

IAH 211C, Areas Studies and Multicultural Civilizations: The Americas
Focus on:
RELIGIOUS MYTHS OF AMERICA

"In the beginning all the world was America."

—John Locke, "Second Treatise of Civil Government." *Two Treatises of Government* (1690).

COURSE INFORMATION

Title: Religious Myths of America
Code: IAH 211C, Area Studies and Multicultural Civilizations
Credits: Four (4) credits.
Prerequisites: ATL (Tier I writing requirement).
Location: 306 Bessey (Fall 2003); 312 Bessey (Spring 2004).
Meeting Time: Mon./Wed. 3:00-4:50 (Fall 2003); Mon./Wed. 7:00-8:50 p.m. (Spring 2004).

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Professor: Dr. Christopher Buck
Office: 268 Bessey Hall
Office Hours: M/W 5:00–6:00 p.m.
T/TH 2:30–5:00 p.m.
Phone: 432-2557
E-mail: <buckc@msu.edu>

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

- (1) *Religious Myths of America*. Edited by Christopher Buck. Copyright 2003. XanEdu CoursePack ID: 198926. ISBN 1-59399-022-7. [Secondary Sources.]
- (2) Fall 2003. Internet-based readings. [Primary Sources.]
Spring 2004: *God & Apple Pie: Visions of America's Spiritual Destiny*. Edited by Christopher Buck. Copyright 2003. (XanEdu CoursePack). ISBN 1-59399-021-9 [Primary Sources.]
- (3) White, Vibert L., Jr. *Inside the Nation of Islam: A Historical and Personal Testimony by a Black Muslim*. Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 2001. With a Foreword by Mike Wallace. ISBN: 0-8130-2082-4. \$24.95
- (4) CD-RW: For Electronic Portfolio Assignments.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

By way of introduction, your professor for this course is a "dual citizen"--born American and naturalized as a Canadian. It is commonly said that Canada (the second largest country in the world) lacks a national myth. This is true. America, on the other hand, has always had a strong, mythic sense of identity, mission and destiny. To better understand ourselves as Americans, it is worthwhile to reflect for a semester on how the "idea of America" has taken shape and is continuing to evolve and diversify.

Robert Bellah introduced the influential concept of an American "civil religion" -- a secular myth of America more or less adhered to by most Americans. The functional equivalents of creed, scripture, prophets and mission are seen in "In

God We Trust," the Declaration of Independence, the Founding Fathers and Manifest Destiny.

Beyond Bellah's notion of a master myth of America, we will discover that there are other myths of America that are themselves proper objects of study. I have chosen specifically religious perspectives, because an interesting social phenomenon is at work here: While every American has a personal view as to what it means to be an American, I have found that there are actually entire communities ("faith-communities" as scholars say) that hold religious convictions about America. Some scholars have called such group-held views "theologies of America."

What do Mormons have to say about the U.S. Constitution? What do Black Muslims believe about the future of the white race in America? How do many Protestants look at the United States in prophecy? What have Catholic Popes had to say about America? What do the Baha'is predict about the spiritual destiny of America? What have the Hopi Indians told the world from the pulpit of the United Nations? With a little research, these are easy enough questions to answer. But what only a few have tried to do is to formally study and compare these religious myths of America to see what these narratives have to say and why.

If you think about it, this course may be of more than "academic" interest to some of you, especially if you locate yourself within one of the religious perspectives investigated in this course. If not, then just think of the impact that 9/11 has had on America, and how many of us are taking inventory to see just what truths we still hold to be self-evident, and how best to preserve and promote those values.

While religion is still virtually invisible in general U.S. history textbooks, scholarship in U.S. religious history has enjoyed a renaissance over the past thirty years. This course focuses on the religious meaning of "America" and how that has helped shape the myth of "American exceptionalism." American exceptionalism refers to the belief that America has been qualitatively unique. Social historians also use the term to describe the general notion of national "destiny" -- a faith in America's specialness that harks back to the Puritans' founding vision of establishing a "city upon a hill."

Religions typically have their own ideologies of exceptionalism. Scholars refer to these doctrines as "truth-claims." Historically, the admixture of religious truth-claims with a sense of national mission has produced some powerful "myths" of America, where religious exceptionalism has contributed enormously to American exceptionalism. These religious myths of America vary, according to the nature of the religions themselves. What general sense can we make of these religious perspectives on America? And, in making sense of these distinctive perspectives, what do we learn about America?

In support of academic freedom and personal interests, students may propose relevant topics of their own choosing. While suggested research topics are listed at the end of this syllabus, students may find other religious myths of America and submit a research proposal for the professor's approval. If you would like to submit a research proposal on a topic not among the suggested topics in this syllabus, your topic has to meet the criteria of: (1) relevance (religious perspective on America, representing the view of a faith-community; (2)

significance (measured by the existence of scholarship having been published on your proposed topic.) Bear in mind that, while these topics are for individual research papers, they are also to be integrated in group PowerPoint presentations within the appropriate religious category.

