

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

HIS 532 History and Polity of the Assemblies of God

Annette Newberry

Spring 2006

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 each student should be able to:

1. Explain the origins of the modern Pentecostal revival and the reasons for the formation of the Assemblies of God.
2. Trace the development of the Assemblies of God and its mission enterprise from its inception (1914) to the present time—analyzing the contributions of key personalities and the impact of major events on that development.
3. Analyze early Assemblies of God missions strategy—assessing the effect of early eschatological expectations on that strategy and comparing/contrasting it with present day methods and strategy.
4. Examine the events that led up to the formation of the Statement of Fundamental Truths and analyze the reasons for the change in the Statement.
5. Examine the Constitution and Bylaws of the Assemblies of God in order to understand how it serves as a practical guide in the development and the conducting of affairs of the Fellowship.
6. Explain the Assemblies of God's historical emphasis on the ministry of the Holy Spirit.
7. Synthesize and integrate insights gained from this learning experience in his or her life and ministry.
8. Demonstrate skill in analyzing and evaluating primary source materials to trace theological and historical development.

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)

BASIC COURSE OUTLINE

- I. Roots and beginnings of Pentecostalism
- II. The Founding of the Fellowship (1914-1927)
- III. The Years of Development (1928-1947)
- IV. The Second Generation (1948-1968)
- V. The Years of Renewed Mission (1969-1992)
- VI. The Third Generation (1993-present)

METHODOLOGY

The teaching/learning process will include lectures, class discussions and interaction, small groups, media presentations, guest speakers, reading and writing activities, and field trips.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. **Attendance.** Regular punctual attendance and participation in classroom activities are required. More than two absences will lead to a reduction of the final grade.
2. **Textbooks.** Careful and thoughtful reading of the required textbooks and assigned readings is necessary in order to participate in class/small group discussions and prepare for quizzes and examinations.

Assigned Reading: (On Reserve in AGTS Library)

Flower, Alice Reynolds. *Grace for Grace*. Springfield, Mo., n. d.

COURSE OUTLINE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS (Key for the reading: B-Blumhofer; M-McGee; Wilson; <i>General Council Minutes</i> ; F-Flowers)		
Date	Subject	Reading Source
Jan 9	Introduction to the course Roots of Pentecostalism	None
Jan 16	MLK Day holiday	
Jan 23	Beginnings of the Pentecost movement	B: Intro., 1-2; M: Intro., 1-5
Jan 30	Formative Years of the General Council Pentecostal spirituality	B: 3-6; M: 6-9
Feb 6	Early AG missions Development to World War II	M: 10-15
Feb 13	Minorities in the AG	M: 16-17
Feb 20	AG women in ministry Identification with evangelicals	B: 7-8
Feb 27	Spring Study Week	
Mar 6	Post-War Period	Research project due
Mar 13	Salvation/healing movement	B: 9 F:1-173
Mar 20	J. Philip Hogan and AG missions	Wilson: 1-12
Mar 27	The Zimmerman years	B: 10; M: 17-20
Apr 3	New challenges on renewal, unity, and media	B: 9-11, Epilogue; M: 21-22
Apr 10	The Carlson and Trask years	M: 23-24; <i>General Council Minutes</i> (Constitution and Bylaws only —available online at www.ag.org)
Apr 17	Survival and adaptation, Vision for Transformation	M: 25-26
Apr 24	Final Examination Week	

3. **Quizzes and Examinations.** Ten unannounced quizzes (over the assigned readings) and a comprehensive final examination will be given. Computers may not be used for the quizzes or examinations.
4. **Research Project.** A 15-18 page research paper or creative project from primary source materials will be **due on March 6, 2006**. The professor will provide additional information about the research project, including a list of suggested subject titles, on the first day of class.

The papers/creative projects will be evaluated in the following manner according to the correct use of research methods, the relevancy of the sources, clear and logical presentation, and originality of the work.

- A. 20% for general presentation (Correct Turabian formatting; grammar, quality of sources, etc.)
- B. 10% for the introduction
- C. 10% for quality of reason
- D. 50% of content (use of sources, originality, etc)
- E. 10% for conclusion

The paper should be double-spaced, using 12-point Times New Roman font with one-inch margins and left margin justification **only**.

5. **Spiritual Formation.** Spiritual Formation is an integral part of your seminary experience. Each class will begin with a short devotional and prayer time that will require student participation. This class will also have the opportunity to attend the AGTS Community Chapel on **Monday, April 17th at 10:30-11:45am**.

CAUTION

1. Late work will be penalized.
2. A grade of incomplete will be given only in the event of extreme circumstances.
3. Students should refrain from computer games, internet, or email activities during class sessions.

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 PROCEDURE

Quizzes	50%
Research Project	30%
Final Examination	20%

AGTS Grading Scale:

Publishable	=	A+
100% - 94%	=	A
93% - 90%	=	A-
89% - 87%	=	B+
86% - 84%	=	B
83% - 80%	=	B-
79% - 77%	=	C+
76% - 74%	=	C
73% - 70%	=	D+
69% - 67%	=	D
66% - 64%	=	D-

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Bartleman, Frank. *Azusa Street: The Roots of Modern-Day Pentecost*. South Plainfield, N.J.: Bridge Publishing, 1980.

Blumhofer, Edith L. *The Assemblies of God: A Chapter in the Story of American Pentecostalism*. Vol. 1 and Vol. 2. Springfield, Mo.: Gospel Publishing House, 1989.

Brumback, Carl. *Suddenly From Heaven: A History of the Assemblies of God*. Springfield, Mo.: Gospel Publishing House, 1961.

Burgess, Stanley M., ed. *New International Dictionary of Pentecostal and Charismatic Movements*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2002.

- Burke, Bob, with David A. Womack. *Push Back the Darkness: The Story of Don Stamps and the Full Life Study Bible*. Springfield, Mo.: Lumina Press, 1995.
- Champion, Richard G. *Write the Vision*. Springfield, Mo.: Gospel Publishing House, 1995.
- Cavaness, Barbara. "God Calling: Women in Assemblies of God Missions." *Pneuma: The Journal of the Society for Pentecostal Studies* 16 (Spring 1994): 49-62.
- De Leon, Victor. *The Silent Pentecostals: A Biographical History of the Pentecostal Movement Among Hispanics in the Twentieth Century*. Taylors, S.C.: Faith Printing Co., 1979.
- Declare His Glory: Speed-the-Light—40th Anniversary*. Springfield, Mo.: Youth Department of the Assemblies of God, 1983.
- Dempster, Murray W., Byron D. Klaus, Douglas Petersen, eds. *Called & Empowered: Global Mission in Pentecostal Perspective*. Peabody, Mass.: Hendrickson Publishers, 1991.
- Donaldson, Hal, and Joel Kilpatrick. "Inside the Los Angeles Dream Center." *Pentecostal Evangel* (28 November 1999): 8–11.
- Du Plessis, David J. *The Spirit Bade Me Go*. Rev. ed. Plainfield, N.J.: Logos International, 1970.
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- Grant, Steve. "C. M. Ward: Voice of the Assemblies of God for 25 Years." *Assemblies of God Heritage* 16 (summer–fall 1996): 41–43.
- Hamill, James E. *Pastor to Pastor: Insights From a Lifetime of Experience*. Springfield, Mo.: Gospel Publishing House, 1985.
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- Luce, Alice E. "Paul's Missionary Methods." Parts 1–3. *Pentecostal Evangel* (8 January 1921): 6–7; (22 January 1921): 6, 11; (5 February 1921): 6–7.

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SPECIFIC DATA

Prepared by Annette Newberry, October 31, 2005.