

History 773

Christianity and the Secularization Problem in the Atlantic World, 1750-2000

Dr. M. Gauvreau

Wednesdays, 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

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Office Hours: Wednesdays, 1:30-2:30 p.m.

The theory of secularization has, since at least the 1950s, powerfully shaped historical discussions of religion in Western societies. While recent historical developments have revised the chronology and scope of secularization, the concept remains a lively and vital field of debate, especially in light of the insights of gender and cultural history that historians of religion have begun to apply. The emphasis of this course is both chronological and thematic, and while there is some focus on Canadian developments, it draws upon the historical experience of Britain and the United States in introducing students to the various inflections of the secularization thesis. Topics cover the intersections of religion with class and gender, encompass both popular and intellectualist expressions of religion, and seek to balance the role of religion as both a private concern and as a factor in altering notions of the public sphere.

Marking Scheme (M.A. students):

<i>Major Historiographic Paper:</i> due at end of term (April 15, 2016)	40%
<i>Seminar Papers & Contribution to the Course:</i> (divided as 10% for seminar papers and 20% for weekly participation)	30%
<i>Book Review:</i> due Feb. 22, 2016	15%
<i>Final Examination:</i> (2 hours, held April 12, 2016)	15%

The major historiographic paper should explore an area of religious history (combining both Canadian and international scholarly literature) in which there has been substantial scholarship and debate. It should be approximately 3000-4000 words in length (15-20 pages).

Marking Scheme (Ph.D. minor field)

Major Historiographic Paper: due at end of term (April 15, 2016) 50%

<i>Seminar Papers & Contribution to the Course:</i> (10% seminar papers and 10% contribution to weekly seminars)	20%
<i>Book Review:</i> due Feb. 22, 2016	10%
<i>Final Examination:</i> (3 hours, held April 12, 2016)	20%

For Ph.D. students doing the course as a minor field, the major historiographic paper should be 5-6000 words in length (25-30 pages).

The book review assignment will require you to write a 1500 word (5 pages) critical assessment of Lynne Marks, **Revivals and Roller Rinks. (University of Toronto Press, 1996)**. Book reviews at this level are not merely descriptive of the contents of the book. You must endeavour to address and assess the author's key arguments, methodology, and conclusions, and employ the theoretical literature read in earlier seminars in order to write your review.

Weekly Participation and Discussion Papers:

Attendance at, and participation in, weekly seminars is mandatory. Students who miss a seminar will have to see me in order to arrange for additional written work to make up the readings they have not done. In addition, each student will be required to lead one seminar discussion, which will involve a 15-minute overview of the central themes and questions. All students will be required, on a weekly basis, to write a short (500-word) discussion paper, which will link the themes and historiographic contribution of the readings for that particular week.

Formalities:

Students are strongly advised to retain a xerox copy of any written work submitted for a part of their mark. Assignments should be submitted electronically, with the proviso that it is your responsibility to ensure that all hardware and software is in working order.

Note: there is a penalty of 5% per day (including weekends) assessed on all late essays.

Attendance at seminar is mandatory. A student who misses a session through uncontrollable circumstances should see me in order to discuss the means by which to make it up through written work.

Academic Dishonesty: Academic dishonesty consists of misrepresenting by deception or by other fraudulent means and can result in serious consequences, e.g. the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: "Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty"), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university. Graduate Students are expected to know what constitutes plagiarism, and are not given any leniency on a first offense.

It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various kinds of academic dishonesty please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy, located at

<http://www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity/>

The following are examples of three forms of academic dishonesty:

1. Plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one's own or for which other credit has been obtained.
2. Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests or examinations.
3. Submitting work, or major parts of work, that has been submitted for credit in another course.

Faculty of Humanities Policy on Student Email communications with Instructors:

"It is the policy of the Faculty of Humanities that all email communication sent from students to instructors (including TAs), and from students to staff, must originate from the student's own McMaster University email account. This policy protects confidentiality and confirms the identity of the student. Instructors will delete emails that do not originate from a McMaster email account."

Recommended Texts:

Nancy Christie and Michael Gauvreau, **Christian Churches and their Peoples: A Social History of Religion in Canada**

Callum Brown, **The Death of Christian Britain (2nd edition 2009)**

Gareth Stedman-Jones and Ira Katznelson, eds., **Religion and the Political Imagination**

Alana Harris, **Faith in the Family**

Seminar Topics & Readings:

Jan. 11: Introductory

Jan. 18: Some Theoretical Perspectives on the Relationship of Religion and Modern Society

Roy Wallis & Steve Bruce, "Secularization: The Orthodox Model," in Steve Bruce, ed., *Religion & Modernization: Sociologists & Historians Debate the Secularization Thesis* (R)

Callum Brown, *DOCB*, pp. 1-34.

