WO 740 The Road to Revival: The Origins of the Second Great Awakening and Camp Meetings

Lester Ruth

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Recommended Citation
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Please note that this syllabus is in draft stage, particularly with regard to the readings.

Note also that the course will include occasional visitation of local historical sites.

Course Description: The course will explore the emergence of revival in the early 19th century. The role of camp meetings as settings for worship and evangelism in the Second Great Awakening will be of particular interest. To coincide with the 200th anniversary of the famous Cane Ridge, Kentucky meeting, the nature of the revival in Kentucky and Tennessee will be highlighted. The course’s emphasis will first be upon an historical understanding of the revival and camp meetings. This emphasis will be the springboard for discussions about how worship relates to ecclesiology and soteriology.

Prerequisites: none

Objectives: Having successfully completed this course, a student will be able:
--to sketch the flow of the Second Great Awakening’s emergence in its regional and national manifestations;
--to know the particular importance of Kentucky and Tennessee in this revival;
--to know the variety of liturgical outlets which God used to bring about this revival;
--to discuss the factors which reshaped these liturgical antecedents into camp meetings;
--to describe the shape and activities of early camp meetings and other early “protracted” meetings;
--to understand the standard stages of newly created worship forms in an American context;
--to appreciate the nature of early American evangelicals’ piety and theology;
--to discuss how early Methodist, Presbyterians, and Baptists, wove together important aspects of their respective ecclesial lives (liturgical, disciplinary, and evangelistic); and
--identify and discuss crucial theological issues dealing with worship, church, mission, and salvation raised by this period of American evangelicalism.

Course Requirements and Reading:
Required textbooks:
Ruth, Lester. *A Little Heaven Below: Worship at Early American Methodist Quarterly Meetings*  

Please note that there is a course packet to be purchased which contains material from the reading list below.

Other reading:
Students will be asked to read selections from the following published and unpublished material.
Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1958. (on reserve)


*The Connecticut Evangelical Magazine,* miscellaneous material. (course packet)

*Extracts of Letters, Containing some Account of the Work of God since the Year 1800.* New York: J. C. Totten, 1805. (course packet)


Finley, James B. *Sketches of Western Methodism: Biographical, Historical, and Miscellaneous.* Ed. W. P. Strickland. Cincinnati: Methodist Book Concern, 1854. (on reserve)

Lakin, Benjamin. Journal. Ms. Washington University Library, St. Louis, MO. (course packet)

*The Methodist Magazine,* miscellaneous material. (course packet)

*The New-York Missionary Magazine, and Repository of Religious Intelligence,* miscellaneous material. (course packet)


Smith, Henry. *Recollections and Reflections of an Old Itinerant.* New York: Lane & Tippett, 1848. (on reserve)


*The Western Missionary Magazine,* miscellaneous material. (course packet)


**Course requirements:**

--punctual attendance at all class sessions;

--completion of all reading on time;

--a mid-course exam

--short presentations to the class

--a research paper on a topic of the student’s choice.

The course will be conducted on a seminar format and students will have responsibility for short presentations to the rest of the class.

**Grading:**

The exam, short presentations research paper will each count for 33% of the grade. Unexcused absences and late submission of work will be governed by these rules:

2 unexcused absences will result in 1 grade-level reduction (A/A-)

3 unexcused absences will result in 2 grade-level reduction (A/B+)

It will not be possible to pass the course with more than 3 unexcused absences.

Late submission of final research paper will result in 1 grade-level reduction per 2 days late.
### Course Schedule
(Please note that this schedule is designed to be a 4 week summer course.)

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<tr>
<th>Week/Day</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading/Assignments</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1/Monday</td>
<td>Intro</td>
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<tr>
<td>1/Tuesday</td>
<td>Methodist worship and life generally</td>
<td>Wigger, ch. 1-4</td>
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<td>1/Wednesday</td>
<td>Methodist Quarterly Meetings as</td>
<td>Ruth textbook, ch. 1</td>
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<td>1/Thursday</td>
<td>Presbyterian and Baptist worship and life</td>
<td>Schmidt, ch. 1</td>
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<td>1/Friday</td>
<td>Presbyterian sacramental seasons as</td>
<td>Schmidt, ch</td>
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<td></td>
<td>liturgical settings</td>
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<tr>
<td>2/Tuesday</td>
<td>18th Century Evangelical piety &amp; theology: the Lord’s Supper</td>
<td>Schmidt, ch 2; Ruth, ch. 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>2/Wednesday</td>
<td>18th Century Evangelical piety &amp; theology: Preaching &amp; prayer</td>
<td>Wigger, ch 5-6; Ruth, ch 2-3</td>
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<td>2/Thursday</td>
<td>First inklings of revival in the East</td>
<td>Extracts, Woodward</td>
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<td>2/Friday</td>
<td>Kentucky in the 18th century</td>
<td>Eslinger, chs 1-7</td>
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<td>Class trip to early station</td>
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<td>3/Monday</td>
<td>First inklings of revival in the West</td>
<td>Conn. Ev. Magazine; New York Miss. Magazine; Methodist Magazine</td>
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<td>3/Tuesday</td>
<td>mid-term</td>
<td>Eslinger, ch 8; Conkin</td>
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<td>3/Wednesday</td>
<td>The revival in full swing: Presbyterian meetings in Kentucky</td>
<td>Lakin journal; Finley excerpt; Extracts</td>
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<tr>
<td>3/Thursday</td>
<td>The revival in full swing: Methodist meetings in Kentucky</td>
<td>Eslinger, ch 9, Conkin, ch. 2</td>
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<td>3/Friday</td>
<td>The emergence of camp meetings</td>
<td>Extracts, Henkel journal, Ormond journal</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Trip to Cane Ridge</td>
<td>Ruth article; Extracts; Bilhartz ch</td>
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<td>4/Monday</td>
<td>The revival in North Carolina and Georgia</td>
<td>Extracts, Henkel journal, Ormond journal</td>
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<td>4/Tuesday</td>
<td>Spread of the revival across the nation</td>
<td>Ruth, ch, 5; Chandler book</td>
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<td>4/Wednesday</td>
<td>Naming, Standardization and Promotion of Camp meetings</td>
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<td>4/Thursday</td>
<td>Retrospect: theology of church and salvation in revival</td>
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<td>4/Friday</td>
<td>Retrospect: theology of pragmatic worship</td>
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