Although there is some conceptual continuity with IAH 201, this course is shaped by the academic study of religion and its interdisciplinary methods. Finally, after a semester of structured practice in critically reading views constructed by religious Americans, all students, by the end of this course, ought to be able to read a particular religious perspective on America and figure out where it comes from.

ORIENTING QUESTIONS

The following orienting questions appear in the model syllabus for IAH 201 – The United States and the World (Spring Semester 2003): "How have Americans thought about America's destiny? What distinguishes American "expressions" (artifacts) and "visions" (ideas of good society or role in world)? What visions of America do we find in documents of 19th century America, westward expansion, and the end of the frontier? What visions do we find developing in a maturing urban industrial America? What are our visions today about America and America's role in the world? Are they continuous with earlier visions? Is America an exceptional nation in the world? Are they discontinuous with earlier visions? Do Americans share a vision anymore? What is the balance of individualism and community in American visions? What of the future?"
<<http://www.msu.edu/unit/cisah/applications/ModelSyllabusGuide.html>>.

In these questions, the leadership of IAH have frequently used the word "visions." For the purposes of this course, we will define a "vision" of America as any religiously-held conviction about the identity, mission and destiny of America. (These categories were suggested by Sacvan Bercovitch.)

GOALS

The general goals of IAH are as follows: "Integrative Studies at MSU seeks to assist students to become more familiar with ways of knowing in the arts and humanities and to be more knowledgeable and capable in a range of intellectual and expressive abilities. IAH courses encourage students to engage critically with their own society, history, and culture(s) or to learn more about the history and culture of other societies. They focus on key ideas and issues in human experience; encourage appreciation of the roles of knowledge and values in shaping and understanding human behavior; emphasize the responsibilities and opportunities of democratic citizenship, highlight the importance of language and the value of the creative arts; and alert us to important issues that occur and re-occur among peoples in an increasingly interconnected, interdependent world."

There are several specific goals and objectives for this course. They are outcome-specific:

Course Goals:

- (1) To increase student appreciation of the power and living impact of religious myths of America.
Outcome: Midterm and End-term Class Participation.
- (2) To achieve "religious literacy" by comprehending America's religious diversity and understanding the role of religion in American society.
Outcome: Midterm Exam and Final Exam.
- (3) To sharpen academic research skills, to intelligently compare primary sources, achieve insights stimulated by reading scholarly research, formulate and defend an original thesis. (Critical reading and analysis.)
Outcome: Research Proposal, Mentor Review and Research Paper.
- (4) To fashion an independent project and pursue it to completion, using both academic and field research.
Outcome: Research Paper.
- (5) To improve public speaking and make effective use of visual imaging as an extension of research writing.
Outcome: Group PowerPoint Presentation.
- (6) To reflect originally and profoundly on religious visions of America to make a meaningful statement about what it means to be an American today.
Outcome: Personal Vision of America Essay.

INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS

Lectures by Dr. Buck & Guest Lectures.
Group PowerPoint Presentations (by students).
Discussions.
Films.
Readings.
Individual Research.
Professor's Feedback.
Mentor Review.

CALENDAR OF REQUIREMENTS

- **Note:** Unless a specific date is given, "Week" means by Friday, 5:00 p.m. end of week.

- (1) **RESEARCH PROPOSAL** 10%
 Week Six.
- **THESIS**
 Preliminary Thesis Statement (one page).
 - **BIBLIOGRAPHY**
 - **Primary Sources**
 Identify religious statements on America.
 - **Reference Sources**
 Biography. (*American National Biography* required, if available.)
 Historical Context. (*American Decades* or other approved source.)
 - **Scholarship**
 Three Electronic Journal Articles. (Identify Databases.)
 Print Journal or Book Articles (or Book Chapters).
- (2) **RESEARCH MATERIALS** 5%
 Week Seven.
Burn onto CD-RW:
- Revised Research Proposal
 - Primary Sources (electronic documents)
 - Three Electronic Journal Articles
 - Print Journal or Book Articles (or Book Chapters)
 - Biographical/Historical Photographs
 - Other Graphics (Book Covers, etc.)
 - Audio Files
- (3) **MID-TERM EXAM** 15%
 Week Seven.
- (4) **MID-TERM PARTICIPATION** 5%
 Week Eight.
- Multiple-choice.
- (5) **POWERPOINT PRESENTATION** 10%
 Staggered Due Dates. (See Course Calendar.)
- Submit with Mentor Review.
- (6) **RESEARCH PAPER** [2,500 words.] 20%
 Week Fourteen.
- (7) **PERSONAL VISION OF AMERICA ESSAY** 10%
 Week Ten.
1,000 words:
- Compare and contrast religious documents as found in *Religious Myths of America* and *God and Apple Pie: Visions of America's Spiritual Destiny*. Reflect originally and profoundly on religious visions of America to make a meaningful statement about what it means to be an American today.
- (8) **END-TERM PARTICIPATION** 5%
 Week Fifteen.
- (9) **FINAL EXAM** 15%
 Week Sixteen.
- Multiple-choice.

(10) **ELECTRONIC PORTFOLIO [Part of FINAL EXAM]** 5%
Week Sixteen

TOTAL
100%.

