

Fundamentalism

*Religious Studies 3E Honors Section, Fall
2008*

T 5:10-6:10 pm / 565 Kerr

Professor

Flagg Miller

916 Sproul Hall

Office Hours: T/Th 1-2:15 or by appointment

[*fmiller@ucdavis.edu*](mailto:fmiller@ucdavis.edu)

Required Texts (*available on reserve at Shields Library.*)

Race Over Grace: The Racialist Religion of the Christian Identity Movement. New York: iUniverse. (2003)

Course readings in the "Resources" section on Smartsite. The filenames contain the week they are to be read.

Course Requirements and Grading

Class participation: 30%

Oral presentation: 20%

Three journal entries and a final writing assignment: 50%

Plagiarism (the using of another's ideas and/or words without proper citation) is a serious offense. If I catch you, the consequences can be significant, including your failing the term. If you have any questions about plagiarism, email me or come see me.

Syllabus

Week One: No class

Week Two: Introductions

Sept. 30

Week Three: The Archive

Oct. 7 Class discussion of assigned readings

Due in class:

- Jorge Luis Borges' "The Library of Babel" (on Smartsite)

Week Four: Meeting with Special Collections Curator John Sherlock

Oct. 14 Class meets in Special Collections room of Memorial Library (first floor - through security gates at entrance toward the left of the building, but to the right of the Information Desk and elevators.)

Week Five: *Race Over Grace*

Oct. 21 Group discussion of book

Due in class: Be prepared to discuss *Race Over Grace*, and general themes you'd like to explore further in your section project.

Weekly Reading and Journal Writing Assignment:

Step 1: Search through reading material on Mr. Sherlock's list. Choose a few texts you'd like to focus on. Spend **15 minutes** on this. NOTE:

- If any of them are listed as "uncatalogued", send an email to John Sherlock (sherlock@lib.ucdavis.edu) telling him the day and time that you'd like to examine the material.

- If the entry is listed as "Stored at NRLF," you'll need to go to the Special Collections room one day before you examine the material.

Step 2: Go to the Special Collections room to examine your selected items. For texts you haven't yet pre-ordered, you'll need to fill out request forms and wait until the texts are delivered. Spend **one hour** filling out forms and reading material delivered to you.

Step 3: Spend **30 minutes** writing about the material you've read (some summary, mostly reflection) on the left side of your notebook.

Step 4: Spend **15 minutes** reviewing course readings or class notes and -- on the right side of the notebook -- write brief statements about the ways the material on the left side of the page can help explore course material further, problematize it, or moved it in new directions.

Step 5: Drop off journals at my office by Monday, the day before class, no later than noon. I'll read your entries, grade them loosely (check plus, check, or check minus), and pair you up with small discussion groups for Tuesday's class meeting.

Week Six: Discussion of journal findings in small groups and as a class

Oct. 28

Repeat Steps 1-5 above. At the end of class, I'll assign small groups of 3-4 students who are focusing on similar topics. For next week, one group will prepare short, 10-minute oral presentations that devote equal time to:

(a) Providing an overview of the contents of your selected texts.

(b) Exploring what new lessons your material offers to our understanding of religious fundamentalism.

- Other students will repeat steps 1-5.

Week Seven: Oral Presentations and further journal discussions

Nov. 4

Most will repeat steps 1-5. Second group will prepare oral presentation instead.

Week Eight: Oral Presentations and further journal discussions

Nov. 11

Most will repeat steps 1-5. Third group will prepare oral presentation instead.

Week Nine: Oral Presentations and further journal discussions

Nov. 18

Most will repeat steps 1-5. Fourth group will prepare oral presentation instead.

Week Ten: Film

Nov. 25 Film in class: "Not in Our Town"

Week Eleven: Oral Presentations, journal discussions, and final wrap-up

Dec. 2

Due in class: Final Course Feedback