HIS 650: Anglican History, Theology, and Spirituality – Course Outline
Spring, 2018
Instructor: Travis O’Brien
Office: 317
tobrian@vst.edu

Course Description
This course sets out to explore the question ‘what is Anglican?’ We approach this question first by surveying the political and ecclesiastical history of the Anglican Church, taking time especially to study the tumultuous period surrounding the Reformation, civil war, and Restoration. Secondly, we will read and discuss some key thinkers, documents, and movements that have shaped the Church’s history and identity from the Reformation to the Twentieth Century. Finally, we will spend some time listening to Anglican music and poetry, as expressions of ‘the beauty of holiness’ so central to Anglican spiritual practice. Both primary and secondary sources will be used throughout. It is hoped that by the end of the course, participants will be better equipped to identify some of what makes the Anglicanism unique in its witness of the Gospel, and therefore understand its special calling to both the greater Church and the world we live in today.

Course Format
Over the 12 week term, the class will for 11 3-hour classes. Each class will consist of a lecture and student presentation/discussion. Thorough preparation of the readings will be expected and necessary.

Competencies
At the conclusion of the course, students should:

- Be able to identify key periods, events, figures, movements, issues, priorities, and proclivities that have shaped the identity of the Anglican Church
- Be able to articulate his or her own theological commitments, and spiritual practises within the larger context of Anglicanism
- Be able to articulate a vision for contemporary Anglicanism that demonstrates knowledge of where the tradition has come from, its potential to speak into the present context both of the wider Church and the secular society of the West, and some of the resources within its own inheritance available to help meet its own current challenges.

Summary of Assignments

- Class Participation: students cannot miss more than 2 classes; they must come ready to discuss the assigned readings in detail. Depending on class size, each student will be responsible either once or twice in the semester to prepare an assigned reading and to lead the class in a discussion on that reading.
- One twelve page research paper comparing 2 important Anglican thinkers
- One short (5 page) reflection paper on an issue facing contemporary secular society (e.g., ‘right to die legislation’) laying out an ‘Anglican’ response to this issue. That
response must be articulated with specific references to the history of Anglican thinking and practise.

- A short reflection on the question, ‘what kind of Anglican am I?’ This will be both handed in and also shared with the rest of the class. In this biographical essay, the purpose is to ‘fit’ oneself into the many-stranded history of the Anglican Church, to articulate what figures may inspire you and why. Consider this as part of your discernment process: for what kind of parish might you think of yourself as best suited?

*Every assignment in this course must receive “Approved” in order to pass the course.*

**Policy on Late assignments**
Submission of assignments on time is a part of academic, professional and pastoral competence and a part of every course at VST. All assignments in courses are due on the dates specified in the syllabus for each course. Failure to submit an assignment on time will be noted in the narrative evaluation of an assignment. Repeated failure to submit assignments on time may affect the final grade for the course.

*Aside from the class presentations, three written assignments are due this term. Unexcused failure to submit either on time will result in reductions taken from the final grade.*

**Required Texts**

Stephen Sykes ed., *The Study of Anglicanism*

These 2 volumes are available from the UBC bookstore and online. Additional readings from primary texts will be provided on reserve in the library, posted on Moodle, and found online.

**Class Schedule**

**Jan. 16:** Lecture 1 – *Geography, Theology, Authority*

- Introduction & aims of the course
- The pre-Reformation Church in England – Celtic Britain; English Mystical Tradition; History of Relations with Rome.

