

**Assemblies of God Theological Seminary
VALLEY FORGE CHRISTIAN COLLEGE
BRANCH CAMPUS
1401 Charlestown Road
Phoenixville, PA
January 21 - April 15, 2002
Monday 6:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.**

**HISB 532 HISTORY AND POLITY OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD
(3 Credits)**

Michael DiGiacomo

Spring 2002

COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The historical, sociological, and theological background which gave rise to the Pentecostal movement and the formation of the Assemblies of God. The development of the denomination is traced to the present time. Includes a unit on the polity of the Assemblies of God.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon successful completion of this course the student should be able:

1. To identify and describe the narrow and broader historical contexts of Assemblies of God history.
2. To identify the most important individuals and events in the history of Pentecostalism and the Assemblies of God.
3. To describe the development of the Assemblies of God from its inception to the present time.
4. To recognize and define the polity of the Assemblies of God.

TEXTBOOKS

Blumhofer, Edith L. *Restoring the Faith: The Assemblies of God, Pentecostalism, and American Culture*. Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1993.

McGee, Gary B. *This Gospel Shall Be Preached: A History and Theology of Assemblies of God Foreign Missions to 1959*. Vols. 1 and 2. Springfield, Mo.: Gospel Publishing House, 1989.

Menzies, William W. *Anointed to Serve: The Story of the Assemblies of God*. Springfield, Mo.: Gospel Publishing House, 1971.

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Wilson, Everett A. *Strategy of the Spirit: J. Philip Hogan and the Growth of the Assemblies of God Worldwide, 1960-1990*. Irvine, California: Regnum Books International, 1997.

General Council Minutes, 2001. (Includes Constitution and Bylaws).

METHODOLOGY

Lectures, class discussion, personal readings and assignments.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Choose two of either Blumhofer, McGee, Menzies, or Wilson. Prepare a critical analysis, 3-5 pages in length, comparing the two authors' treatment of the Assemblies of God taking into account their assumptions, perspectives, and objectives. This paper is due by **March 1, 2002** and will be worth 20% of the final mark.
2. Prepare a 20 page research essay on an important theme, movement, or individual in the history of Pentecostalism and/or the Assemblies of God. Each student may choose his or her topic according to personal interest, but all topics must be approved by the professor. **This paper is due by the last class and will be worth 60% of the final mark.**
3. Reading assignments and class discussions will constitute 20% of the final grade.

EVALUATION OF RESEARCH PAPER

Papers will be marked on the correct use of research methods, the relevancy of sources, clear and logical argumentation, and originality of the work. The following evaluation grid will be used.

15% for general presentation (title page, table of contents, grammar, cleanliness, quality of sources)

15% for the introduction (presentation of the subject, clarity and precision of the research problem)

10% for the quality of reasoning (the chapters, paragraphs, and ideas follow in logical order)

50% for the content (development, clarity, coherence of the argument, the relevancy and use of sources, originality)

10% for the conclusion

The papers should be double-spaced, using 12-point Times New Roman font with one-inch margins. Please do not use bold text except occasionally for emphasis.

Expectations for Research Papers According to Grade

(source: web.uvic.ca/~gradean/ta7.html)

A Paper

A paper of this level displays a mastery of the information and the theoretical context in which it is presented. It contains original thought expressed fluently and written with a style distinguished by its freshness and clarity. The argument is sound, substantive, organized, introduces other points of view and uses proper sources effectively. One is impressed by the author's contribution to the understanding of the topic and where the subject is going.

B Paper

The author demonstrates a substantial knowledge of the information and theoretical concepts associated with the subject. The paper is well written and presented with no serious flaws, a good use of sources and a clear thesis. The argument is above average in organization and analysis and brings in points to support the thesis. There is an awareness of different points of view. The conclusion is sound but not original. Generally, the paper is competent but not extraordinary.

C Paper

The author demonstrates an acceptable grasp of the material and awareness of the sources and general theory. The organization is logical and the style follows proper form, although there may be some lapses in each aspect. The paper would be best described as descriptive because it lacks any substantial analysis, and demonstrates a modest ability to work with the material critically. One senses the author does not fully understand the issues of the subject because the ideas are shallow, undeveloped, and tend to stray from the subject.

D Paper

The author shows a familiarity with the subject, but not an understanding of it. He or she lacks the writing or communication skill to intelligibly relate what knowledge has been comprehended. The paper is disorganized, lacks structure, and the ideas are undeveloped. There is no evidence of substantial thought.

F Paper

The author is without any writing skill. Grammar and spelling errors dominate and disguise the lack of organization. The ideas are unrelated to the subject and reveal a complete misunderstanding of the task.

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SPECIFIC DATA

Syllabus prepared by Michael DiGiacomo October 2001.