INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION: I look forward to getting to know you this semester, and hope that you will seek me out for personal conversation.

Office Phone Number: 847-317-8047

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COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course will offer students an opportunity for intensive reading in and reflection upon some of the most important writings of colonial America’s premier pastor-theologian, Jonathan Edwards. It will familiarize students with Edwards’ life, times, and world, facilitating understanding of the eighteenth-century origins of modern evangelicalism.

LEARNING GOALS: My goals for student learning are threefold: 1) that students will gain understanding of the life, ministry practices, and writings of Jonathan Edwards and related leaders of early evangelicalism; 2) that students will grow in their understanding of Christian ministry and theology from the example of Jonathan Edwards and other early evangelicals; 3) that students will gain confidence in using the Christian tradition in their ministries--to preach and teach theology; to help other Christians with issues of spiritual, doctrinal, and ecclesial identity; and to make more faithful disciples of those whom God calls them to serve.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS: Course grades will be based on the following requirements:

1. Each student will read all of the assigned texts. On Friday, April 29, each student should submit a signed statement attesting that he or she has indeed read all of these texts by the dates assigned below. Failure to submit such a statement will result in a reduction of one’s grade for the course (by an entire letter). N.B.: If you have devoted at least twelve good hours to reading the material assigned for any given weekend, you may count that weekend’s assignment as completed (i.e. even if you have not finished reading the assigned material).
2. Each student will participate regularly in classroom discussion. Failure to attend class regularly, eager to engage the assigned materials (as well as the other students’ views of the assigned materials), will result in a significant reduction of one’s grade (30%).

3. Each student will write either a 10-20 page research paper on an aspect of eighteenth-century evangelical history or four, 5-7 page reflection papers on Edwards’ ministry, thought, and/or legacies. The professor’s expectations for these papers will be discussed on the first day of class. All papers are due by Friday, April 29, though students writing reflection papers are encouraged to submit them over the course of the semester (70%).

4. Each student will offer an oral presentation of either his/her research paper or two of his/her reflection papers on the last day of class, Saturday, April 30. These presentations should be roughly 20 minutes in length (depending on class size), and will be followed by a period of questions, answers, and discussion of the paper(s) facilitated by the professor. These presentations will not be graded, but failure to present one will result in a reduction of your grade.

REQUIRED TEXTS:


Jonathan Edwards, *The Life of David Brainerd* (1749)

-The critical edition in *The Works of Jonathan Edwards* is available online (use the hypertext link on the “Course Calendar,” below), but you may use another edition if you would like (it has been frequently reprinted). Bear in mind that all subsequent editions have been bowdlerized.


* Students may read all the Edwards material online, for free, in *The Works of Jonathan Edwards* ([http://edwards.yale.edu/research/browse](http://edwards.yale.edu/research/browse)). Relevant hypertext links are available on the Edwards “Course Calendar” below.
WEEKEND ONE - January 29-30, 2016

Course Introduction

The Life of Jonathan Edwards and Its Significance for American History

Edwards as a Preacher


WEEKEND TWO - February 12-13, 2016

Edwards and the Bible

Edwards, the Great Awakening, and Modern Evangelicalism

Ecclesiastical Controversy in Northampton and Stockbridge

WEEKEND THREE - February 26-27, 2016

Freedom of the Will

Original Sin, Predestination, and Theodicy

Ethics


WEEKEND FOUR - April 29-30, 2016

The Life of David Brainerd and the Rise of Modern Missions

Edwards’ Legacies in New England and Beyond

Paper Presentations

Reading Assignment: Spend four hours reading JE, The Life of David Brainerd, ed. Norman Pettit, The Works of Jonathan Edwards, vol. 7; and spend four hours reading one of the following (which you will need to acquire on your own):


**ALL PAPERS AND READING REPORTS DUE ON FRIDAY NIGHT**