

## ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

### HIS 532 History and Polity of the Assemblies of God

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Spring 2004

## COURSE SYLLABUS

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

The historical, sociological, and theological background that 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 congregational and presbyterian polity of the Assemblies of God.

### COURSE OBJECTIVES

At the conclusion of this course every student should be able:

1. To discuss the origins of the modern Pentecostal revival and reasons for the formation of the Assemblies of God.
2. To trace the development of the Assemblies of God and its mission enterprise from 1914 to the present time.
3. To understand the congregational and presbyterian structure and polity of the denomination.
4. To conduct research in Assemblies of God history.

### REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

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

McGee, Gary B. People of the Spirit: The Assemblies of God. Springfield, Mo.: Gospel Publishing House, 2004.

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

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

### METHODOLOGY

Lecture, discussions, presentations, guest speakers

### COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. The mastery of the textbooks and assigned readings.
2. Classroom presentation on a designated topic. Outline and bibliography required at class time.
3. Ten unannounced quizzes over assigned readings, each containing one essay question. Students with a reading challenge may ask the instructor for oral examinations. Word processors may not be used for the quizzes.
4. Participation in group research project.
5. Consistent attendance; more than three absences will lead to a reduction of the final grade.

### CAUTIONS

1. Late work will be penalized.
2. A grade of incomplete will be given only in the event of extreme circumstances.

### GRADING

Quizzes	60%
Presentation	30%
Group research project	20%

### COURSE OUTLINE AND READING SCHEDULE

(Key: B-Blumhofer; M-McGee; Wilson; GCM-General Council Minutes)

Jan	7	Introduction to the course
Jan	9	Tour of Flower Pentecostal Heritage Center at AG Headquarters (8:55-10:10 a.m.)
Jan	14	Holiness, healing, and missions B: Intro., 1; M: Intro., 1, 2
Jan	16	Beginnings of the Pentecostal movement B: 2; M: 3
Jan	21	Early networks and the Church of God in Christ B: 3
Jan	23	Formative years of the General Council B: 5; M: 4
Jan	28	Early AG missions M: 5, 6, 7, 8

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- Mar 30 Early structural development  
B: 6; M: 9
- Feb 4 Presentations:  
1916 General Council (the “New Issue”)  
Pacifism  
Divorce issue
- Feb 6 Hymnody and spirituality  
B: 4; M: 10
- Feb 11 Latino AG  
M: 11, 12, 13; “Hispanic Pentecostalism” in *New International Dictionary of Pentecostal and Charismatic Movements* by E. A. Wilson (reference section of the AGTS library)
- Feb 13 Presentations:  
Early GPH books on history  
Women’s Ministries Department  
M: 14
- Feb 18 AG women in ministry  
Guest professor: Dr. Barbara Cavaness  
B: 7; M: 15
- Feb 20 Identification with evangelicals  
B: 8
- Feb 25 Continued growth and development  
M: 16, 17
- Feb 27 Presentations:  
Early GPH books on doctrine
- Mar 1-5 Spring Break
- Mar 10 “New Order of the Latter Rain”  
B: 9; M: 18
- Mar 12 Salvation/healing movement and the AG  
Film

- Mar 17      Presentations:  
Blind and deaf ministries  
Prison ministries  
Speed-the-Light  
Light-for-the-Lost
- Mar 19      AG home and foreign missions  
M: 19, 20
- Mar 24      Continued  
Wilson: Intro., 1-6
- Mar 26      J. Philip Hogan and AG missions  
Wilson: 7-12
- Mar 31      Presentations:  
Mobilization and Placement Service  
Council on Evangelism  
1971 General Council (reorganization)
- Apr 2        The Zimmerman years; AG and the charismatic renewal  
B: 10
- Apr 7        Presentations  
National Church Growth Convention  
Conference on Spiritual Life  
M: 21, 22
- Apr 9        Presentations:  
Jim Bakker  
Jimmy Swaggart  
Brownsville revival  
Chi Alpha Campus Ministries  
M: 23, 24
- Apr 14      The Carlson years and the Trask years in administration
- Apr 16      Increasing diversity and changes in the General Council  
B: 11, Epilogue; M: 25

SPECIFIC DATA