

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

HIS 532 History and Polity of the Assemblies of God

Annette Newberry

Spring 2008

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.

TEXTBOOKS (continued from page one)

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, 2007. (Includes Constitution and Bylaws; available on line)

The AG Positional Papers at
http://ag.org/top/Beliefs/Position_Papers/index.cfm

Sixteen Fundamental Truths at
http://ag.org/top/Beliefs/Statement_of_Fundamental_Truths/sft_short.cfm

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 and the Future (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. Absences must not exceed the number permitted in the seminary catalog if credit is to be given for the course
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 examinations.
 - A. **DUE FEBRUARY 8:** a typed 2-4 page paper answering the following questions from Blumhofer (Chapters 1-6) and McGee (Chapters 1-9).
 - B. BLUMHOFER (Chps 1-6) – 2 pages
 1. What is Blumhofer's thesis and why did she write about the Assemblies of God?
 2. Why was the Assemblies of God relatively isolated from the other Pentecostal denominations until the 1940s?

C. MCGEE (Chps 1-9) – 2 pages

1. What is McGee's thesis?
2. What forces compelled early Pentecostals to take the Gospel to the ends of the earth?
3. **Quizzes and Examinations.** Two examinations over the assigned readings and class lectures 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 April 4, 2008**. 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. This class will also have the opportunity to attend the **AGTS Community Chapel** on the first day of class (**Friday, February 8, 2008, at 1:30 – 2:45 pm**).

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.

CAUTION

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

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

Examinations	50%
Research Project	40%
Class participation	10%

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-

COURSE OUTLINE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS (Key for the reading: B-Blumhofer; M-McGee; Wilson; <i>General Council Minutes</i>)		
Date	Subject	Reading Source
Feb 8-9	Chapel (1:30-2:45 pm, Feb. 8) Due (Feb 8): Questions on Reading Introduction to the course Roots of the Pentecostalism Movement Formative Years of the General Council Doctrinal Controversies	Wm. Seymour Chapel B: Intro., 1-2; M: Intro., 1-5 B: 3-6; M: 6-9 <i>16 Fundamentals Truths</i>
Mar 7-8	EXAMINATION Early AG missions Development to World War II Minorities in the AG AG women in ministry Identification with evangelicals Post-War Period Salvation/healing movement J. Philip Hogan and AG missions	M: 10-15 M: 16-17 B: 7-8 B: 9 Wilson chapters 1-12
Apr 4-5	Research Project Due: April 4 The Years of Renewed Mission The Zimmerman years Challenges: renewal, unity, and media The Carlson and Trask years Survival and adaptation, Vision for Transformation A Change of Leadership Constitution and Bylaws EXAMINATION	B:10-11, Epilogue M:17-20 M:21-22 M: 23-24 M: 25-26 <i>General Council Minutes</i> (Constitution and Bylaws only) <i>AG Position Papers</i>

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Aker, Benny C., and Gary B. McGee, eds. *Signs & Wonders in Ministry Today*. Springfield, Mo.: Gospel Publishing House, 1996.

The Azusa Street Papers. Foley, Ala.: Harvest Publications, 1997. (Includes a reprint of the issues of the Los Angeles *Apostolic Faith*, 1906–1908.)

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.

Gonzalez, Nino. *Manteniendo Pentecostés Pentecostal: Hacia un Avivamiento Permanente*. Miami: Editorial Vida, 1998.

Goss, Ethel E. *The Winds of God: The Story of the Early Pentecostal Movement (1901–1914) in the Life of Howard A. Goss*. Rev. ed. Hazelwood, Mo.: Word Aflame Press, 1977.

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.

Hodges, Melvin L. *The Indigenous Church*. Springfield, Mo.: Gospel Publishing House, 1953.

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Jacobsen, Douglas. “Knowing the Doctrines of Pentecostals: The Scholastic Theology of the Assemblies of God, 1930–55.” In *Pentecostal Currents in American Protestantism*, edited by Edith L. Blumhofer, et al., 90–107. Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1999.

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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_____. “Surprises of the Holy Spirit: How Pentecostalism Has Changed the Landscape of Modern Mission.” In *Between Past and Future: Evangelical Mission Entering the Twenty-first Century*, ed. Jonathan J. Bonk, pp. 51–65. Pasadena: William Carey Library, 2003.

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- Wood, George O. "Their Last Full Measure." *Enrichment Journal* (fall 1999): 66–71.
- Zimmerman, Thomas F. "The Reason for the Rise of the Pentecostal Movement." In *Aspects of Pentecostal-Charismatic Origins*, edited by Vinson Synan, 7–13. Plainfield, N.J.: Logos International, 1975.

See also:

<http://www.ag.org/top/about/bibliography.cfm>

<http://www.evangel.edu/personal/mittelstadt/web/Pentecostal%20Web%20Bibliography.doc>

SPECIFIC DATA

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