MI 725 Survey of Renewal Movements

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MI 725. SURVEY OF RENEWAL MOVEMENTS

DESCRIPTION

A survey of renewal movements in the history of the church, ranging from early monasticism and Montanism to contemporary movements. Both unique features and common elements of renewal movements will be examined. Particular attention is given to learnings that may be applicable to church life today.

OBJECTIVES

1. To introduce a perspective on church history that emphasizes renewal currents and movements.
2. To give students opportunity to research specific renewal movements.
3. To provide perspectives for helping to evaluate the soundness of particular movements.
4. To see some of the ways God has worked periodically to renew the church.
5. To help students discover insights that may contribute to the vitality of local congregations.

SOME DEFINITIONS

Renewal movements can be understood in purely sociological or anthropological terms, without reference to Christianity. In this course, however, we are studying renewal movements within the Christian Church. Our working definition is taken from the book Signs of the Spirit: A renewal movement is “a sociologically and theologically definable religious resurgence which arises and remains within, or in continuity with, historic Christianity, and which has a significant (potentially measurable) impact on the larger church in terms of number of adherents, intensity of belief and commitment, and/or the creation or revitalization of institutional expressions of the church.” Gerlach and Hine give this more strictly sociological definition: “A group of people who are organized for, ideologically motivated by, and committed to a purpose which implements some form of personal or social change; who are actively engaged in the recruitment of others; and whose influence is spreading in opposition to the established order within which it originated” (See Signs of the Spirit, 34, 267-68; there are many other definitions).

Church renewal (as defined in the course, Renewing the Church for Mission) is the process by which God's Holy Spirit, working through willing and spiritually sensitive believers, restores the church to health and vitality.

STRUCTURE OF COURSE

Due to the small size of the class, we will be able to conduct it as a seminar. Each participant will be expected to contribute to our shared learnings based upon their readings, research, and experience. Class sessions will be a combination of lectures, videos, student reports, and discussion of readings.

We will follow the schedule indicated below. Readings will provide the background for class discussions, as well as covering some topics which won’t be fully developed in class.

REQUIRED TEXTS


RECOMMENDED RESOURCES


*Available in the Cokesbury Bookstore.

**Note:** If you have previously read *Signs of the Spirit*, please substitute a similar amount of reading from Cohn, Cairns, or other sources.

**COURSE EXPECTATIONS**

The course has these components: Class participation, reading, two research reports on specific movements, and a brief final essay. The expectations are as follows:

1. Participate in all class sessions, seeking to advance the learning of others as well as yourself.

2. Complete the assigned readings as indicated in the outline. Readings are to be completed before class on the dates indicated (with the exception of those listed for January 13). Be prepared to discuss the readings in class. Read as much of the *Recommended* reading as time permits.

3. Prepare two brief research reports on specific renewal movements. Each student will give a 20-30 minute class report on one movement and will submit a written report (approx. 10-15 pages) on a second movement. An outline of the first (oral) report will be due at the time of class presentation (as noted below). The second (written) report will be due January 29.

4. Write a brief final essay (5-7 pages) on the topic, “My concept of church vitality in the perspective of history.” This should synthesize and summarize your own renewal theology in the light of the course. This is not a research paper and does not require citations or a bibliography. Due January 31.

**Research Reports:** By our third class session (Jan. 15), you should have decided on which two movements you wish to report on. You may choose from the movements listed below and in the course schedule, or request to study other movements. Each report should summarize the origin and history of the movement, analyze its dynamics as a movement of renewal, indicate its long-range impact, and summarize your learnings and reflections. For the class report no written paper is required, but a 1 to 3-page outline should be distributed to the class and submitted to the professor.

The written research report should include references and a bibliography of all resources consulted or cited.

In addition to the movements listed on the schedule, the following movements could be investigated in research reports (the list is suggestive, not exhaustive):

- **Bogomils and Cathars**
- **The Trappists**
- The Spiritual Franciscans
- The Salvation Army
- Brethren of the Common Life
- The Rise of the YMCA
- The Early *Unitas Fratrum*
- The Rise of the Ecumenical Movement
- The Waldensians
- The Social Gospel Movement
- Protestant Monastic Orders
- The Indonesian Revival
- The Jansenists
- The East African Revival
- The Shakers
- The Tonga Revival
- The Oxford Movement
- The Oxford Group Movement
- The Cambridge Movement
- The Taizé Community
The Lollards          The Welsh Revival of 1904
The Great Awakening          The Catholic Worker Movement
The 19th-Century Holiness Movement  The Father Divine Movement
The Latter Rain Movement The Vineyard Movement
The Confessing Church (Germany) Adventism
The Hutterites The Abolitionist Movement
Jesus People USA The Temperance Movement
The Student Volunteer Movement Rise of the Women’s Missionary Movement
The Civil Rights Movement as a Christian movement
The rise of the Jesus Movement in the 1970s
Other movements and revivals in specific countries or regions
[See Rausch, Riss, Cairns, and Cohn, as well as Durnbaugh (The Believers’ Church), for additional suggestions.]

