

Ministry and Evangelical Thought

MS/TH 3XV3/5XV5/6XV6

McMaster Divinity College

Winter Semester 2023

Wednesday, 4:00-5:50pm

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 may be 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 (MDiv/MTS/Diploma/Certificate/LOP)

- **Position Paper (10%)**

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 (20%)**

Students write a five-page biographical paper on a person within evangelicalism. The emphasis should be on the person's life and legacy. This assignment includes preparing a five-minute video presentation on the person intended for your church.

- **Ministry Presentation (25%)**

Students are required to deliver a presentation on evangelicals and an aspect of ministry. Students will also be required to prepare a handout that includes an outline and a bibliography. Time allotted for the presentation will be determined by how many people are in the course.

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

- **Research Paper (35%)**

Students 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. 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 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)

- **Participation and Reading (10%)**

ASSIGNMENTS (DPT):

Most classes will have a presentation by the professor. This presentation will seek to build upon and further develop the readings of the text and reader, as well as explore other themes not in the two texts.

All readings are to be completed before the class begins. These readings will not only be a critical component to understanding the content, but also will be an important part of the class discussions. Some classes will have a short primary source reading that should be read before the class begins. On certain days there will be a discussion of the source. See *Doing Church History* for more details on questions and issues related to primary sources.

- Literature Review and Commentary (25% & 25%)

The student will develop an annotated bibliography of approximately 15-20 resources (4000 pages) related to the topic of the course and write a 100 word annotation for each one. The required and recommended texts for the course can be included as part of the book list. The literature review will be approximately 2,000 words. This assignment is due October 6 and will constitute 25% of the course grade.

A commentary paper will also be prepared that summarizes the key learnings from the annotated bibliography and provides a cogent foundation for a theology and practice of the topic of the course. The paper will be approximately 3,000 words. It is due November 3 and will constitute 25% of the course grade.

- Major Research Paper (40%)

The paper should include four key sections. First a brief, but clear explanation of how the paper is rooted in a Practice Led-research approach, second an exploration of the challenges and problems that provoke this study (i.e. why does this ministry practice need to be addressed? What are the problems that you want to identify?) Third, a consideration of a foundational theology of the practice of ministry under consideration in this course and a deep consideration of how new approaches to this practice can be employed in helping to address and improve ministry practice in this area. Fourth some reflection on the application of these ideas to the students own ministry context (both in terms of the local church and also their ministry beyond the local church). The paper should be approximately 8,000 words. It is due December 1 and will constitute 40% of the course grade.

- Class Participation (10%)

ASSIGNMENTS (MA/PhD):

Most classes will have a presentation by the professor. This presentation will seek to build upon and further develop the readings of the text and reader, as well as explore other themes not in the two texts.

All readings are to be completed before the class begins. These readings will not only be a critical component to understanding the content, but also will be an important part of the class discussions. Some classes will have a short primary source reading that should be read before the class begins. On certain days there will be a discussion of the source. See *Doing Church History* for more details on questions and issues related to primary sources.

- Literature Review and Commentary (25% & 25%)

The student will develop an annotated bibliography of approximately 15-20 resources (6000 pages) related to the topic of the course and write a 100 word annotation for each one. The required and recommended texts for the course can be included as part of the book list. The

literature review will be approximately 2,000 words. This assignment is due October 6 and will constitute 25% of the course grade.

A commentary paper will also be prepared that summarizes the key learnings from the annotated bibliography and provides a cogent foundation for a theology and practice of the topic of the course. The paper will be approximately 3,000-4,000 words. It is due November 3 and will constitute 25% of the course grade.

- Major Research Paper (40%)

This paper is a major research paper. Ideally the student aims to prepare something for publication such as a journal article. Regardless, the work must be on a subject mutually agreed upon between professor and student. The paper should be approximately 8,000-10,000 words. It is due December 1 and will constitute 40% of the course grade.

- Class Participation (10%)

CLASS SCHEDULE:

January 11	Introduction to Course
January 18	The Birth of Evangelicalism <i>*Position Paper Due*</i>
January 25	The Rise of Evangelicalism
February 1	Evangelicalism and Revivalism in America
February 8	Divisions of Evangelicalism <i>*Biographical Paper Due*</i>
February 15	New Evangelicalism
February 22	Global Evangelicalism
March 1	<i>Hybrid Intensive Week (no class)</i>
March 8	Ministry Presentations
March 15	Ministry Presentations
March 22	Contemporary Issues in Evangelicalism (Part 1)
March 29	Contemporary Issues in Evangelicalism (Part 2) <i>*Research Paper Due*</i>

April 5

The Future of Evangelicalism

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