

Ministry and Evangelical Thought

MS/TH 3XV3/5XV5/6XV6

McMaster Divinity College
Winter Semester 2021

Weekly Online
In-Class “Face-to-Face” Session:
February 25: 9:00am-3:00pm

Instructor: Gordon L. Heath
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Specializations: Christian History and Worldview, Church and Culture, Pastoral Studies

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The purpose of this course is to trace the development of evangelicalism from its early appearance in the Church of England to its present-day global varieties. Evangelicalism will also be related to other forms of Protestantism before it, and other Christian movements that have continued beside it, grown up with it, separated from it, or been influenced by it. The purpose of this course is also 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 evangelicalism has grown and developed in a variety of countries and continents
- to place the contemporary issues evangelicalism faces within a broader historical context
- to know how evangelicalism is similar to, and different from, other expressions of Christianity
- to understand the various forms of ministry practiced by evangelicals over the centuries

Being

- to explore (and ultimately appreciate) the different expressions of spirituality as practiced by various evangelicals
- to provide a sense of “place” within the many church traditions, especially within evangelicalism

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:

- Mark Hutchinson and John Wolffe, *A Short History of Global Evangelicalism* (Cambridge University Press, 2012).
(this book can be accessed for free by McMaster students at:
http://discovery.mcmaster.ca/iii/encore/record/C__Rb3893579__Sthe%20expansion%20of%20evangelicalism__P0%2C9__Orightrresult__X1?lang=eng&suite=def)
- Gordon L. Heath. *Doing Church History: A User-friendly Introduction to Researching the History of Christianity*. Toronto: Clements Publishing, 2008.
- Selected primary source readings distributed in class.

RECOMMENDED READINGS:

The following series is *not* required reading for the class, but students should consider purchasing it if they ever see it on sale.

Five volume “History of Evangelicalism Series” by IVP Academic:

- Mark A. Noll. *The Rise of Evangelicalism: The Age of Edwards, Whitefield and the Wesleys*
- John R. Wolffe. *The Expansion of Evangelicalism: The Age of More, Wilberforce, Chalmers and Finney*
- David W. Bebbington. *The Dominance of Evangelicalism: The Age of Spurgeon and Moody*
- Geoff Treloar. *The Disruption of Evangelicalism: The Age of Mott, Machen and McPherson*
- Brian Stanley. *The Global Diffusion of Evangelicalism: The Age of Graham and Stott*

GENERAL COMMENTS:

- Textbook Purchase: 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 Bookstore, 5 International Blvd, Etobicoke, Ontario M9W 6H3 : phone 416.620.2934; fax 416.622.2308; email books@readon.ca. Other book services may also carry the texts.
- Academic Honesty: 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>

- **Gender Inclusive Language:** 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.
- **Style:** All stylistic considerations (including but not limited to questions of formatting, footnotes, and bibliographic references) must conform to the McMaster Divinity College Style Guidelines for Essays and Theses
<http://www.mcmasterdivinity.ca/sites/default/files/documents/mdcstyleguide.pdf>
Failure to observe appropriate form will result in grade reductions.
- 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 5% 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. Submit an electronic copy on the due date or a hard copy before the due date.
- **Disclaimer:** 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.

ASSIGNMENTS

- **Online Engagement and Reading**

Weekly online engagement is expected (eg. listening to lectures, engaging in synchronous meetings, reading and submitting posts, etc.). Students will also be asked at the end of the semester what percentage of the textbooks they have read.

- **Position Paper**

Students are to prepare a two-page statement on their relationship with evangelicalism (eg. do they belong to the movement? do they value/appreciate/like/dislike the movement? do they envision doing their ministry in an evangelical context?). This is not a research paper – it is a position paper that requires you to state where you are right now (an exercise in self-awareness and assumptions). Be prepared to talk about this in class.

- **Biographical Paper**

Each student writes a five-page biographical paper on a person within evangelicalism. The emphasis should be on the person's life and legacy. Students will also make a three-minute summary video and post it online.

- **Ministry Presentation**

Students are required to lead a class presentation on evangelicals and ministry. Possible topics:

- Evangelicals and the Sacraments
- Evangelicals and Preaching
- Evangelicals and Pastoral Care
- Evangelicals and Counselling
- Evangelicals and Revivalism
- Evangelicals and Public Education
- Evangelicals and Theological Education
- Evangelicals and Ecumenism
- Evangelicals and Social Reform
- Evangelicals and Ministry in a Post-Christendom Context
- Evangelicals and Children/Women/Men Ministry
- Evangelicals and Missions
- Evangelicals and Media

Students will prepare a ten-minute presentation on their subject and present it online. Students will also be required to prepare a handout that includes an outline and a bibliography.

