Feb 24	Seminar
Mar 3	Seminar
Mar 10	Seminar
Mar 17	Seminar <i>*Research Papers Due*</i>
Mar 24	Research Paper Presentations
Mar 31	Research Paper Presentations
Apr 7	Research Paper Presentations
Apr 14	Exam Week (if needed)

Please Note: This syllabus is the property of the instructor and is prepared with currently available information. The instructor reserves the right to make changes and revisions up to and including the first day of class.