

**ST. MARY'S ECUMENICAL INSTITUTE**  
**Spring 2018**

**Monday**

**6:00 - 8:30 pm**

**H603 Modern Church History (Reformations to Present)**

**Dr. Emily Bailey**

**Course Description:** This course is a historical survey of Christianity, covering the period leading up to the Protestant Reformations through our present day. Special attention will be paid to the people, movements, and events that shaped modern Christian denominations and identities. In the first half of our course, we will consider the ways in which changing views of Christianity contributed to the manifold Reformations in Europe in the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries. We will also examine the Catholic response to these reforms. In the second half of our course, we will shift our focus to the diversity of Christian experiences in America, from the time of the Puritans through our present day. It is our challenge in this section to identify patterns of religious experience unique to American Christianity, while understanding their parallels to and divergences from their European roots.

**Course Requirements:** Our grade distribution is as follows:

- Regular attendance and participation are expected, and vital to the success of our course this semester. You should plan to come prepared for each class meeting, ready to discuss the week's materials. Our readings will not exceed 800 pages for the term, and students will write a maximum of 30 pages. (10%)
- A take home midterm essay exam (5-6 pages) covering our course materials from the first half of our course. (20%)
- A one page preliminary paper topic which defines your area of interest (both subject and methodology) from a topic in the second half of our course materials, and a bibliography of at least four scholarly sources (not websites) related to this topic, due by the fourth week of the term. (5%)
- As continuing preparation for your final paper, you will write a four page proposal about your intended project. This should include a concrete thesis topic/question, clearly defined goals for this research, and your anticipated conclusions to-date. You will compose a two page annotated bibliography outlining 6-8 scholarly sources that you intend to use in support of your work as part of this proposal. (15%)
- You will exchange your papers (in draft form) with one of your classmates, offering constructive comments and feedback for one another's work. Guidelines for this exercise will be circulated in advance. (10%)
- Your primary project for this course is a research paper of 12-15 pages (exclusive of bibliography), which will build upon our inquiries about modern Christianity. Your other assignments are designed to help facilitate this process. (25%)
- You will prepare a 10 minute presentation of your research project findings for our last class meetings. These presentations will be formal (Power Point or Prezi presentations and handouts are welcome, but not required). Your presentation will need to clearly state your thesis topic, the trajectory of your paper, and your conclusions. (15%)

**Required Texts:**

Noll, Mark A. *The Old Religion in a New World: A History of North American Christianity*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 2001. ISBN: 0802849482

Tracy, James D. *Europe's Reformations: 1450-1650, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition*. New York: Rowman & Littlefield, 2006. ISBN: 0847688356

Additional readings will be available to students on our course CANVAS site.