READING: Moorman, pp.3-22; 37-43; 54-90; 115-136
Jan. 23: Lecture 2 – *A Peculiar Birth*
- Henry VIII – theology and personality; Acts of Succession and Supremacy;
- Edward VI – 1st & 2nd eds. Of the Book of Common Prayer
- Mary Tudor

READING: Moorman, p.137-198; Avis p.3-30 (Moodle – one chapter)

Jan. 30: Lecture 3 – *The Elizabethan Settlement*
- Elizabeth I – Act of Supremacy; Act of Uniformity; further Prayerbook revisions; 39 articles
- Puritanism vs Roman Catholicism – the politics of vestments

READING: Moorman, p.199-220 Sykes, p.3-18

Feb. 6: Lecture 4 – *Civil War & Restoration*
- James I – King James Bible; Gunpowder plot; etc.
- Charles I – William Laud, Oliver Cromwell, execution of the king.
- The church during the time of the ‘Protectorate’ Government
- The Restoration – Charles II & the Act of Uniformity; James II & the Glorious Revolution; Act of Toleration

READING: Moorman, p.221-268 Sykes, p.19-27

Feb. 13: Lecture 5 – *Some ‘Architects’ of Anglicanism*
- Thomas Cranmer
- John Jewel
- Richard Hooker
  - Other voices of Anglican Synthesis
    - Sir Thomas Brown: ‘Religio Medici’
    - William Laud: ‘The Archbishop’s dying speech’

READING:
- Richard Hooker, excerpts from *The Wisdom of Richard Hooker*
- Laud, William, ‘the Archbishop’s dying speech’
Feb. 20: Lecture 6 – Moments of Revival

- John & Charles Wesley and Methodism
- The Oxford ‘Tractarians’ & the Anglo-Catholic movement

READING: Moorman: p.293-314; p.338-361
John Wesley, Sermon #74, ‘Of the Church’ (Wesley.nnu.edu/the-sermons-of-john-wesley-1872-edition).

Feb. 27: READING WEEK

March 6: Lecture 7 – The Anglican Tradition of Music (with Michael Jarvis?)

- The ‘Cathedral’ tradition
- Psalmody
- Anglican hymnody


March 13: Lecture 8 – The Anglican Tradition of Poetry

- John Donne
- George Herbert
- John Keble
- Christina Rossetti
- T.S. Eliot
- R.S. Thomas

READING: Moodle readings of selections from the above poets

March 20: Lecture 9 – Anglicans at Prayer: Lex Orandi, Lex Credendi

- Public Worship:
  - Book of Common Prayer – Eucharist; Daily Offices; a Treasury of Collects
- Private Devotions:
- Lancelot Andrewes; William Law

**READING:** Sykes, p.187-201; p.308-321
BCP Morning and Evening Prayer + selected Collects
Moodle readings: Lancelot Andrewes, excerpts from *Private Devotions*
William Law, excerpts from *A Serious Call to a Devout & Holy Life*

**March 27:** Lecture 10 – *Anglican Standards: Keys to Applied Anglican Theology*

- The Book of Common Prayer
- 39 Articles
- Chicago-Lambeth Quadrilateral
- The idea of ‘communion’ – the ‘instruments of communion’

**READING:** Sykes, p.87-154; 187-215

**April 3:** Lecture 11 – *Our Context: The Anglican Church and Secular Society*

**READING:** Sykes, p.459-476
Moodle Reading: Alister McGrath, “Reconstructing the Via Media” in *The Renewal of Anglicanism*

**Select Bibliography**

----- In Search of Authority: Anglican Theological Method (T&T Clark, 2014).

Duffy, Eamon. *Anglicanism and the Western Catholic Tradition*


Humpidge, John Richard. *The Anglican Spiritual Tradition*


(books.google.ca/books?id=Ur4AAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA40&hl=en#v=onepage&p&f=false). Go to this website, look on the table of contents, and click on “The Archbishop’s Dying Speech”.


Jeremy Taylor, excerpts from *The Rule and Exercises of Holy Living* and *The Rule and Exercises of Holy Dying* ([www.ccel.org/ccel.taylor](http://www.ccel.org/ccel.taylor)).

Thompsett, Fredrica Harris. *Living with History* (Cambridge: Cowley Publications, 1999) (Fredrica Harris is an Anglican writing about history for Anglicans: ‘How history shapes the church as we know it’)


Williams, Rowan. *Why Study the Past? The Quest for the Historical Church* (London: 2005)