Lucien Hölscher, "Secularization and Urbanization in the Nineteenth Century: An Interpretative Model," in Hugh McLeod, ed., *European Religion in the Age of Great Cities* (e-resource)

Hugh McLeod, "Introduction" in Hugh McLeod & Werner Ustorf, eds., *The Decline of Christendom in Western Europe*, 1-28. (e-resources)

Jeffrey Cox, "Master narratives of long-term religious change," in Hugh McLeod & Werner Ustorf, eds., *The Decline of Christendom in Western Europe*, 201-17. (e-resources)

Ira Katznelson & Gareth Stedman Jones, "Introduction: Multiple secularities" in Katznelson & Stedman Jones, *Religion and the Political Imagination*, 1-22. (R)

S.J.D. Green, *Religion in the Age of Decline*, 1-30, 351-390. (R)

Jan. 25: The Problem of Religious Pluralism, 1780-1840

Nathan O. Hatch, *The Democratization of American Christianity*, 3-46 (R)

Nancy Christie, "In these Times of Democratic Rage & Delusion," in G.A. Rawlyk, ed., *The Protestant Experience*. (R)

Amanda Porterfield, *Conceived in Doubt: Religion and Politics in the New American Nation*, 1-112 (R)

Sam Haselby, *The Origins of American Religious Nationalism*, 1-19, 25-46 (e-book)

J.I. Little, "In the desert places of the wilderness': The Frontier Thesis and the Anglican Church in the Eastern Townships," *Histoire sociale/Social History*, 36:71 (2003), 31-53. (e-journal)

David Hempton, "Established churches and the growth of religious pluralism," in McLeod and Ustorf, *The Decline of Christendom*, 81-98. (e-resource)

Nancy Christie & Michael Gauvreau, *Christian Churches and Their Peoples*, 9-59.

Feb. 1: The Myth of the “Godless City” – I – The Question of Religious Vitality

Callum Brown, *DOCB*, 35-57, 145-69.

Christie & Gauvreau, *Christian Churches*, 60-106.

S.J.D. Green, *Religion in the Age of Decline*, 181-292. (reserve)

Nancy Christie, “Young Men and the Creation of Civic Christianity in Urban Methodist Churches, 1880-1914,” in *Journal of the Canadian Historical Association*, 17:1 (2006), 79-106. (e-resources)

Michael Gauvreau, “Forging a Space for Lay Male Piety: St. Vincent de Paul Societies in Urban Quebec and Ontario, 1846-1890”, *Histoire sociale/Social History*, 42:83, 35-67. (e-journal)

Hannah M. Lane, “Tribalism, Proselytism, and Pluralism,” in Christie, *Households of Faith*. (e-resources)

Feb. 8: The Myth of the Godless City II – Was there a Working-Class Religion?

Hugh McLeod, *Piety and Poverty* (reserve)

Nancy Christie, “On the threshold of manhood,” in *Histoire Sociale/Social History*, May 2003. (e-resource)

Kenneth Draper, “A People’s Religion,” in *Histoire Sociale/Social History*, May 2003. (e-resource)

Michael Gauvreau, “Factories & Foreigners: Church Life in Working-Class Neighbourhoods in Hamilton and Montreal,” in Gauvreau & Hubert, eds., *The Churches and Social Order*, 225-73. (reserve)

Hannah Lane, “Evangelicals, Church Finance and Wealth-Holding in Mid-Nineteenth-Century St. Stephen, New Brunswick and Calais, Maine,” in Gauvreau & Hubert, *The Churches and Social Order*, 109-50. (reserve)

S.C. Williams, *Religious Belief and Popular Culture in Southwark, c. 1880-1939*, 1-24, 54-86 (e-book)

Feb. 15 – Reading Break, No Class

Feb. 22: Social Christianity and the Progressive Age, 1890-1930

Nancy Christie & Michael Gauvreau, *A Full-Orbed Christianity*, chapters 1-3 (e-resource)
Marguerite Van Die, "Protestants, the Liberal State, and the Practice of Politics", *Journal of the Canadian Historical Association*, 24:1 (2013), 89-129 (e-journal)
David B. Marshall, *Secularizing the Faith*, 72-98, 127-55 (reserve)
William McGuire King, "An enthusiasm for humanity: the social emphasis in religion and its accommodation in Protestant theology", in Michael J. Lacey, ed., *Religion in twentieth-century American Intellectual Life*, 49-77 (reserve)
Sudipta Kaviraj, "On thick and thin religion", in Katznelson and Stedman Jones, *Religion and the Political Imagination*, 336-55
Book Reviews Due!!!!