COURSE CALENDAR
Quick Overview

Week One—ORIENTATION AND SCHEDULING
Week Two—OVERVIEW—MYTH, RELIGION AND AMERICA
Week Three—RESEARCH WORKSHOPS
Week Four—PROTESTANT MYTHS OF AMERICA I
Week Five—PROTESTANT MYTHS OF AMERICA II
Week Six—CATHOLIC MYTHS OF AMERICA
Week Seven—REVIEW AND MIDTERM EXAM
Week Eight—JEWISH MYTHS OF AMERICA
Week Nine—BLACK MUSLIM MYTHS OF AMERICA
Week Ten—BLACK MUSLIM MYTHS OF AMERICA
Week Eleven—CHRISTIAN IDENTITY MYTHS OF AMERICA
Week Twelve—MORMON MYTHS OF AMERICA
Week Thirteen—BAHA'I MYTHS OF AMERICA
Week Fourteen—AMERICAN INDIAN MYTHS OF AMERICA
Week Fifteen—REVIEW WEEK
Week Sixteen—FINAL EXAM

COURSE CALENDAR
Detailed

Week One—ORIENTATION AND SCHEDULING

Class 1: **Syllabus/Course Requirements.**
8/25 **American Exceptionalism.**
Research Paper Assignments. (See end of syllabus for suggested topics.)
Group PowerPoint Scheduling.

Class 2: **Library Orientation.**
8/27 **[Meet in Red Cedar (Back) Entrance, MSU Library]**

Week Two—OVERVIEW—MYTH, RELIGION AND AMERICA

Class 3: **Labor Day.**
9/1 (No class.)

READINGS
Documents

(1) John L. O'Sullivan. "On Manifest Destiny, 1839."
<http://www.civics-online.org/library/formatted/texts/manifest_destiny.html>.

Scholarship

- (1) Seymour Martin Lipset. *American Exceptionalism: A Double Edged Sword*. Chapter One: "Ideology, Politics, and Deviance." <<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/style/longterm/books/chap1/americanexceptionalism.htm>>.
- (2) Michael A. Toth. "American Exceptionalism: Myth or Reality?" (PowerPoint presentation) <<http://web.pdx.edu/~tothm/pluralism/AMEXCEPT/sld035.htm>>.

Class 4: **Myth. Framework of Analysis.**
9/3 **Overview of Myths or "Theologies" of America**

READINGS**Documents****Scholarship**

- (1) Slotkin, Richard. "**Myth** and the Production of History." *Ideology and Classic American Literature*. Ed. Sacvan Bercovitch and Myra Jehlen. Cambridge University Press, 1986). Pp. 70–90. [*Religious Myths of America*]
- (2) James H. Moorhead. "'God's Right Arm'? Minority Faiths and Protestant Visions of America." *Minority Faiths and the American Protestant Mainstream*. Ed. Jonathan D. Sarna. Urbana and Chicago: University of Illinois Press, 1998. Pp. 335–361. [*Religious Myths of America*]

Week Three—RESEARCH WORKSHOPS

Class 5: **Electronic Databases.**
9/8 **In-Class Professor Feedback.**

Class 6: **Electronic Databases.**
9/10 **In-Class Professor Feedback.**

READINGS Begin reading primary sources and scholarship for your individual research papers!

Week Four—PROTESTANT MYTHS OF AMERICA I

Class 7: **John Winthrop and Puritan Massachusetts**
9/15 **Roger Williams and Dissident Rhode Island**

Class 8: **William Penn and Quaker Pennsylvania**
9/17 **Jonathan Edwards and The Great Awakening**

READINGS**Documents**

- (1) John Winthrop. "A Modell of Christian Charity" (1630). <<http://xroads.virginia.edu/g/DRBR/winthmod.html>>.
- (2) Roger Williams. "The Bloody Tenent, Of Persecution for Cause of Conscience" (1644). <http://press-pubs.uchicago.edu/founders/documents/amendI_religions4.html>.
- (3) Roger Williams. "Letter to the Town of Providence" (Jan. 1655). <http://press-pubs.uchicago.edu/founders/documents/amendI_religions6.html>.

- (4) William Penn. "England's Present Interest" (1675). "First Frame of Government of Pennsylvania" (1682). Avalon Project. Yale University. <<http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/states/pa04.htm>>.
- (5) Jonathan Edwards. "The Latter-day Glory is Probably to Begin in America." (*Some Thoughts Concerning the Present Revival of Religion in New England*). <<http://www.revival-library.org/catalogues/world1/edwards-thoughtsrevival/part2-02.html>>.

