

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
At Evangel University

HISM 532: HISTORY AND POLITY OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD (3 Credits)
Meets 8 AM to 5 PM
March 12-16, 2018
AGTS 116

Instructor: Dr. Charlie Self
selfch@evangel.edu

408-307-1339
Spring 2018

COURSE SYLLABUS
For Seated and Online Students

EVANGEL UNIVERSITY MISSION STATEMENT:

Evangel University is a comprehensive Christian university committed to excellence in educating and equipping students to become Spirit-empowered servants of God who impact the Church and society globally.

AGTS MISSION STATEMENT:

The purpose of AGTS is to train men and women to fulfill the mission of the church as taught in Scripture—*Shaping servant leaders with knowledge, skill and passion to revitalize the church and evangelize the world in the power of the Spirit.*

As a graduate-level educational institution within the evangelical and Pentecostal tradition, the seminary affirms the Bible as God's written Word, the inspired, infallible and authoritative rule for faith and conduct. Affiliated with The General Council of the AG, the seminary's doctrinal commitment is found in the Statement of Fundamental Truths.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is an overview and analysis of the historical, sociological, theological and spiritual background that led to the rise of the Pentecostal movement and the formation of the Assemblies of God. The development and expansion of the Assemblies of God will be evaluated with a view to learning from the past in order to better live the future. Particular attention to Assemblies of God Polity will include understanding the congregational-presbyterian synthesis, our World Missions structures and the relationship between charismatic and institutional authority. Several guest presenters will be part of the class experiencing, lending their historical and contemporary insights on this century-old movement.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Cognitive Objectives:

- An understanding of the history of the Assemblies of God, including the cultural and theological context, the key movements and personalities and the moments of controversy and breakthrough.
- Knowledge of the organizational development of the Assemblies of God, including institutions, polity, spirituality and the contributions of key leaders.
- Appreciation and understanding of Assemblies of God Missions, both domestic and foreign and the leaders who forged the current structures and are creating new ones.

Character Objectives:

- Appreciate and apply the principles of biblical faith and obedience exemplified by servant-leaders in the Assemblies of God.
- Learn from the strategic failures and successes of various initiatives, programs and leadership decisions.
- Understand the connectedness of the Assemblies of God with global Evangelical and Pentecostal/Charismatic Christianity, appreciate both the common faith and distinctive ideas and practices and learn the blessing and boundaries of cooperation with other churches and movements.

Skill Objectives:

- The ability to articulate and analyze current issues facing the Assemblies of God today with a view to participating in the movement's continual transformation.
- A capacity for connecting the details of this history with contemporary discipleship and mission, especially the Sunday to Monday connection where faith is integrated with economics and work in the service of the Great Commission.
- Excellent written work, free of serious errors and demonstrating clarity, original thought and use of classroom and outside materials.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

For information of textbook pricing, go to <http://www.bkstr.com/evangelstore/home>.

- Bradford, James T., *Lead So Others Can Follow: 12 Practices and Principles for Ministry*. Salubris Resources, 2015. ISBN 9781680670738
- Clay, Doug, *Ordered Steps: A Life Prepared to Lead*. Gospel Publishing House, 2016. Kindle format (proprietary) ASIN B076HRMJ9B it is 2.99 for the download.
- Garrison, Alton, *A Spirit-Empowered Church: An Acts 2 Ministry Model*. Gospel Publishing House, 2016. ISBN: 9781681540016
- McGee, Gary B., *People of the Spirit: The Assemblies of God*. Gospel Publishing House, revised edition 2014. ISBN 978-1607313755
- Poloma, Margaret and Green, John, *The Assemblies of God: Godly Love and the Revitalization of American Pentecostalism*. NYU Press, 2010. ISBN 0814767834.
- Robeck, Cecil M., *The Azusa Street Mission and Revival*. Thomas Nelson 2006. ISBN 1418506249
- Self, Charlie, *Flourishing Churches and Communities*. Christian's Library Press 2013. ISBN 978-1938948169.

- Synan, Vincent, General Editor, *Spirit-Empowered Christianity in the 21st Century: Insights, analysis, and future trends from world-renowned scholars*. Charisma House 2010 ISBN 978-1616382193

METHODOLOGY: The following will be part of the classroom and course experience:

- Prepared interactive lectures
- Presentation of media resources
- Guest presenters
- Sharing with the leadership of the Flower Pentecostal Heritage Archive at the National Office.
- Active classroom discussions
- Online resources and discussions
- **For online students: the lectures and class discussions from the class meetings of March 12-16 will be available on March 20, 2018**

REQUIREMENTS

All written work must be submitted as a MS Word document (.doc or .docx) on Course Commons. Other extensions are less compatible and do not allow for the best feedback from the instructor.

