

## SEX & SALVATION IN NINETEENTH-CENTURY AMERICA

**RELG 210-01/02**

**Spring Semester 2019**

**Instructor:** Douglas Winiarski

**Course Meeting Times:** TR 10:30–11:45 (SECTION 01); 12:00–1:15 (SECTION 02)

**Location:** Weinstein Hall 306 (SECTION 01); Gottwald Science Center A201 (SECTION 02)

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**Cell Phone:** (804) 683-3152 (emergencies only please!)

**Office Hours:** by appointment

We hear a lot these days about traditional family values: Protestant evangelical Christianity has become synonymous with conservative social issues. But what are the historical roots of this distinctive cultural worldview? The course looks back to a period in which the most radical evangelical groups in the young United States questioned everything: family structures, gender roles, sexual identities, and marital arrangements. Topics include the innovative theological ideas and religious practices of charismatic leaders, such as the hyper-patriarchal Prophet Matthias and the genderless Publick Universal Friend, as well as the sexual and marital practices of the Shakers, Mormons, and Oneida Community. This course satisfies the General Education requirement for Historical Studies (FSHT).

### **Historical Studies (FHST) Objectives**

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In addition to the specific topics described above, this course will serve as a laboratory for practicing various methodological approaches used by scholars of early American history; formulating historical questions and arguments; and developing advanced research skills. Specifically, the FSHT component of RELG 210 may be divided into four learning objectives:

- Analyzing different types of primary texts, including theological tracts, diaries and letters, newspapers, and autobiographies;
- Developing advanced research skills using early American history resources available through Boatwright Library's print and electronic collections;
- Identifying the contextual approaches employed by scholars who study the history of religion and sexuality;
- Applying these different methodological and contextual frames to unfamiliar, but well documented incidents that we have not discussed as a class.

### **Humanities Competencies**

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By the end of the semester, it is my hope that you will have developed a general interest in the study of nineteenth-century American outsider religious groups and their historical contexts, but

this is not all that I hope you will take away from our class. Throughout the semester, we will be working together to hone your analytical, writing, and communication skills. These are the basic building blocks of a liberal arts education; they are also humanities competencies that are highly prized by staffing agents in corporations, law firms, and other professions. Success in this class will hinge on your ability to master the art of historical interpretation. No component of the course will require you to memorize “historical facts” and restate them in timed exams. Instead, I will be evaluating your intellectual growth in these core competencies:

- Comparing and contrasting primary sources;
- Summarizing, judging, and articulating cogent criticism of scholarly arguments;
- Applying the analysis of one set of materials to a different situation;
- Forming coherent arguments and communicating those ideas persuasively to others.

## Course Procedures & Requirements

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“Sex & Salvation” has no prerequisites and assumes no prior knowledge of the topic. Our bi-weekly meetings will consist of short presentations and seminar-style discussions. Keeping up with the scheduled reading assignments is crucial. I expect that you will spend *an average of two to three hours preparing for each class* and roughly *two hours per page when writing papers for class*. Guidelines for major assignments will be posted to Blackboard.

Attendance is mandatory. I will evaluate the quality of your participation in each of our class discussions using the following scale: 5 (excellent: multiple informed/insightful comments), 3 (good: moderate contributions), 1 (poor: minimal participation), and 0 (incomplete/absent). Arriving late to class, taking regular bathroom breaks, stepping into the hallway to check text messages, engaging in side conversations, and other disruptions will also inform my evaluation of your participation. *Please do not email me to explain class absences other than those for approved University of Richmond events/activities.*

I expect all students to annotate our readings and take notes on our discussions during class. We will work to develop your critical reading skills early in the semester. I will occasionally collect, review, and evaluate your reading annotations and discussion notes during the semester using the same 0, 1, 3, 5 scale described above. No late submissions of these unannounced check-ins and other occasional short written homework assignments will be accepted. The combined score will count five percent toward your final grade.

Final grades for the semester will be calculated as follows:

Class Attendance & Participation	25%
Class Preparation, Homework, & Reading Annotations	5%
<i>Kingdom of Matthias</i> Essay (3 pages)	15%
Rebecca Cox Jackson Essay (5–7 pages)	20%
Polygamy before Mormonism Story Map	15%
Oneida Community Paper (5–7 pages)	20%

## Required Texts

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The following books are available for purchase in the campus bookstore or from major internet distributors such as Amazon and Barnes and Noble.