Scholarship

- (1) Randall Balmer and Lauren F. Winner. "A Brief History of Protestantism in America." *Protestantism in America*. New York: Columbia University Press, 2002. Pp. 37-68, 260-261. [*Religious Myths of America*]
- (2) Moorhead, James H. "The American Israel: Protestant Tribalism and Universal Mission." *Many Are Chosen: Divine Election and Western Nationalism*. Ed. William R. Hutchison and Hartmut Lehmann. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1994. Pp. 145-166. [*Religious Myths of America*]

Week Five—PROTESTANT MYTHS OF AMERICA II

Class 9: **Frederick Douglass' Critique of Christianity**
 9/22 **Richard Allen and the Rise of Independent Black Churches**
Josiah Strong and Christian Anglo-Saxonism

Class 10: **Martin Luther King's "Gospel of Freedom"**
 9/24 **James Cone's Black Theology**

Due: **PROTESTANT GROUP POWERPOINT PRESENTATION DUE**

READINGS

Documents

- (1) Frederick Douglass. Appendix. *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, An American Slave*. <<http://www.americanliterature.com/NARR/NARR12.HTML>>.
- (2) Josiah Strong. "The Anglo-Saxon and the World's Future." *Our Country: Its Possible Future and Its Present Crisis* (1885), 200-218. <<http://hkuhist2.hku.hk/history/firstyear/Roberts/robertsE06.htm>>. <http://mail.rcds.rye.ny.us/~history/Sampson/progress_imperialism/josiah_strong.htm>.
- (3) Martin Luther King, Jr. "I Have A Dream" Speech. 28 August 1963. Washington, D.C. <<http://www.wmich.edu/politics/mlk/dream.html>>

Scholarship

- (1) Joe W. Trotter Jr. "African Americans." *American National Biography*. <<http://www.anb.org/aa.html>>.
- (2) Eddie S. Glaude. "Myth and African American Self-Identity." *Religion and the Creation of Race and Ethnicity: An Introduction*. New York: New York University Press, 2003. Pp. 28-42. [*Religious Myths of America*]
- (3) Paul Harvey. "'A Servant of Servants Shall He Be': The Construction of Race in American Religious Mythologies." *Religion and the Creation of Race and Ethnicity: An Introduction*. New York: New York University Press, 2003. Pp. 13-27. [*Religious Myths of America*]

Week Six—CATHOLIC MYTHS OF AMERICA

Class 11: **Film: "Landmarks of Faith: Catholic Maryland" (1998).**
9/29 **Orestes Brownson**

Class 12: **Americanists**
10/1 **Papal Statements on America**

Due: **RESEARCH PROPOSAL DUE**
CATHOLIC GROUP POWERPOINT PRESENTATION DUE

READINGS

Documents

- (1) "Maryland Act Concerning Religion" (1649).
<http://press-pubs.uchicago.edu/founders/documents/amendI_religions5.html>.
- (2) Orestes Brownson. "Chapter XV. Destiny -- Political and Religious." *The American Republic*. <<http://my.execpc.com/~berrestr/broame15.html>>. See also: Orestes Brownson. "Mission of America." *Brownson's Quarterly Review*, New York series, 1 (Oct. 1956): 411-412, 435. Orestes Brownson. "The Church and the Constitution." *Brownson's Quarterly Review*, New York series, 2 (Oct. 1957): 458.
- (3) Americanist primary sources cited in: Justin Walsh. "Heresy in the Making." Part Two. *The Angelus* 23.2 (February 2000). <http://sspx.ca/Angelus/2000_February/Heresy_in_the_Making_Part_2.htm>.
- (4) Pope Leo XIII. "Testem Benevolentiae: Concerning New Opinions, Virtue, Nature And Grace, With Regard To Americanism." Apostolic Letter promulgated on January 22, 1899.
<<http://www.ewtn.com/library/PAPALDOC/L13TESTE.HTM>>.
- (5) John Paul II. "On the American Experiment."
<<http://www.firstthings.com/ftissues/ft9804/articles/documentation.html>>.

Scholarship

- (1) Mark S Burrows. "The Catholic Revision of an American Myth: The Eschatology of Orestes Brownson as an Apology of American Catholicism." *Catholic Historical Review* 76 (1990): 18-43. [*Religious Myths of America*]
- (2) Robert Herrera. "Orestes Brownson's Vision of America." *Modern Age* 43.2 (Spring 2001): 133-145. [ProQuest]
- (3) Carl Krummel. "Catholicism, Americanism, Democracy, and Orestes Brownson." *American Quarterly* 6.1 (Spring 1954): 19-31. [*Religious Myths of America*] [JSTOR]

Week Seven—REVIEW AND MIDTERM EXAM

Class 13: **Review**
10/6 **Questions & Answers**

Class 14: **MIDTERM EXAM**
10/8

Due: **RESEARCH MATERIALS DUE**

READINGS Review prior required readings.

Week Eight—JEWISH MYTHS OF AMERICA

Class 15: **Grades for Midterm Exam**
 10/14 **Myth of Columbus**
Emma Lazarus
Prayers for the United States
 • **Last day to drop this course!**

Class 16: **Isaac Meyer Wise**
 10/16 **Kaufmann Kohler**
Louis Brandeis
Horace Kallen
Leo Franklin (Reform rabbi, Detroit)

Due: **JEWISH GROUP POWERPOINT PRESENTATION DUE**

READINGS

Documents

- (1) Emma Lazarus. "The New Colossus."
 <<http://www.poets.org/poems/poems.cfm?45442B7C000C04010F71>>.
- (2) Isaac Meyer Wise. "Our Country's Place in History" (1869).
- (3) Kaufmann Kohler. "The Concordance of Judaism and Americanism" (1911).
- (4) Louis Brandeis. "Zionism is Consistent with American Patriotism" (1915).
- (5) Horace Kallen. **[ADD LINK]** "Democracy Versus the Melting-Pot," *The Nation* (18 and 25 February 1915). Reprinted in Kallen, *Culture and Democracy in the United States: Studies in the Group Psychology of the American People* (1924), Chap. 2, pp. 67–101.
- (6) Leo Franklin.