During the entire course, student will post a **weekly journal entry** on the reading and their reflections. These should be between 250 and 300 words and comment on 2-3 main events or ideas and the relevance of the reading for ministry today. They are due on the following Thursdays by midnight: 1/12, 1/19, 1/26, 2/3, 2/9, 2/16, 2/23, 3/9, 3/16, 3/23, 3/30, 4/6.

Pre-Session Reading and writing: Prior to class, please complete the following

- Read all of McGee, *People of the Spirit*
- Read all of Robeck, *Azusa Street Revival*
- Read Self, *Flourishing Churches and Communities*
- Read Clay, *Ordered Steps*
- **Assignment #1 due March 9** (submit on Course Commons): Prepare a 10-12 page, double-spaced essay that answers the following questions: 1) what are the experiential and theological roots of Pentecostalism that McGee, and Robeck agree on? Where do they differ? 2) What were the positive and negative aspects of Azusa Street that continue to mark Pentecostalism (and, by extension, the Assemblies of God) today; and 3) What are three insights from Self's book that are of immediate application for the Assemblies of God and for your ministry? 4) What are 2-3 insights from Superintendent Clay's book that caught your attention?

In-Session (**Class in 8-5, M-F, March 12-16**): Actively participate in the class

Post-Session Reading and Writing:

- Read Poloma and Green, *Godly Love*
- Read Synan, *21st Century*

- Read Garrison, *A Spirit-Empowered Church*
- Read Bradford, *Lead So Others Can Follow*
- **Assignment #2 due on Monday March 27** (submitted by email while your thoughts are still fresh): In a 6-8-page double-spaced essay, 1) Define three strengths and three weaknesses of the Assemblies of God as it enters its second century. Make sure your thoughts reflect the reading and class discussions
- **Paper due April 12:** Write a 12-15-page double-spaced paper on “Pentecostal Ministry in the 21st Century” What critical ideas and practices are needed for vibrant growth locally and globally? Be sure to employ class texts along with at least five (5) additional resources.
- **Note to online students:** guidelines for this paper (40%) of the grade will be posted on Course Commons during the 4th week of class.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

It is assumed that students at AGTS will endeavor to be honest and of high integrity in all matters pertaining to Seminary life. A lack of respect and integrity is evidenced by cheating, fabricating, plagiarizing, misusing facilities, removing books and other property not one’s own, and disrupting classes. Cheating is defined as “intentionally using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information or study aids in any academic exercise.” It is assumed that whatever is submitted by a student is the work of that student and is new work for that course. Fabrication is “intentional and unauthorized falsification or invention of any information or citation in an academic exercise or form.” Plagiarism is “intentionally or knowingly representing the words or ideas of another as one’s own in any academic exercise.” One who facilitates any of the above is equally responsible with the primary violator. Penalties may include restitution, an “F” on an individual paper, exam, or course; loss of campus employment; disciplinary probation; removal from extracurricular activities; and suspension. —AGTS Student Handbook.

THE USE OF COMPUTERS IN THE CLASSROOM

The use of computers for word processing in the classroom represents a privilege given to students to enhance their learning. They may only be used for purposes related to the course. It is therefore a breach of classroom etiquette, an act of rudeness, and a distraction to other students, when computers are also used to surf the web, watch videos, play games, and send messages, etc., during class time. The professor assumes that seminarians will be persons of integrity when using computers in the classroom.

NON-DISCRIMINATORY LANGUAGE

Students should use non-discriminatory language in all written and spoken communication in this class. For specific guidelines, see the Student Handbook at:

http://www.agts.edu/community/student_handbook/2010studenthandbook.pdf

DISABILITY ACCOMODATION

Assemblies of God Theological Seminary, Evangel University, is committed to equal educational opportunities for students with disabilities in accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the American with Disabilities Act as amended (ADA). Academic Support, a division of the Center for Student Success, is the office designated to review disability documentation, determine reasonable accommodations, and develop plans for the provision of such accommodations.

If you have already established accommodations through Academic Support and receive accommodation memos, please meet with the professor to discuss the provisions of those accommodations as soon as possible (accommodations are not retroactive). If you have not yet established accommodations, but have a disability or health condition (permanent or temporary) that may have some impact on your work in this class and for which you may require accommodations, you are welcome to contact the Academic Support staff in the Center for Student Success (ZM-208; 417-865-2815 x.8215) so that accommodations can be arranged. See the Disability and Academic Accommodations Handbook for further information on the accommodations process.

COURSE COMMONS

This course will use Evangel's learning management system, Course Commons, powered by the Canvas Learning Management System. Login directly at: <https://courses.evangel.edu/> or go to the Student Portal/Course Commons

Use your Evangel username and password to login.

To access this course, hover over or click Courses at the top of the page after logging in.