1. Fogarty, Robert S., ed. *Special Love/Special Sex: An Oneida Community Diary*. Syracuse, N.Y.: Syracuse University Press, 1994.
2. Foster, Lawrence. *Religion and Sexuality: The Shakers, the Mormons, and the Oneida Community*. Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1984.
3. Johnson, Paul E., and Sean Wilentz. *The Kingdom of Matthias: A Story of Sex and Salvation in 19th-Century America*, updated ed. New York: Oxford University Press, 2012.

In addition, we will be reading a series of primary texts and scholarly articles that are available in one of three formats: (1) online; (2) through one of Boatwright Library's subscription databases; or (3) PDF files stored on our Blackboard website. *You will need to print copies of these texts and bring them with you to class.*

## Disability Accommodations

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Students with disabilities for whom accommodations have been formally granted by a University of Richmond Disability Advisor must present a copy of their "Disability Accommodation Notice" to each professor within the first week of the academic term. Accommodations must be negotiated in advance for each scheduled course assignment. Students should plan to consult with me at least one week prior to any scheduled deadline.

## Cell Phones & Other Devices

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While in class, please disable all cell phones and other communication devices. In addition, I ask that all students refrain from using laptop computers, tablets, and other electronic devices, which create distractions that disrupt the flow of our seminar discussions.

## Grade Scale

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Final grades will be assigned based on the Religious Studies Department's standard scale: A+ (98–100); A (93–97); A- (91–92); B+ (88–90); B (83–87); B- (81–82); C+ (78–80); C (73–77); C- (71–72); D+ (68–70); D (63–67); D- (61–62); F (60 and below).

## Class Schedule

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### The Protestant Evangelical (Sexual) Awakening, 1740–1840

Tuesday, January 15

Introduction to the Course

- Thursday, January 17**      **Sex & the Great Awakening**
- Juster, “All Things Are Become New,” pp. 46–74 (Blackboard).
- Tuesday, January 22**      **Free Love, Internal Marriage & Immortalism**
- Winiarski, “Holier than thou,” pp. 404–434 (Blackboard).
- Thursday, January 24**      **Kingdom of Matthias I**
- Johnson and Wilentz, *Kingdom of Matthias*, pp. 3–47.
- Tuesday, January 29**      **Kingdom of Matthias II**
- Johnson and Wilentz, *Kingdom of Matthias*, pp. 49–125.
- Thursday, January 31**      **Kingdom of Matthias III**
- Johnson and Wilentz, *Kingdom of Matthias*, pp. 127–179.
- Tuesday, February 5**      **Rethinking the “Cult” of Matthias**
- Stein, “Talking about Religious Outsiders,” pp. 2–12 (Blackboard).

HOMWORK ASSIGNMENT DUE IN CLASS: USE THE JSTOR DATABASE TO LOCATE TWO SCHOLARLY BOOK REVIEWS OF *THE KINGDOM OF MATTHIAS*. PRINT COPIES AND BRING CHICAGO-FORMATTED BIBLIOGRAPHY TO CLASS.

### Gender Trouble in Revolutionary America

- Thursday, February 7**      **The Publick Universal Friend**
- Wilkinson, “Memorandum,” pp. 1–2 (Blackboard).
  - Winiarski, ed., “Early Reports of the Publick Universal Friend” (Blackboard).
- KINGDOM OF MATTHIAS PAPER DUE VIA EMAIL BY MIDNIGHT ON FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 8 (FIRST DEADLINE) OR MIDNIGHT ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10 (SECOND DEADLINE).*
- Tuesday, February 12**      **An Apostate’s Account of the P.U.F.**
- Brownell, *Enthusiastical Errors, Transpired and Detected*, pp. 3–44 (Blackboard).
- HOMWORK ASSIGNMENT DUE IN CLASS: FIND BROWNELL’S ENTHUSIASTIC ERRORS ON THE EARLY AMERICAN IMPRINTS: SERIES I DATABASE AND LOCATE 5-DIGIT IDENTIFICATION NUMBER.
- Thursday, February 14**      **No Class—Religious Studies Conference**
- Begin Foster, *Religion and Sexuality*, pp. 3–71.
- Tuesday, February 19**      **Shaker Celibacy**
- Complete Foster, *Religion and Sexuality*, pp. 3–71.