Scholarship

- (1) Jonathan Sarna. "The Mythical Jewish Columbus and the History of America's Jews." *Religion in the Age of Exploration: The Case of Spain and New Spain*. Ed. Bryan Le Beau and Menahem Mor. Omaha: Creighton University Press, 1996. Pp. 81–95. [*Religious Myths of America*]
- (2) Jonathan Sarna. "Jewish Prayers for the United States Government: A Study in the Liturgy of Politics and the Politics of Liturgy." *Moral Problems in American Life: New Perspectives on Cultural History*. Ed. Karen Halttunen and Perry Lewis. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 1998. Pp. 201–221. [*Religious Myths of America*]
- (3) Seymour Martin Lipset. "A Unique People in an Exceptional Country." *American Pluralism and the Jewish Community*. Ed. idem. New Brunswick, NJ: Transaction, 1990. Pp. 3–29. [*Religious Myths of America*]

Recommended

Hasia Diner. *A New Promised Land: A History of Jews in America*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2003. [November]

Week Nine—BLACK MUSLIM MYTHS OF AMERICA I

Class 17: **Film: Mike Wallace. "The Hate That Hate Produced."**
 10/20 **Inside the Nation of Islam**

Class 18: **Inside the Nation of Islam**
 10/22 **Discussion**

Due: **BLACK MUSLIM GROUP POWERPOINT PRESENTATION DUE**

READINGS

Documents

- (1) Elijah Muhammad. "1960 Radio Address." <<http://www.albany.edu/jmmh/vol1no1/elijahmuhammad.html>>.
- (2) Elijah Muhammad. "The Theology of Time." June 25, 1972. <<http://www.muhammadspeaks.com/Theology6-25-72.html>>.

Scholarship

- (1) Vibert L. White, Jr. *Inside the Nation of Islam: A Historical and Personal Testimony by a Black Muslim*. Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 2001. [Make sure you have read the entire book by this time!]

Week Ten—BLACK MUSLIM MYTHS OF AMERICA II

Class 19: **The Yacub Myth**

10/27 The Mother Plane Myth

Destruction of America Myth

Class 20: **Guest Lecture:**
10/29 **Dr. Vibert White.**

Due: **PERSONAL VISION OF AMERICA ESSAY DUE**

READINGS

Documents

- (1) Elijah Muhammad. "Our Mother Plane." <<http://www.muhammadspeaks.com/MotherPlaneList.html>>.
- (2) Louis Farrakhan. "The Divine Destruction of America: Can She Avert It?" (1996). The Final Call Online. <<http://www.finalcall.com/MLFspeaks/destruction.html>>.

Scholarship

- (1) Michael Lieb. "Heralding the Messenger." *Children of Ezekiel: Aliens, UFOs, the Crisis of Race, and the Advent of End Time*. Durham and London: Duke University Press, 1998. Pp. 129–154; 270–280. [*Religious Myths of America*]
- (2) Michael Lieb. "The Eschatology of the Mother Plane." *Children of Ezekiel: Aliens, UFOs, the Crisis of Race, and the Advent of End Time*. Durham and London: Duke University Press, 1998. Pp. 155–177; 280–283. [*Religious Myths of America*]
- (3) Michael Lieb. "Armageddon and the Final Call." *Children of Ezekiel: Aliens, UFOs, the Crisis of Race, and the Advent of End Time*. Durham and London: Duke University Press, 1998. Pp. 198–229; 293–298. [*Religious Myths of America*]

Week Eleven—CHRISTIAN IDENTITY MYTHS OF AMERICA

Class 21: **British-Israelitism and Anti-Semitism**

11/3 **Matt Hale and the World Church of the Creator**

Class 22: **Rahowa: Racial Holy War**

11/5 **White Nationalist Racial Apocalypses**

Due: **CHRISTIAN IDENTITY GROUP POWERPOINT PRESENTATION DUE**

READINGS**Documents**

- (1) World Church of the Creator Home Page. <<http://www.churchofthecreator.org/>>.
- (2) RAHOWA Home Page. <<http://www.rahowa.com/>>

Scholarship

- (1) Douglas E. Cowan. "Theologizing Race: The Construction of 'Christian Identity'." *Religion and the Creation of Race and Ethnicity: An Introduction*. Ed. Craig R. Prentiss. New York and London: New York University Press, 2003. Pp. 112–123. [*Religious Myths of America*]
- (2) Anti-Defamation League. "Recurring Hate: Matt Hale and the World Church of the Creator." <http://www.adl.org/special_reports/wcotc/wcotc-intro.asp>.
- (3) Anti-Defamation League. "World Church of the Creator: 'Racial Holy War' on the Web." <http://www.adl.org/poisoning_web/wcotc.asp>.