Before the class starts: Students will have access to Course Commons and this course seven (7) days before the official beginning of the semester. This does not mean all course content will be ready. Release of course content will be the prerogative of the professor. Students have until seven (7) days after the semester begins to complete financial registration. If financial registration is not completed by the seventh day, course access will be revoked and all submitted work will be lost.

Course Content: All course content (syllabus, modules, course materials, assignments, quizzes, exams, discussions, grades, etc.) will be located on the navigation pane on the left hand side of our course. At the end of a semester, students will have limited access to the course through Course Commons. Only access to already submitted work and grades will be available.

Personal Settings: After logging into Course Commons, be sure to go to Settings and adjust your personal profile settings. Add in a profile picture of yourself (Smile!).

I. Set your notifications: set how you'll be notified (EU email, personal email, text, Twitter, etc.) and how often.

d. Help: Click the Help button in the top right hand corner after your login. By clicking Help, you'll be able to...

Submit a question directly to your instructor

Access Canvas Help Guides

Submit a Course Commons Helpdesk Ticket

e. Course Commons Student Orientation: All EU students are automatically enrolled in the [Course Commons Student Orientation site](#). What's available? [Getting Started](#) help, what to do [During Your Course](#), [Help and FAQ](#), the [Student Quick Start Guide](#), and much more.

Course Commons Troubleshooting: Question about a quiz or course content? Contact your instructor, first! Technical question about the Course Commons? Click Help and submit a ticket through Report a Problem. Can't access Course Commons? Contact the EU IT Helpdesk: 417-865-2815 x8368 (phone) or helpdesk@evangel.edu (email) or help.evangel.edu (web).

GRADING – the guidelines in the Academic catalogue will be followed.

- Weekly reading journals (20%)
- Assignment #1: Essay on Pentecostal Roots (20%)
- Assignment #2: Essay on Assemblies of God strengths and weaknesses: (20%)
- Reflection Paper (40%)

Please submit work on time, with attention paid to grammar and spelling and direct responses to the questions. Incompletes and Late Work: Students are expected to complete all course work in a timely fashion as specified in this syllabus. A grade of IP (In Process) will be issued if the course ends after the AGTS semester ends. A grade of I (Incomplete) may be granted at the discretion of the professor for extenuating circumstances upon the presentation of the Incomplete Grade Request form: <http://www.agts.edu/academics/forms.html>. The approved Incomplete request will extend the due date for up to ninety days and may include a grade reduction. Students may not register for courses in a new term if carrying more than two IP or I on their transcripts.

IN-SESSION REFLECTION SCHEDULE: We will cover the following key themes:

- The context for Pentecostalism and the Assemblies of God: Historic streams
- Evangelical and Holiness roots
- Early revivals and doctrinal issues
- “Back to the Future” Reflection: What does an “Ancient-Future/Emerging Pentecostal” look like?
- The formation of Pentecostal Movements
- Assemblies of God ministries and organizational developments
- “On all flesh” – the contributions of women
- “Back to the Future” Reflection: What strengths from this formative period need to be carried forward?
- The Assemblies of God “comes of age” as Evangelicals: Post WW II alliances and trends
- The Assemblies of God and the other revival movements
- Home and Foreign missions: Developments from WWII to the present
- Pentecostal education and scholarship
- “Back to the Future” Reflection: Academic excellence and spiritual vitality – what does this look like?
- Pentecostals, Charismatics and “Third Wave” Christians: new challenges and opportunities
- Organizational developments in the past half-century
- The Decade of Harvest and the challenges of a Post-Christian Age in the West

- Explosive growth in the developing nations: World Pentecostalism emerges: 1970s to the present
- “Back to the Future” Reflection: The “Miracle in Memphis” and racial reconciliation: how can the Assemblies of God in the USA be more inclusive?
- Charismatic and institutional relationships and transformation
- New challenges in the 21st century
- The Assemblies of God in the context of the Kingdom of God
- Global Pentecostalism: the nexus of vitality
- “Back to the Future” Reflection: How do we implement the Core Values in global and local contexts?

GUIDELINES FOR PAPERS

Prepare well, with a full outline.

On the first page, directly state the purpose of the work.

Aim for written excellence, which is different from spoken eloquence! Avoid repetition and the overuse of adverbs, adjectives and emphasis phrases.

After introducing a proper name (John Smith) the first time, use only the last name in successive references.

Active voice is crucial!

Use “I” naturally and avoid the artificial, “The author of this work.” Refer to others in the third person singular and plural and simply state ideas clearly.

Use direct quotations sparingly and avoid plagiarism.

This is graduate work and excellent grammar and spelling is the norm.

PROOFREAD! Have a colleague or friend give you honest feedback.

Always use gender-inclusive language except in direct quotes or references to the Trinity.

SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY

An extensive bibliography will be posted on Course Commons during the semester

SPECIFIC DATA

Syllabus prepared by Charles E. Self, Ph.D. on November 1, 2017