

Assemblies of God Theological Seminary
Doctor of Ministry Program
PTH 909: The Future of Pentecostalism
Core 3, June 4-8, 2012
Dr. Charles E. Self

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Pentecostal Christianity is now over 100 years old, a fact that the first generation would have found astounding, given their passion for the imminent Return of the Lord Jesus Christ. It has changed and grown much over the century and is now a global movement of rich complexity and diversity. The spirituality, theology, liturgies, organizational dynamics and missional strategies have undergone considerable development.

We will examine the roots of the early Pentecostal movements and trace key milestones in history in order to have a context for understanding the future. We will explore current reflections and postulations on what 21st century Pentecostal communities may become.

Because Pentecostals are indebted to all the living streams of historic Christianity, pastoral care insights from the Scriptures and history are integrated into the lively ethos of the local church and global missional Christianity.

COURSE OBJECTIVES AND OUTCOMES: Integrating Cognition, Character and Competencies. Upon completion of this course, students will demonstrate, through assignments, class interaction and personal reflection, the following:

1. Understanding of the key issues – past and present – that confront Pentecostal and Charismatic ministries
2. Surveying key biblical and historical insights on ministry
3. Understanding the increasing social responsibilities of Pentecostal leaders
4. Familiarity with some of the thought leaders writing about Pentecostal issues.
5. Personal integration of community spirituality, theological reflection and leadership obligations
6. A maturing acceptance that change is expected and that effective leaders anticipate it and learn to rely on the work of the Holy Spirit to lead them and their organizations into new ways of ministry
7. Capabilities to instruct and mentor using the insights gained from the reading and reflections
8. Ability to cast vision for being a 21st century, globally-focused Pentecostal leader
9. Appreciation for the unity-in-diversity of Pentecostal-Charismatic Christianity
10. Understanding of how history can inform our future

TEXTBOOKS (For all the work of the course, pre-, intra- and post-session)

- John Drane, *After McDonaldization: Mission, Ministry and Christian Discipleship in an Age of Uncertainty*. Grand Rapids: Baker 2008 ISBN 0801036119
- Gary B. McGee, *People of the Spirit: The Assemblies of God*. Springfield: Gospel Publishing House 2004. ISBN 0882430998.

- Donald E. Miller and Tetsuano Yamamori, *Global Pentecostalism: The New Face of Christian Social Engagement*. Irvine: University of California Press 2007 ISBN 0520251946
- Eric Patterson and Edmund Rybarczyk, Eds. *The Future of Pentecostalism in the United States*. Lanham, MD: Lexington Books 2007 0739121030
- Cecil M. Robeck, Jr., *The Azusa Street Mission and Revival: The Birth of the Global Pentecostal Movement*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson 2006 ISBN 1418506249
- Amos Yong, *In the Days of Caesar: Pentecostalism and Political Theology*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co. 2010 ISBN 978080286406

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- **PRE-SESSION READING AND REFLECTION**
- In preparation for our June 4-8 class experience, **the following reading should be completed:**
 - Miller and Yamamori, *Global Pentecostalism*
 - McGee, *People of the Spirit*
 - Robeck, *The Azusa Street Revival*
- **Reading Reports (25 points each; 100 total):** For each book, the student will prepare a 2-3 page, double-spaced Reading Report with the following: 1) Full bibliographic reference; 2) An affirmation that the book has been read; 3) Three key ideas/insights from the reading as well as an overall summary statement; 4) The value of the book to the student's understanding of Pentecostalism. These reports should be submitted together by email or brought to class.
- **Reflection Essay I (4-5 pages, 50 points):** From your reading and reflection, answer the following two questions: 1) what are the pastoral care challenges facing Pentecostals in the 21st century? 2) why are Pentecostals uniquely positioned to make a positive impact in pastoral care?
- **Please submit these book reviews and essays to the professor during the class session.**

WHILE IN SESSION

- Actively participate in all class activities
- Read Drane, *After McDonaldization*
- We will have several live and videoconference guests giving their perspectives on the future
- **Reflection Essay II (4-5 pages, 50 points) due by June 22:** "The Future of Pentecostalism and My (Our) Calling/Ministry" Explain what insights from the course will have *immediate* impact on your current Kingdom service and what arenas need adjustment.

IN SESSION OVERVIEW

- Monday, June 4: The Context For and Milestones of Pentecostalism
- Tuesday, June 5: Globalization and Current Challenges

- Wednesday, June 6: The Theological Futures
- Thursday, June 7: the Missional Future
- Friday, June 8: The Future Shapes the Present: Why Does this Matter Here and Now?

POST-SESSION REQUIREMENTS

- Read Patterson, *The Future of Pentecostalism in the United States*
- Read Yong, *In The Days of Caesar*
- **10-12 page Research Paper (100 points) due August 1:** “Back to the Future: How Early Pentecostal Movements and Current Trends Inform Present Pentecostal Leadership” There is great flexibility within the topic here. The aim is to assess the principles of Azusa Street (include McGee and Robeck’s diverse perspectives) and the trends of Miller, Patterson and Yong and the broader concerns of Drane with a view to understanding what will constitute healthy Pentecostal **Leadership** in the 21st century. Obviously exhaustive evaluation is not aim – integration of key ideas with application for communities and mission is the goal.