Week Twelve—MORMON MYTHS OF AMERICAClass 23: **Myth of Eden**11/10 **Myth of Columbus****Myth of Indians as Lost Tribes of Israel****Myth of the Constitution**Class 24: **Myth of Curse of Cain**11/12 **Spencer Kimball and the Ordination of Blacks**Due: **MORMON GROUP POWERPOINT PRESENTATION DUE****READINGS****Documents**

- (1) Graham W. Doxey. "Garden of Eden." *Encyclopedia of Mormonism*. <http://www.lightplanet.com/mormons/basic/gospel/fall/eden_eom.htm>.
- (2) Louise G. Hanson. "Christopher Columbus." *Encyclopedia of Mormonism*. <http://www.lightplanet.com/mormons/basic/gospel/restoration/Columbus_OM.htm>.
- (3) Ralph C. Hancock. "Constitution of the United States of America." *Encyclopedia of Mormonism*. <http://www.lightplanet.com/mormons/basic/doctrines/law/constitution_eom.htm>.
- (4) Clarissa Katherine Cole. "Concept of A Promised Land." *Encyclopedia of Mormonism*. <http://www.lightplanet.com/mormons/basic/doctrines/promised_land_eom.htm>.

Scholarship

- (1) Slack, Red D. "The Mormon Belief of an Inspired Constitution." *Journal of Church and State* 36.1 (Winter 1994): 35–56. [*Religious Myths of America*]
- (2) Prentiss, Craig R. "'Loathsome unto Thy People': The Latter-Day Saints and Racial Categorization." *Religion and the Creation of Race and Ethnicity: An Introduction*. Ed. Craig R. Prentiss. New York and London: New York University Press, 2003. 124–139. [*Religious Myths of America*]

Week Thirteen—BAHA'I MYTHS OF AMERICA

Class 25: **Baha'i Texts on the Destiny of America**
 11/17 **Alain Locke's Philisophy of Democracy**
Robert Hayden's "American Journal"

Class 26: **The Vision of Race Unity**
 11/19 **Video: The Power of Race Unity**

Due: **BAHA'I GROUP POWERPOINT PRESENTATION DUE**

READINGS**Documents**

- (1) Darren Hiebert, ed. "The Destiny of America: A Compilation from the Bahá'í Writings."
 <<http://darrenhiebert.com/documents/compilations/DestinyOfAmerica.html>>.
- (2) Alain Locke. "Enter the New Negro."
 <<http://etext.lib.virginia.edu/harlem/LocEnteF.html>>
- (3) Hayden, Robert. "[American Journal]." *Collected Poems*. Ed. Frederick Glaysher. New York and London: Liveright Publishing, 1985. Pp. 192–195.
 <<http://www.english.upenn.edu/~hbeavers/281/hayden-american.html>>.
- (4) "The Destiny of America and the Promise of World Peace: A Statement from the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the United States."
 <<http://www.us.bahai.org/ourvision/america.htm>>.
- (5) "The Vision Of Race Unity: America's Most Challenging Issue. A Statement by the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the United States."
 <<http://www.us.bahai.org/ourvision/vision.htm>>.

Scholarship

- (1) John Huddleston. "The Spiritual Destiny of America and World Peace." *Processes of the Lesser Peace*. Ed. Babak Bahador and Nazila Ghanea. Oxford: George Ronald, 2002. Pp. 107-161.
- (2) Leonard Harris. "Alain Locke." *American National Biography*.
 <<http://www.anb.org/articles/20/20-00599.html>>.
- (3) Christopher Buck. "Alain Locke: Baha'i Philosopher."

Week Fourteen—AMERICAN INDIAN MYTHS OF AMERICA

Class 27: **Deganawidah**
 11/24 **Iroquois Influence Hypothesis**

Class 28: **Hopi Missions to the United Nations**
 11/26 **Kevin Gover's Speech**

Due: **RESEARCH PAPER DUE**
IROQUOIS GROUP POWERPOINT PRESENTATION DUE
HOPI GROUP POWERPOINT PRESENTATION DUE

READINGS**Documents**

- (1) Dekanawidah. "Great Law of the Iroquois Confederacy."
 <<http://www.humanistictexts.org/dekanawidah.htm>>. (See also
 <<http://www.wsu.edu/~dee/NAANTH/IRCONST.HTM>>.)
- (2) Kanatiyosh. "The Influence of the Great Law of Peace On The United States Constitution: An Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) Perspective."
 <<http://tuscaroras.com/graydeer/influenc/page1.htm>>.

- (3) Thomas Banyacya. "The Hopi Message." (Launch of the International Year of Indigenous People. 10 December, 1992: United Nations Headquarters.) <<http://www.welcomehome.org/rainbow/prophecy/hopi.html>>.
- (4) Martin Gashweseoma. "Message to the United Nations (Another Attempt)." November 22, 1993. <<http://www.wovoca.com/prophecy-hopi-united-nations-mission-messages-to-the-un.htm>>.
- (5) Kevin Gover. "Never Again! BIA Chief Apologizes to Indian Nations for Bureau's Historic Role in Ethnic Cleansing, Attacks on Tribal Culture." <<http://www.doi.gov/plw/octnov2000/Culture.htm>>.

