

## ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

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

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Spring 2005

## 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 the history of the Assemblies of God.

### 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, 2003*. (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 may ask the instructor for additional time for the examination. Word processors may not be used for the quizzes.
4. Research and writing project on a key personality (unrelated to classroom presentation); the following persons may be studied:

J. Robert Ashcroft—educator, spiritual mentor  
Mollie Baird—missionary to India  
Myrtle Beall—pastor  
Blanche Britton—evangelist  
Carl Brumback—writer  
Fred Burke—missionary to Africa  
Billy Davis—missionary, educator  
Naomi Dowdy—missionary  
Lorne Fox—evangelist  
Christine Gibson—educator  
John and Cuba Hall—missionaries to Africa  
Harold (“Hal”) Herman—missionary evangelist  
Hugh P. Jeter—missionary, educator  
H. B. Kelchner—evangelist/teacher  
Bennett F. Lawrence—writer  
Juan Lugo—pastor, evangelist  
Henry Ness—pastor, college president  
Francisco Olazábal—evangelist  
Jonathan Ellsworth Perkins—writer  
Victor Plymire—missionary to Tibet  
Ralph Riggs—general superintendent, writer  
G. Herbert Schmidt—missionary to Europe  
Emma Taylor—evangelist  
“Little David” Walker—evangelist  
Floyd Woodworth—missionary to Latin America  
Ivan Voronaeff—missionary to the Soviet Union  
Lilian B. Yeomans—evangelist

5. Consistent attendance; more than two 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.

## ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

It is assumed that students at AGTS will endeavor to be honest and of high integrity in all matters pertaining to Seminary life. A lack of respect and integrity is evidenced by cheating, fabricating, plagiarizing, misusing facilities, removing books and other property not one's own, and disrupting classes.

Cheating is defined as "intentionally using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information or study aids in any academic exercise." It is assumed that whatever is submitted by a student is the work of that student and is new work for that course. Fabrication is "intentional and unauthorized falsification or invention of any information or citation in an academic exercise or form." Plagiarism is "intentionally or knowingly representing the words or ideas of another as one's own in any academic exercise." One who facilitates any of the above is equally responsible with the primary violator.

Penalties may include restitution, an "F" on an individual paper, exam, or course; loss of campus employment; disciplinary probation; removal from extracurricular activities; and suspension.—  
*AGTS Student Handbook*

## GRADING

Quizzes	60%
Presentation	20%
Research project	20%

## COURSE OUTLINE AND READING SCHEDULE

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

Jan	10	Introduction to the course Roots of Pentecostalism
Jan	17	Tour of Flower Pentecostal Heritage Center at AG Headquarters (2:30-3:30) Beginnings of the Pentecostal movement B: Intro., 1-2; M: Intro., 1-5
Jan	24	Formative years of the General Council Pentecostal spirituality B: 3-6; M: 6-7
Jan	31	Early AG missions M: 8-10

- Feb 7 Development to World War II  
M: 11-15  
Presentations:  
Pacifism  
Executive Presbytery  
General Presbytery
- Feb 14 Ethnic Minorities in the AG  
M: 16-17  
Presentations:  
Hispanic-American Pentecostals  
Russian/Ukrainian Pentecostals  
African-American Pentecostals
- Feb 21 AG women in ministry—Guest professor: Annette Newberry  
Identification with evangelicals  
B: 7-8
- Mar 7 Post-War Period  
B: 9  
Presentations:  
Light-for-the-Lost  
Speed-the-Light  
BGMC
- Mar 14 Salvation/healing movement and the AG—Guest professor: Annette Newberry  
Presentations:  
Women's Ministries  
Prison Ministries  
Native American Ministries
- Mar 21 J. Philip Hogan and AG missions  
**Wilson: 1-12**  
Presentations:  
Mobilization and Placement Service  
Global Conquest  
Ambassador in Mission
- Mar 28 The Zimmerman years  
B: 10; M: 17-20  
Presentations:  
Jewish Ministries  
Chaplaincy Ministries  
Chi Alpha Campus Ministries

**Research project due**

- Apr 4 New challenges on renewal, unity, and media  
B: 9-11, Epilogue; M: 21-22
- Apr 11 The Carlson and Trask years  
M: 23-24; *General Council Minutes* (Constitution and Bylaws only)
- Apr 18 Survival and adaptation, and Vision for Transformation  
M: 25-26

SPECIFIC DATA

Prepared by Gary B. McGee, November 22, 2004.