

CH3 History of the Episcopal Church: Course Syllabus, Fall-Winter 2019

George Mercer, Jr. Memorial School of Theology

Instructor: The Rt. Rev. R. William Franklin, Assisting Bishop of Long Island

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The class will meet from 10:30 am to 11:45 am on the following Saturdays at Mercer: 9/28, 10/19, 11/23, 12/21, 1/18 (2020)

COURSE DESCRIPTION: An historical exploration of the development of Anglican Christianity that emerged in the American Episcopal Church from its initial planting in Jamestown in 1607 to the present day. We will consider the development of a new form of Church governance, regional differences in practice and polity, missionary strategies, and the overall response to The Episcopal Church to the needs of Episcopal communities of the faithful in the diverse religious landscape of the United States. Our purpose is to prepare you to use history pastorally in your various ministries.

PURPOSE: The purpose of the course is:

1. To fulfill the requirement stated by The Office of Ministry Development of The Episcopal Church that candidates for Holy Orders should be familiar with the history of The Episcopal Church, from the beginning to the present, including major events and personalities, and
2. To prepare students to use history pastorally in the exercise of their various ministries.
3. The course is also designed to support the interests of laity serious about deepening their understanding of The Episcopal Church.

GOALS OF THE COURSE: There are three goals:

1. To make you comfortable with the principal themes, events, personalities, controversies, movements, and issues in the history of The Episcopal Church
2. To help you to become familiar with the basic research tools necessary to research historical questions that may arise in your ministries and how to use them

3. To identify the impact of these various aspects of our history on current issues facing the Anglican Communion and The Episcopal Church as a constituent member of the Anglican Communion.

PROCEDURE:

1. Complete the assigned readings prior to each class. If there is a name, concept, or term unfamiliar to you, you can always check it out in WIKIPEDIA.
2. Assessment of your work will come in various forms, ranging from written assignments to questions and discussions during our Saturday meetings together. The intent of the assessments will be to see how you are applying the material covered in the class and the readings to your emerging ministries.

REQUIRED TEXTS

1. Robert W. Prichard, A HISTORY OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH—THIRD REVISED EDITION: COMPLETE THROUGH THE 78th GENERAL CONVENTION. New York: Morehouse Publishing, 2014.
2. You should also have a copy handy of the 1979 BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER and have close at hand a copy of HOLY WOMEN, HOLY MEN (HWHM) the 2018 update of LESSER FEASTS AND FASTS 2006. Digital versions of these two documents in Adobe PDF format are posted under “Resources/FAQ” in the School for Ministry section of the Mercer website (www.mercerschool.org). Assignments of biographies of key figures in HWHM will be made for each week of the course.
3. You should also get to know: John Davis, DOMINION IN THE SEA: HISTORY OF THE DIOCESE OF LONG ISLAND. There are a few copies available in the Mercer Library.

SCHEDULE, DATES, CLASS TOPICS, AND READING ASSIGNMENTS:

Under readings, Prichard refers to A HISTORY OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH, HWHM refers to HOLY WOMEN, HOLY MEN, and the short biography assigned may be found on the day given that the figure is commemorated, the additional documents will be made available to you before class.

1. SESSION ONE: SEPTEMBER 28: Introduction and overview. Colonial Anglicanism and the First Great Awakening, Anglicanism during the American Revolution, and Formation and early activities of The Episcopal Church.

READINGS:

Prichard, chapters 1-4

HWHM, Jones (2,13), Bray (2,15), Wesleys (3/3), Allen (3,26), Hunt (4, 26), White (7/17), Seabury (11/14)

Documents: White's CASE, and Seabury's CONCORDAT

2. SESSION TWO: OCTOBER 19: Growth, Structure, and Activities of The Episcopal Church in Antebellum America. Formation of Church "Parties." Slavery and the Civil War.

READINGS:

Prichard, chapters 5-6

HWHM, Muhlenberg (4/8), Kemper (5/24), Hill (6/27), Hobart (9/12), Chase (9/22)

Documents, Muhlenberg's MEMORIAL

3. SESSION THREE: NOVEMBER 23: From the Civil War to the close of World War I. The beginnings of the Ecumenical Movement. The Social Gospel and the increased diversity of women's ministries.

FIRST WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT DUE

READINGS:

Prichard, chapter 7

HWHM, Brooks (1/23), Holly (3/13), De Koven (3/22), Brent (3/27), Breck (4/2), Rauschenbusch (7/2), Huntington (7/27), Grafton (8/30), Crummel (9/10), Cram (4/16).

Documents, THE CHICAGO LAMBETH QUADRILATERAL

4. SESSION FOUR: DECEMBER 21: The early twentieth century. The Church confronts Modernism. The post WW II religious boom.

READINGS:

Prichard, chapters 8-9

HWHM, Emery (1/9), Tim-Oi (1/24), DuBois (8/3), Scudder (10/10)

Documents: AN APPEAL TO ALL CHRISTIAN PEOPLE, LAMBETH 1920

5. SESSION FIVE: JANUARY 18: The late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries. Conflict over liturgical reform, gender and sexual orientation. Post colonialism and post Modernism.

READINGS:

Prichard, chapters 10-11

HWHM, King (4/4), Daniels (8/14),

Document: William Franklin, "Conciliarism and the Ecclesiology of The Episcopal Church," SEWANEE THEOLOGICAL REVIEW, Easter 2018 (Volume 61:2), pp. 447-494. (To be handed out at the previous class).

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Course requirements will vary based upon the status and requirements of the class members. Members of the Laity taking the course for continuing education will work with the instructor to devise a customized plan linked to their specific needs.

Those in the ordination process will need to complete several in-class and two outside research projects, one of which will be a part of the final examination for the course. The final examination will be structured in a manner similar to open book questions used in the General Ordination Examinations of The Episcopal Church. You can access sample examinations on the General Board of Examining Chaplains website at:

<http://www.episcopalgbec.org/previous-exams/index.php>.