Scholarship

- (1) Vecsey, Christopher. "The Story and Structure of the Iroquois Confederacy." *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 54.1 (1986): 79–106. Reprinted in *Imagine Ourselves Richly: Mythic Narratives of North American Indians*. New York: Crossroad, 1988. 94–117. [*Religious Myths of America*]
- (2) Clemmer, Richard O. "'Then Will You Rise And Strike My Head From My Neck': Hopi Prophecy and the Discourse of Empowerment." *American Indian Quarterly* 19.1 (Winter 1995): 31–73. [*Religious Myths of America*]

Week Fifteen—REVIEW WEEK

Class 29: **Review**
12/1 **Questions & Answers**

Class 30: **Review**
12/3 **Teacher Evaluation**

READINGS Review all course readings since the Midterm Exam.

Week Sixteen—FINAL EXAM

Class 31: **FINAL EXAM**
Date/Time: Monday, Dec. 8th, 3:00-5:00 p.m. (Fall 2003).
Monday, May 3rd, 8:00-10:00 p.m. (Spring 2004).
Place: Bessey (Fall 2003); Bessey (Spring 2004).

Due: **ELECTRONIC PORTFOLIO DUE**
(Turn in during Final exam.)

COURSE POLICIES

Research Paper Format:

Model your research paper on the Journal of the American Academy of Religion. Follow the "Instructions to Authors" guidelines, online at <<http://www3.oup.co.uk/jaarel/instauth/>>.

Attendance: Required. Part of participation grade.

Lateness: One full grade per week. Strictly enforced. No work will be accepted past the final exam.

Tardiness: Highly discouraged (disruptive). Possible negative impact on class participation grade.

Class Participation: General guidelines: Good attendance and attentiveness = 2.0. Strong attendance and active participation in class discussions (showing preparedness and familiarity with course materials) = 3.0. Near perfect attendance, active participation in class discussions (showing preparedness and familiarity with course materials), and demonstrable leadership (somehow making a positive difference in the class dynamic) = 4.0.

Conduct: No interference with teaching or classroom discussion will be tolerated. Students are expected to be respectful and courteous, both to their instructor as well as to one another. Express yourself, but not in an offensive way. A student whose conduct is deemed disrespectful or disruptive will be asked to leave the classroom. No reading or studying of outside materials is permitted. Food and beverages are not allowed in the Computer Microlab.

Make-up Exams: No makeup exams except for family or medical emergency. By special arrangement with your professor.

Plagiarism: Avoid theft of intellectual property. Document all sources of information and ideas not your own. Read, paraphrase/quote, cite. Plagiarism will result in either failed assignment or failure of course, at professor's discretion.

Internet: Due to rampant plagiarism, NO Microsoft *Encarta* or other online encyclopedias will be permitted, except for access to online electronic journal articles. (For presentations, the Internet may be used to display images, download audio files, etc.)

Work Submitted: All written work must be wordprocessed on a computer and printed out, with all documents to be saved and submitted as an "electronic portfolio" on a CD-ROM. Save all essay documents in Microsoft Word 6.0/95 format [PC] or Microsoft Word 5.1 [Mac] format. Late papers will be marked down one full grade per week late. Extensions will be granted only with a minimum three-day notice.

Incompletes: No incompletes for the course will be granted except in strict accordance with MSU policy (provided upon request). Incompletes for medical and family emergencies only.

Instructional Format: Subject to access to computer labs, this course will combine instructor-guided tutorials and workshops, peer review, group work, and student oral presentations followed by discussions.

Legal Disclaimer: This syllabus is open to revision.

GRADING

Your professor will be using a course-specific grading system which, at the end of the semester, will be converted to final grades on the 4.0 scale. The following scale and its 4.0 equivalents are as follows:

A+	97.0	4.0
A	93.0	4.0
A-	90.0	3.8
B+	87.0	3.5
B	83.0	3.0
B-	80.0	2.8
C+	77.0	2.5
C	73.0	2.0
C-	70.0	1.8
D+	67.0	1.5
D	63.0	1.0
D-	60.0	0.8
F	59.0	0.0

Please note that the following grades are not used for final grades by MSU: 3.8, 2.8, 1.8. Rounding grades up or down is at the professor's discretion. In general, however, a 3.75 will be promoted to a final grade of 4.0, a 2.75 to 3.0, and a 1.75 to a 2.0.

QUICK LIST
By Weight

(1)	RESEARCH PAPER [2,500 words.] Week Fourteen.	20%
(2)	MID-TERM EXAM Week Seven.	15%
(3)	FINAL EXAM 15% Week Sixteen.	
(4)	RESEARCH PROPOSAL Week Six.	10%
(5)	PERSONAL VISION OF AMERICA ESSAY 10% Week Ten.	
(6)	POWERPOINT PRESENTATION Staggered Due Dates. (See Course Calendar.)	10%
(7)	MID-TERM PARTICIPATION Week Eight.	5%
(8)	END-TERM PARTICIPATION Week Fifteen.	5%
(9)	RESEARCH MATERIALS Week Seven.	5%
(10)	ELECTRONIC PORTFOLIO [Part of FINAL EXAM] Week Sixteen	5%
	TOTAL 100%.	

