I. **Course Description**

A study of the church in America from its Colonial beginnings to the current day with emphasis on the numerous influences that have forged the current religious scene.

II. **Course Objectives**

A. To trace the history of Christianity in the United States beginning with its roots in British colonialism.

B. To think critically about the nature and meaning of the American political experiment.

C. To gain spiritual enrichment through an understanding of one’s own evangelical heritage, particularly through the lives and ministries of select leaders.

D. To trace the shift in American religious thought from Calvinistic Puritanism to evangelicalism, then onto liberalism.

E. To gain insight and understanding into Christendom today.

F. To see the sovereign, merciful workings of God throughout the history of the nation.

G. To understand how and why movements started and to trace their effect on history.

H. To explain the causes, developments in, reactions to, and criticisms of nondenominational evangelicalism since 1858.

I. To gain insight into present-day issues in the American church.

J. To obtain a basic bibliography for further study.

III. **Course Materials**

Hannah, John D. *The History of Christianity in America*, Audio Lectures and study Guide. Institute of Theological Studies, a division of OUTREACH, INC., 1994. (Purchase from ChristianCourses.com)
A. Standard Textbooks

Please choose any ONE of the following textbooks. The textbook is to be read as listed in the course schedule below. The DE office recommends the student read Mark A. Noll, *A History of Christianity in the United States and Canada*.

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B. Recent Area or Theme Texts

Choose three of the following works; one from group A, one from group B, and one from group C.

**Group A. Biography: the lives of American Christians. Choose ONE of the following books.**

three well-known Puritan ministers: Richard, Increase and Cotton Mather (a Father, Son and Grandson trio).


**Group B.** Movements in American Christianity: the story of Christian sub-groups in American Church History. Choose ONE of the following books.


A classic study of American slave religion and their Christianity prior to the Civil War.


**Group C. The History of Theology in America: Historical Theology and Intellectual History in American Church History. Choose ONE of the following books.**


IV. **Course Requirements**

A. **Book Reviews**

Three other books must be reported on from the recent area or theme texts. Choose one from Group A, one from group B, and one from group C above. These books are to be read thoroughly and thoughtfully. The student must prepare a brief report on each 7-9 pages, double spaced. The book report should consist of: 1) a 2-3 page summary of the thesis and key points of the book; 2) a 2-3 page critical evaluation of the book’s main ideas; and 3) a 2-3 page application arising from studying the book.

The student should take note that some of these works were not written by conservative evangelicals. Rather, these works have been selected to raise the student’s awareness and stimulate his or her thinking more broadly.

B. **Exams**

Three exams must be taken, closed book and without notes. The first exam should be taken following Lecture #8. The second exam should be taken following Lecture #16. The third exam should be taken following the last lecture.
The exams will cover the material from the recorded lectures and the textbook which the student has selected to read. The textbook should be read in accordance with the schedule of lectures as outlined in this syllabus (i.e., assigned pages should be read along with the listening to each lecture). There will be a place on each exam for the student to record the completion of this reading.

C. Online Questions

The student is required to participate in the discussion areas of TriNet. Thoughtful responses should be given to at least one question in each discussion area, and responses to the comments of other students are encouraged.

V. Course Grading

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<tr>
<td>Textbook reading</td>
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<td>TriNet discussion questions</td>
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<td>Book reports</td>
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All assignments should be submitted directly to your Course Tutor using the icon within your TriNet course labeled with your course tutor’s name. Exams should be mailed by your proctor to the address below. Course work may be submitted by mail if necessary.

Distance Education
Trinity Evangelical Divinity School
2065 Half Day Road
Deerfield, IL 60015

If you have questions related to your assignments, please contact your Course Tutor in TriNet. All other questions should be directed to the Distance Education office (email or 847-317-6554).

VI. Additional Bibliography