- **Research Paper**

Each student will write a ten-page research paper on a topic related to their specialization. The topic of this paper will be determined by the student's specialization, and developed in consultation with the professor. Presentation of this assignment will be in class.

- *Pastoral Studies*

Research for this specialization should focus on the appropriation of evangelical theology and practice for local parish life. In what way(s) can evangelical history, theology, and/or practice be used today to deepen the Christian walk or inspire people to do great things?

- *Christian History and Worldview*

Research for this specialization can go in one of two directions. First, it can focus on a theological construction of one's theological position in regards to an issue related to the evangelicalism. Or it can develop critical knowledge of a key movement or event in Christian history.

- *Church and Culture*

Research for this specialization should focus on a construction of one's position in regards to an aspect of Christian ministry, with a particular concern for the development of that ministry in a particular culture.

Results of research will be shared with the class at the end of the semester. There are a number of ways in which this research is to be completed:

- Traditional academic research paper (5 pages)
- Non-traditional formats (5-6 pages)
 - Popular article for a church or denominational publication (2-3 pages)
 - Popular article for a public audience, and to be posted on a blog or Facebook (2-3 pages)

DPT/MA/PhD students are eligible to enroll, and will meet with the professor to discuss expectations and assignments.

GRADING:

Online Engagement and Reading	20%
Position Paper	10%
Biographical Presentation	20%
Ministry Presentation	20%
Research Paper	30%

CLASS SCHEDULE:

Most weeks will have both recorded video lectures and a synchronous Webex face-to-face component. Some weeks will also have online posting on *avenuetolearn*. The one-day *Hybrid Intensive In-Class Meeting* at MDC is important for the class, and attendance is expected.

Week Starting Jan 4	<p>Introduction to Course View Recorded Video Lecture Attend Synchronous Meeting (Tuesday, 6:30-7:30pm): https://mcmaster.webex.com/meet/gheath</p>
Week Starting Jan 11	<p>The Birth of Evangelicalism View Recorded Video Lecture Attend Synchronous Meeting (Tuesday, 6:30-7:30pm): https://mcmaster.webex.com/meet/gheath <i>*Position Papers Due*</i></p>
Week Starting Jan 18	<p>The Rise of Evangelicalism View Recorded Video Lecture Attend Synchronous Meeting (Tuesday, 6:30-7:30pm): https://mcmaster.webex.com/meet/gheath</p>
Week Starting Jan 25	<p>Evangelicalism and Revivalism in America View Recorded Video Lecture Attend Synchronous Meeting (Tuesday, 6:30-7:30pm): https://mcmaster.webex.com/meet/gheath</p>
Week Starting Feb 1	<p>Divisions of Evangelicalism View Recorded Video Lecture Attend Synchronous Meeting (Tuesday, 6:30-7:30pm): https://mcmaster.webex.com/meet/gheath <i>*Biographical Papers Due*</i></p>
Week Starting Feb 8	<p>New Evangelicalism View Recorded Video Lecture Attend Synchronous Meeting (Tuesday, 6:30-7:30pm): https://mcmaster.webex.com/meet/gheath</p>
Week Starting Feb 15	Reading Week

Week Starting Feb 22	<i>Hybrid Intensive In-Class Meeting (Feb 25)</i> https://mcmaster.webex.com/meet/gheath Global Evangelicalism <i>*Ministry Presentations*</i>
Week Starting Mar 1	Contemporary Issues in Evangelicalism (Part 1) View Recorded Video Lecture Attend Synchronous Meeting (Tuesday, 6:30-7:30pm): https://mcmaster.webex.com/meet/gheath
Week Starting Mar 8	Contemporary Issues in Evangelicalism (Part 2) View Recorded Video Lecture Attend Synchronous Meeting (Tuesday, 6:30-7:30pm): https://mcmaster.webex.com/meet/gheath
Week Starting Mar 15	TBD
Week Starting Mar 22	The Future of Evangelicalism View Recorded Video Lecture Attend Synchronous Meeting (Tuesday, 6:30-7:30pm): https://mcmaster.webex.com/meet/gheath
Week Starting Mar 29	Research Paper Presentations https://mcmaster.webex.com/meet/gheath <i>*Research Papers Due*</i>
Week Starting Apr 5	Research Paper Presentations https://mcmaster.webex.com/meet/gheath

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