

Fundamentalism

Religious Studies 3E, Fall 2008

T/Th 3:10-4:30, Wellman 6

Professor

Flagg Miller

916 Sproul Hall

Office Hours: T/Th 1-2:15 (or by appt.)

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Teaching Assistants

Claire Blackstock

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Course Logic and Goals

Introduction to the global and comparative study of fundamentalism. Historical origins, basic texts, cultural contexts of fundamentalist strains of Christianity and Islam, with additional attention to Judaism, Hinduism, and Buddhism. Emphasis on fundamentalism and science, textual interpretation, colonialism, nationalism, media, gender and terrorism. Attention given throughout to the ways studies of fundamentalism reflect broader trends in religious studies.

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

Accounting for Fundamentalisms: The Dynamic Character of Movements. Eds. Martin E. Marty and R. Scott Appleby. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press.

Malley, Brian. *How the Bible Works: An Anthropological Study of Evangelical Biblicism.* New York: Altamira Press.

Other Sources

Smartsite will be a central repository for course readings, announcements, media, grades, and other materials.

All required readings (aside from the two textbooks above) will be available on Smartsite in the "Resources" section. The filenames contain the week they are to be read.

Course Requirements and Grading

Exams 1-3: 25% each

Quizzes: 25%

There will be **three exams** for this course. Each of these is worth 25% of your final grade.

Throughout the quarter you will be given quizzes that test your preparation for class. All quiz material will be drawn from assigned reading. The questions will be simple, but you will be unable to answer them without reading. If you have done the assigned reading, you will do well. QUIZZES WILL NOT BE ANNOUNCED. THEY WILL OCCUR IN CLASS, NOT IN SECTION. There will be seven quizzes during the quarter, and you can drop the two lowest scores. Thus, 25% of your grade will be drawn from your scores on five quizzes.

Plagiarism (the using of another's ideas and/or words without proper citation) is a serious offense. If you are caught plagiarizing, you will receive a zero on the assignment. In serious cases of plagiarism I reserve the right to assign a failing grade for the course.

Syllabus

Week One: Introduction

Sept. 25: First Day

Week Two: The Specters of Secularism and Science: A Critical Approach to the Study of Religious Fundamentalism (with special attention to Protestantism in the U.S.)

Sept. 30

Wuthnow, Robert and Lawson, Matthew, "Sources of Christian Fundamentalism in the United States," in *Accounting* (pp.18-22 *only*).

Eberle, Gary. "Modernism" in *Dangerous Words: Talking about God in an Age of Fundamentalism*. Shambala Publications, 2007, (pp.11-31).

Coyne, Jerry A. "Intelligent Design: The Faith That Dare Not Speak Its Name" in *Intelligent Thought: Science Versus the Intelligent Design Movement*. Ed. J. Brockman. New York: Vintage Books, 2006, (pp.3-23).

Oct. 2

Finish Wuthnow and Lawson's "Sources of Christian Fundamentalism in the United States," in *Accounting* (pp.22-56).

Week Three: Fundamentalists' New Approaches to Truth and Myth (adopted in response to modern demands for historical proof of Revelation)

Oct. 7 Guest lecture by John Unrath (UCD graduate student in psychology)

Eberle, Gary. "Truth" and "Myth" in *Dangerous Words: Talking about God in an Age of Fundamentalism*. Shambala Publications, 2007, (pp.32-57, 85-109).

Oct. 9 - Premillennial Dispensationalism

Harding, Susan. "Imagining the Last Days: The Politics of Apocalyptic Language" in *Accounting*, (pp.57-78).

LaHaye, Tim and Jenkins, Jerry B. "The Millennial Kingdom" from *Kingdom Come: The Final Victory* (last volume in The Left Behind Series), Tynedale House, 2007 (pp.xxi-xxiii,xxxiv-xlvi).

Excerpt from Meigs, Anna. "Ritual Language in Everyday Life: The Christian Right," *The Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, v.63(1), 1995 (pp.85-92, 99-100).

Week Four: Post-colonial Resistance through Evangelical Interpretation: Lessons from Latin America

Oct. 14

Swanson, Tod. "Refusing to Drink with the Mountains: Traditional Andean Meanings in Evangelical Practice," in *Accounting*, (pp.79-98).

Stoll, David. "'Jesus Is Lord of Guatemala': Evangelical Reform in a Death-Squad State" in *Accounting*, (pp. 99-123).

Oct. 16 *Mid-term in class*

Week Five: Literalism in Practice: Christian Evangelicals and The Bible

Oct. 21

Malley, Brian. *How the Bible Works*, Chapters 1&2 (pp.17-72)

Guest lecture by Professor Ari Kelman, UCD American Studies Department

Oct. 23

Malley, Brian. *How the Bible Works*, Chapter 3 (pp.73-126)

Week Six: Hybrid Christianity, Hybrid Islam

Oct. 28

Malley, Brian. *How the Bible Works*, Chapter 5 (pp.145-158)

Piscatori, James. "Accounting for Islamic Fundamentalisms" in *Accounting* (pp.361-71).

Oct. 30

Baram, Amatzia. "Two Roads to Revolutionary Shi`ite Fundamentalism in Iraq," in *Accounting* (pp.531-588).

Week Seven: Differences between Wahhabism and Al-Qa`ida

Nov. 4

Delong-Bas, Natana. "Muhammad Ibn `Abd al-Wahhab and the Origins of Wahhabism: The 18th-century Context" in *Wahhabi Islam: From Revival and Reform to Global Jihad*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004 (pp.7-14,240-46, 256-79).

Mitchell, Timothy. "McJihad and the U.S. Global Order," *Social Text* v.20(4): 1-18. (2002)

Nov. 6

Antoun, Richard. "Transnational Religion Before and After 9/11: Muslims in Western Europe and Afghanistan" in *Understanding Fundamentalism: Christian, Islamic, and Jewish Movements*. New York: Alta Mira Press, 2008 (pp.133-171).

Film in class - *The Power of Nightmares: The Rise of the Politics of Fear*, part 2.

Week Eight: Cosmic War

Nov. 11 *Veterans Day Holiday*

Nov. 13 Cosmic War

Juergensmeyer, Mark. "Cosmic War" (pp.146-164) and "Martyrs and Demons" (pp.165-189) from *Terror in the Mind of God*, Berkeley: The University of California Press, 2001.

Week Nine: Judaism, Nationhood, and the Functions of Education

Nov. 18

Mid-term in class

Nov. 20

Don-Yehiya, Eliezer. "The Book and the Sword: The Nationalist Yeshivot and Political Radicalism in Israel" in *Accounting* (pp.264-302).

Week Ten: Hinduism and Post-colonial Legacies

Nov. 25

Bayly, Susan. "Christians and Competing Fundamentalisms in South Indian Society" in *Accounting* (pp.726-769).

Nov. 27 *Thanksgiving Break*

Week Eleven: Buddhism amidst National Disorder

Dec. 2

Manor, James. "Organizational Weakness and the Rise of Sinhalese Buddhist Extremism," in *Accounting* (pp.770-84)

Dec. 4 Exam Review

Final Exam: Dec.10, 1-3pm (in our regular classroom)