GRADING (Standard AGTS percentages apply for final grade – see the academic catalogue)

- Reading Reports (100 points)
 - Reflection Essays (2 @50 points, 100 total)
 - Paper (100 points)
 - Participation in Session Discussions (50 points)
- Total = 350 Points

SPECIFIC DATA

Syllabus prepared by Dr. Charles E. Self, November 10, 2011

GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR EXCELLENT PAPERS

1. Prepare a detailed outline and discuss it with the Instructor if helpful.
2. State your basic thesis clearly and concisely – tell the reader what you are going to say and how you are going to say it.
3. You are writing, not talking, so be concise and clear and avoid unnecessary repetition.
4. Keep paragraphs focused!
5. Once you introduce a person, use only their last name in successive allusions, unless there are two or more with the same last name or you sight a new work.
6. Use the ACTIVE voice and as few verbs of being (am, is, are, etc.) as possible.
7. Short, clear sentences are better than long, convoluted ones.
8. Use “I” sparingly, but avoid “we” and “you” and speak about others in the third person singular and plural.
9. **Always use gender-inclusive language except when referring to the Trinity.**

10. Avoid plagiarism and overuse of direct quotations. At this level, the writer's analysis – yes, your insights – are the critical factor, with solid support from the sources.
11. PROOFREAD two ways: 1) Read it out loud once or twice and do the grammar/spell-check; and 2) have a colleague/friend read it for clarity. Submission of a page or two by email to the Instructor is welcome for feedback.

SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY (In addition to the required texts)

Edith L. Blumhofer, *The Assemblies of God, Pentecostalism and American Culture*. Chicago: University of Illinois Press, 1993.

Edith L. Blumhofer, Russell P. Spittler and Grant Wacker, Eds, *Pentecostal Currents in American Protestantism*. Chicago: University of Illinois Press, 1999.

Edward J. Cleary and Hannah W. Stewart-Gambino, Eds, *Power, Politics and Pentecostals in Latin America*. Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 1997.

Harvey Cox, *Fire from Heaven: The Rise of Pentecostal Spirituality and the Reshaping of Religion in the Twenty-First Century*. Reading, MA: Addison-Wesley Publishing Co., 1994.

Daniel Mark Epstein, *Sister Aimee: The Life of Aimee Semple McPherson*. San Diego: Harcourt, Brace and Co., 1993.

Nancy A. Hardesty, *Faith Care: Divine Healing in the Holiness and Pentecostal Movements*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 2003.

Peter Hocken: *The Glory and the Shame: Reflections on the 20th Century Outpouring of the Holy Spirit*. Guildford, Surrey, UK: Eagle, 1994.

Walter J. Hollenweger, *Pentecostalism: Origins and Developments Worldwide*. Peabody, MA. Hendrickson Publishers, 1997.

Douglas Jacobsen, *Thinking in the Spirit: Theologies of the Early Pentecostal Movement*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2003.

William K. Kay and Anne E. Dyer, Eds. *Pentecostal and Charismatic Studies: A Reader*. London: SCM Press, 2004.

Edgar R. Lee, Ed. *He Gave Apostles: Apostolic Ministry in the 21st Century*. Springfield: Assemblies of God Theological Seminary, 2005.

David Martin, *Pentecostalism: The World Their Parish*. Oxford: Blackwell Publishers, 2002.

Gary B. McGee, *People of the Spirit: The Assemblies of God*. Springfield, MO: gospel Publishing House, 2004.

Gary B. McGee, *Initial Evidence: Historical and Biblical Essays on the Pentecostal Doctrine of Spirit-Baptism*. Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock Publishers, 2008.

David A. Reed, *“In Jesus Name”: the History and Beliefs of Oneness Pentecostals*. Blandford Forum, Dorset, UK: Deo Publishing, 2008.

Cecil M. Robeck and Harold D. Hunter, Eds. *The Azusa Street Revival and Its Legacy*. Cleveland, TN: Pathway Press, 2006.

Darrin J. Rodgers, *Northern Harvest: Pentecostalism in North Dakota*. Bismarck, N.D.: North Dakota District Council of the Assemblies of God, 2003.

Vinson Synan, Ed, *The Century of the Holy Spirit: 100 Years of Pentecostal and Charismatic Renewal*. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 2001.

Michael Walker, Ed. *The Work of the Spirit: Pneumatology and Pentecostalism*. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co. 2006.

Everett A. Wilson, *Strategy of the Spirit: J. Philip Hogan and the Growth of the Assemblies of God Worldwide 1960-1990*. Irvine, CA.: Regnum Books, 1997.

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A FINAL NOTE

There are facets of the future fixed by the sovereign will of God – such as the date of Jesus’ Return. But within the plan of God, there is much room for human freedom and our decisions really matter.

God’s kingdom will prevail and He will have a people gathered in the New Jerusalem.

But we have much to do as our choices create a new future. There will always be a Church – but will Pentecostals lead the way in mission in the 21st century?