SUPPORT SERVICES

Writing Center (300 Bessey Hall).

Learning Resources Center (204 Bessey Hall).

SUGGESTED RESEARCH PAPER TOPICS

Note: In support of academic freedom and personal interests, students may propose relevant alternative topics (on religious myths of America) for professor's approval. Keep in mind that, while these topics are for individual research papers, they are also to be integrated in the group PowerPoint presentations.

PROTESTANT

- (1) **THE PURITAN MYTH OF AMERICA**
- (2) **JONATHAN EDWARDS' MILLENNIAL MYTH OF AMERICA**
- (3) **JOSIAH STRONG'S ANGLO-SAXON MYTH OF AMERICA**
- (4) **MARTIN LUTHER KING'S MYTH OF AMERICA**
- (5) **HAL LINDSEY'S CHRISTIAN ZIONIST MYTH OF AMERICA**
- (6) **JERRY FALWELL'S POST-9/11 MYTH OF AMERICA**
- (7) **TIM LAHAYE'S "LEFT BEHIND" MYTH OF AMERICA**

CATHOLIC

- (8) **ORESTES BROWNSON'S CATHOLIC MYTH OF AMERICA**
- (9) **THE AMERICANISTS' MYTH OF AMERICA.**
- (10) **CARDINAL GIBBON'S AMERICANIST MYTH OF AMERICA.**

- (11) **ISACC HECKER'S AMERICANIST MYTH OF AMERICA.**
- (12) **PAPAL PERSPECTIVES ON AMERICA AND DEMOCRACY**

JEWISH

- (13) **JEWISH MYTH OF COLUMBUS**
- (14) **REFORM JUDAISM'S MYTH OF AMERICA**
- (15) **RECONSTRUCTIONIST JUDAISM'S MYTH OF AMERICA**
- (16) **THE MYTH OF AMERICA IN JEWISH PRAYERS**
- (17) **ZIONIST MYTHS OF AMERICA [?]**
- (18) **EMMA LAZARUS' MYTH OF AMERICA**

NOTE: **ORTHODOX AND CONSERVATIVE MYTHS OF AMERICA** are research options, provided that the student finds relevant primary sources and scholarship.

MORMON

- (19) **THE MORMON COLUMBUS MYTH**
- (20) **THE MORMON GARDEN OF EDEN MYTH**
- (21) **THE MORMON LOST TRIBES OF ISRAEL MYTH**
- (22) **THE MORMON CONSTITUTION MYTH**
- (23) **THE MORMON ZION MYTH**
- (24) **THE MORMON CURSE OF CAIN MYTH**

CHRISTIAN IDENTITY

- (25) **ANGLO-ISRAELISM'S MYTH OF AMERICA**
- (26) **THE CHRISTIAN IDENTITY'S WHITE SUPREMACY MYTH**
- (27) **AMERICA'S PROMISE MINISTRIES MYTH OF AMERICA**

NATION OF ISLAM

- (28) **THE BLACK MUSLIM YACUB MYTH**
- (29) **THE BLACK MUSLIM MOTHER PLANE MYTH**
- (30) **THE BLACK MUSLIM DESTRUCTION OF AMERICA MYTH**
- (31) **THE BLACK MUSLIM REACTION TO VIBERT WHITE'S _INSIDE THE NATION OF ISLAM_**
- (32) **MALCOLM X'S REJECTION OF THE BLACK MUSLIM MYTH OF AMERICA**

TRADITIONAL ISLAM

- (33) **"THE GREAT SATAN": RADICAL ISLAM'S MYTH OF AMERICA**

BAHA'I

- (34) **THE BAHA'I MYTH OF AMERICA**
- (35) **THE MYTH OF AMERICA IN BAHA'I PRAYERS**
- (36) **ROBERT HAYDEN'S "AMERICAN JOURNAL" AS A BAHA'I CRITIQUE OF AMERICAN MYTHS**
- (37) **ALAIN LOCKE'S BAHA'I-INSPIRED MYTH OF AMERICA**
- (38) **THE POST-9/11 BAHA'I MYTH OF AMERICA**

IROQUOIS

- (39) **THE DEGANAWIDAH-HIAWATHA MYTH**
- (40) **THE MODERN IROQUOIS MYTH OF AMERICA**
- (41) **REVIEW OF BRUCE JOHANSEN'S _DEBATING DEMOCRACY_.**

HOPI

- (42) THE AMERICAM MYTH OF MANIFEST DESTINY**
- (43) HOPI MISSIONS TO THE UNITED NATIONS**
- (44) THE PROPHECY ROCK MYTH**
- (45) VICTIMS OF THE AMERICAN MYTH:
KEVIN GOVER'S APOLOGY TO AMERICAN INDIANS**