- Thursday, February 21**      **Debating Women, Celibacy & Gender**
- Juster, “Neither male nor female,” pp. 357–379 (Blackboard).
  - Brekus, “Women in the Wilderness,” pp. 80–97 (Blackboard).
- Tuesday, February 26**      **Women, Race, Celibacy**
- Humez, ed., *Gifts of Power*, selections t.b.a. (Blackboard).
- Thursday, February 28**      **Research Workshop I (w/Carol Wittig)**
- Tuesday, March 5**      **Writing Workshop I (Thesis Statements)**
- Thursday, March 7**      **Writing Workshop II (Citing Sources)**
- REBECCA COX JACKSON PAPER DUE VIA EMAIL BEFORE MIDNIGHT ON THURSDAY, MARCH 7 (FIRST DEADLINE) OR MIDNIGHT ON FRIDAY, MARCH 8 (SECOND DEADLINE).
- Thursday, March 12**      **No Class—Spring Break**
- Tuesday, March 14**      **No Class—Spring Break**
- Begin reading Foster, *Religion and Sexuality*, pp. 123–225.

### Polygamy before Mormonism

- Tuesday, March 19**      **Sexuality, Marriage & Mormonism**
- Foster, *Religion and Sexuality*, pp. 123–180.
  - Meet with your partner and begin reading and logging newspaper articles for mapping project.
- Thursday, March 21**      **Research Workshop II (w/Carol Wittig)**
- Complete Foster, *Religion and Sexuality*, pp. 181–225.
  - Continue working with your partner to log newspaper articles for mapping project.
- Tuesday, March 26**      **Anti-Mormonism & Polygamy Controversies**
- Fluhman, *Peculiar People*, selections t.b.a. (Blackboard).
  - Continue working with your partner to log newspaper articles for mapping project.
- Thursday, March 28**      **Religion in Nineteenth-Century America Symposium**
- Complete logging newspaper articles for mapping project.
- CLASS MEETS FOR DINNER WITH VISITING SCHOLARS (DETAILS T.B.A.).
- Tuesday, April 2**      **Mapping Polygamy I**
- Thursday, April 4**      **Mapping Polygamy II**
- POST STORY MAP PROJECTS BEFORE MIDNIGHT, MONDAY, APRIL 8.

**Tuesday, April 9**                      **Story Map Showcase**

**Complex Marriage at Oneida**

- Thursday, April 11**                      **Complex Marriage & the Oneida Community**
- Foster, *Religion and Sexuality*, pp. 72–122.
- Tuesday, April 16**                      **Victor Hawley’s Sexual Struggles I**
- Fogarty, *Special Love/Special Sex*, pp. 2–67.
- Thursday, April 18**                      **Victor Hawley’s Sexual Struggles II**
- Fogarty, *Special Love/Special Sex*, pp. 81–164.
- Tuesday, April 23**                      **Victor Hawley’s Sexual Struggles III**
- Fogarty, *Special Love/Special Sex*, pp. 175–220.
- Thursday, April 25**                      **Wrapping Up**
- Foster, *Religion and Sexuality*, pp. 226–247.
  - Watch the recent PBS American Experience documentary film *The Eugenics Crusade* (Blackboard).

ONEIDA COMMUNITY PAPER DUE BEFORE 5:00 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 1  
(RELIGIOUS STUDIES OFFICE, WEINSTEIN HALL 102).

**Blackboard Bibliography**

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- Brekus, Catherine. A. “Women in the Wilderness: Female Religious Leadership in the Age of Revolution.” In *Strangers and Pilgrims: Female Preaching in America, 1740–1845*, 68–113. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1998.
- Brownell, Abner. *Enthusiastical Errors, Transpired and Detected*. [New London, Conn.], 1783.
- Fruhman, J. Spencer. “A Peculiar People”: *Anti-Mormonism and the Making of Religion in Nineteenth-Century America*, selections. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2012.
- Humez, Jean, ed. *Gifts of Power: The Writings of Rebecca Jackson, Black Visionary, Shaker Eldress*, selections. Amherst: University of Massachusetts Press, 1981.
- Juster, Susan. “‘All Things Become New’: The Conversion Experience.” In *Disorderly Women: Sexual Politics & Evangelicalism in Revolutionary New England*, 46–74. Ithaca, N.Y.: Cornell University Press, 1994.
- Juster, Susan. “‘Neither male nor female’: Jemima Wilkinson and the Politics of Gender in Post-Revolutionary America.” In *Possible Pasts: Becoming Colonial in Early America*, ed. Robert Blair St. George, 357–379. Ithaca, N.Y.: Cornell University Press, 2000.
- Stein, Stephen J. “Talking About Religious Outsiders.” In *Communities of Dissent: A History of Alternative Religions in America*, 2–12. New York: Oxford University Press, 2003.
- Wilkinson, Jemima. “A Memorandum on the introduction of that fatal fever.” Jemima Wilkinson Papers, microfilm, Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y.
- Winiarski, Douglas L., ed. “Early Reports of the Publick Universal Friend.” Unpublished mss., 2019.