

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

HIS 532 History and Polity of the Assemblies of God

Annette Newberry

Spring 2009

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.

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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 (Including the Constitution and Bylaws) at

http://ag.org/top/About/constitution_bylaws.cfm

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.

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3. **Quizzes and Examinations.** Two examinations over the assigned readings and class lectures will be given **on February 17 and April 21**. Computers may not be used for the quizzes or examinations.
4. **Reading Reflection Papers.** Four 2 page reading reflection papers over the assigned textbook reading and selected periodicals are **due on January 20, February 10, March 24, and April 14**. The professor will provide additional information these assignments on the first day of class.
5. **Research Project.** A 15-18 page research paper or creative project from primary source materials will be **due on March 17**. 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. 20% for the introduction and conclusion
- C. 10% for quality of reason
- D. 50% of content (use of sources, originality, etc)

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

6. **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 **DATE/S TO BE ADDED WHEN CHAPEL SCHEDULE IS AVAILABLE.**

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.

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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	40%
Research Project	40%
Reading Reflections	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

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

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.

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

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.

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.

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.

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

Poloma, Margaret M. *The Assemblies of God at the Crossroads: Charisma and Institutional Dilemmas*. Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 1989.

Synan, Vinson, ed. *The Century of the Holy Spirit: 100 Years of Pentecostal and Charismatic Renewal*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 2001.

Wacker, Grant. *Heaven Below: Early Pentecostals and American Culture*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 2001.

See also:

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

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

SPECIFIC DATA

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