This is the course site for American Religious History after 1865 (HIST 615). During the course of our time together, we will read and discuss twelve books that showcase a range of approaches and topics of study that are current interest to scholars in this field. These text by no means represent the full breath and depth of the work in American religious history, so each student will undertake a major review and research project of her choice.

All of the readings and assignments for the semester will be located here. Additionally, the critical reviews and discussion questions developed by for each week will be posted here.

Assignments
By sleon · July 24, 2014

Weekly Seminar Work

Reading
Each member of the seminar is required to complete all of the assigned readings for the semester.

Critical Reviews (2)
Each student in the seminar will complete two critical reviews during the semester. To prepare for writing your critical review, complete the following tasks:

- Carefully read the work in question, including all citation materials.
- Read other work by this author.
- Read all available reviews of this work. (Use the Book Review Index.)
- Familiarize yourself with work in this sub-field.

Draft a critical review essay for the course site. The essay should be no more than 1,200 words and should

1. summarize the argument;
2. briefly discuss the work’s style and organization;
3. position the work in the field;
4. position the work in relation to our other readings;
5. assess the sources and research that went into the book;
6. and, critically reflect on the work as scholarship and the contributions it makes to our understanding of the history of religion in the US.

Comments
Each week, the members of the seminar should engage the critical review authors through constructive and substantive comments on the individual posts.
Discussion
Each student will be responsible for leading discussion during the weeks that they write their critical reviews. In a blog post for that week, offer a set of 3 to 5 framing questions for class discussion.

All of the members of the seminar are responsible for engaging in the critical assessment of each work of scholarship that we read. This requires not simply reading the work, but understanding its contribution to the field of history of religion and the larger field of American history. Constructive contributions to the discussion during our seminar meetings constitute the primary evidence of that engagement, and are require for success in this course.

Research Project

Proposal
The 2-3 page research proposal should include the research question, an articulation of the fields touched on by the work, major works to review, and possible primary source collections.

The research proposal is due September 25, 2014.

Main Project
The research project should consist of no more than 5,000 words of text, take an appropriate form (essay, website, etc.), and contain the following elements:

- Research question
- Preliminary argument
- Statement of Potential Significance
- Review of key works in the field(s) and their relationship to the research question
- Preliminary findings based on primary source research

A draft is due November 6, 2014.

Peer Review
Each student will be responsible for offering critical peer review comments on two research project drafts. These comments should be conveyed through substantive narrative commentary structured by a rubric that will be distributed.

Peer review comments are due on November 13, 2014.

The final research project is due on December 11, 2014.

Readings
By sleon · July 14, 2014

Required:


Recommended, but not required:


**Schedule**

By sleon · July 24, 2014
August 28, 2014
Reading: Butler

September 4, 2014
Reading: Foster
Critical Review: Everyone

September 11, 2014
Reading: Tweed
Critical Review:

September 18, 2014
Reading: Kilde
Critical Review:
Research: Research Proposal Due

September 25, 2014
Reading: Higginbotham
Critical Review:

October 2, 2014
Reading: Smoak
Critical Review:

October 9, 2014
Reading: Goldman
Critical Review:

October 16, 2014
Reading: Baker
Critical Review:

October 23, 2014
Reading: McGreevy
Critical Review:

October 30, 2014
Reading: Yoo
Critical Review:

November 6, 2014
Reading: Hollinger
Critical Review:
Research: Draft Due

November 13, 2014
No Class — Research and Revisions
Research: Peer Review Due

**November 20, 2014**
Reading: Hinojosa
Critical Review:

**November 27, 2014: Thanksgiving (No Class)**

**December 4, 2014**
Reading: Bowler
Critical Review:

**December 11, 2014**
Research: Final Revisions Due