EVALUATION

There will be no final examination. In grading, the course components will be weighted approximately as follows: Class participation (20%), readings (20%), research reports (50%), final essay (10%).

GUIDELINES FOR RESEARCH REPORTS

1. You may use either the anthropological style (recommended by the ESJ School) or the Chicago/Turabian style — but be consistent. The paper must be typed or computer-printed, and should include appropriate documentation of sources cited or consulted. (See “Academic Writing in the ESJ School,” available as a handout from the ESJ School Office.)

2. Attach a title page giving the paper’s title, your name, course name and number, and date. Staple in upper left-hand corner. Please do not use a cover or binder. (I may later request a second clean copy of your paper for my files.)

3. The paper should contain no spelling errors. Use a spell-checker.

4. Students for whom English is not their natural language may want to get editorial assistance. I will evaluate only the final product. Correct English tends to have a favorable influence on grade.

ATTENDANCE POLICY: See the current seminary Catalog, p. 25. Since this is an intensive course, each morning session (8:00-12:00) is equivalent to three class sessions (and thus to three absences, if missed).
Note: In the event of any “snow days,” we will make up the lost classes on January 27-28, or in some afternoon sessions, schedules permitting. (If there is a heavy snowstorm, you may call 858-2020 to verify where or not the seminary is open for classes.)

SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNED READING (See Bibliography for complete information on readings)

January 13 - INTRODUCTION – SYLLABUS / BIBLIOGRAPHY
THE EARLIEST RENEWAL MOVEMENTS
Readings: Rausch, 11-34
Snyder, SOS, 9-11
Orr, 7-10

January 14 - WESTERN MONASTIC ORDERS
FILM: “Brother Sun, Sister Moon” (120 min.)
Readings: Rausch, 35-83
Snyder, SOS, 15-67, 285-94

January 15 - REFORMATION AND RADICAL REFORMATION
PURITANISM AND PIETISM
Readings: Rausch, 84-105
Snyder, SOS, 71-157

January 16 - MORAVIANS AND METHODISTS
VIDEO: “John Hus” (55 min.)
REPORT:
Readings: Snyder, SOS, 158-242
Orr, 15-29

January 17 - DYNAMICS OF RENEWAL MOVEMENTS
COLLEGIATE RENEWAL MOVEMENTS
Readings: Snyder, SOS, 245-63
Rausch, 118-27
Orr, 31-83

[January 20 – NO CLASS – Martin Luther King Day]

January 21 - NINETEENTH-CENTURY REVIVALISM
VIDEO: “The Amish” (57 min.)
REPORT:
REPORT:
Readings: Snyder, SOS, 267-82
Orr, 85-168

January 22 - MODERN MISSION AND REVIVAL MOVEMENTS
VIDEO: “They Cry in the Night” (60 min.)
REPORT:
REPORT:
Readings: Orr, 169-232
Riss, 1-46
January 23 - RISE OF PENTECOSTALISM
   RENEWAL IN 20th-CENTURY ROMAN CATHOLICISM (Vatican II, Base Communities, Charismatic Renewal)
   VIDEO: “Transformations II” (75 min.)
   REPORT:
   REPORT:
   Readings: Rausch, 128-86
            Riss, 47-70

January 24 - PENTECOSTAL, CHARISMATIC, AND “THIRD WAVE” MOVEMENTS
   A COMING GREAT REVIVAL?
   REPORT:
   REPORT:
   Readings: Riss, 71-163
            Rausch, 187-99
            Snyder, SOS, 297-314

January 29 - ASSIGNMENT DUE: Research Report

January 31 - ASSIGNMENT DUE: Final Essay
This bibliography is representative, not comprehensive. There are many more specialized studies on particular movements as well as an extensive theoretical literature on social movements that are not represented here. In addition, you may find summary information and bibliographic references in general books on church history and in church history dictionaries, such as The New International Dictionary of the Christian Church, The Westminster Dictionary of Church History, The Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church, and (for key movement leaders) The Biographical Dictionary of Christian Missions. See also journals on history, renewal, mission, and the sociology of religion. Church History: Studies in Christianity and Culture is often a good source.


Rawlyk, George A. *Wrapped Up in God: A Study of Several Canadian Revivals and Revivalists.* Burlington,


Snyder, Howard A. “What’s Unique About a Wesleyan Theology of Mission?” Posted on website (Wineskins.net)


Snyder, Howard A. “John Wesley and Macarius the Egyptian,” *Asbury Theological Journal* 45:2, (Fall 1990), 55-60.


Tari, Mel, as told to Cliff Dudley. *Like a Mighty Wind*. 2nd ed. Carol Stream, IL: Creation House, 1972.