March 1: Scientism, Higher Education, and Secularization

Nancy Christie & Michael Gauvreau, *A Full-Orbed Christianity*, chapter 4 (e-resource)
Michael Gauvreau, *The Evangelical Century*, 125-180 (e-book)
Catherine Gidney, *The Long Eclipse*, 3-42 (e-resource)
George Marsden, *The Soul of the American University*, 369-444 (reserve)
David Hollinger, "Justification by Verification: The Scientific Challenge to the Moral Authority of Christianity in Modern America", in Michael J. Lacey, ed., *Religion and Twentieth-Century American Intellectual Life*, 116-135. (reserve)
Andrew Jewett, *Science, Democracy, and the American University: From the Civil War to the Cold War*, 1-82 (e-resource)

March 8: Forging a North American Conservative Evangelism?, 1890-1940

James Opp, *The Lord for the Body: Religion, Medicine, and Protestant Faith-Healing in Canada, 1880-1930*, 64-145. (e-book)
Edith Blumhofer, *Aimee Semple McPherson*, 23-60 (reserve)
Nancy Christie & Michael Gauvreau, *A Full-Orbed Christianity*, 223-43. (e-resource)
Robert Burkinshaw, *Pilgrims in Lotus Land*, 41-54, 100-20 (e-book)
George Marsden, *Fundamentalism and American Culture*, 3-196 (e-resource)

March 15: Interwar Religion: A “Mellow Christianity”?

Kevin Kee, *Revivalists: Marketing the Gospel in English Canada, 1884-1957*, 53-142. (reserve)

Kevin Flatt, *After Evangelicalism*, 17-46 (reserve)

S.J.D. Green, *The Passing of Protestant England*, 135-179 (reserve)

Callum Brown, *Religion and Society in Twentieth-Century Britain*, 116-176. (reserve)

Phyllis Airhart, *A Church with the Soul of a Nation*, 73-125 (reserve)

March 22: Religion in an Age of “Late Christendom”, 1940-1958

Michael Gauvreau, *The Catholic Origins of Quebec’s Quiet Revolution, 1931-1970*, chapters 1-3. (e-book)

Nancy Christie, “Look out for Leviathan,” in Nancy Christie & Michael Gauvreau, *Cultures of Citizenship In Post-war Canada* (e-book)

Nancy Christie, “Sacred Sex,” in Christie, ed., *Households of Faith*

Hugh McLeod, *The Religious Crisis of the 1960s*, chapters 1-2. (e-book)

S.J.D. Green, *The Passing of Protestant England*, 242-72 (reserve)

Kevin Flatt, *After Evangelicalism*, 46-103 (reserve)

Kevin M. Schultz, “The Irony of the Postwar Religious Revival: Catholics, Jews, and the Creation of the Naked Public Square”, in Kathleen G. Donohue, ed., *Liberty and Justice for All? Rethinking Politics in Cold War America*, 213-42 (reserve)

Samuel Moyn, *Christian Human Rights*, 1-100.

March 29: The Problem of the 1960s

Callum Brown, *DOCB*, 170-198.

Hugh McLeod, *The Religious Crisis of the 1960s*, 60-187. (e-book)

Nancy Christie, “Belief Crucified Upon a Rooftop Antenna: Pierre Berton, the Comfortable Pew, and Dechristianization,” in Christie & Gauvreau, *The Sixties and Beyond* (reserve)

Kevin Flatt, “The ‘New Curriculum’ Controversy & the Religious Crisis of the United Church of Canada, 1952-1965”, in Christie & Gauvreau, *The Sixties and Beyond* (reserve)

Michael Gauvreau, *Catholic Origins*, 120-246 (e-book)

Peter Van Rooden, “The Strange Death of Dutch Christendom”, in Callum G. Brown & Michael Snape, eds., *Secularisation in the Christian World*, 175-96. (reserve)

S.J.D. Green, *The Passing of Protestant England: Secularisation and Social Change, c. 1920-1960*, 29-91 (reserve)

Alana Harris, *Faith in the Family*, 1-53.

April 5: Beyond the Sixties

Callum Brown, *DOCB* (2nd edition, 2009), 199-234.

Jytte Klausen, "Europe's uneasy marriage of secularism and Christianity since 1945 and the challenge of contemporary religious pluralism" in Katznelson & Stedman Jones, 314-335 (reserve)

Hugh McLeod, *The Religious Crisis of the 1960s*, 188-256. (e-book)

Kevin Flatt, *After Evangelicalism*, 188-249 (reserve)

Patrick Pasture, "Dechristianization and the Changing Religious Landscape in Europe and North America since 1950: Comparative, Transatlantic, and Global Perspectives", in Christie & Gauvreau, *The Sixties and Beyond*, 367-402 (reserve)

Robert Wuthnow, *The Restructuring of American Religion*, 132-214. (reserve)

Alana Harris, *Faith in the Family*, 130-201.