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## CH 728 Pietism in the Christian Tradition

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**CH 728**

**Pietism in the Christian Tradition**

**Course Theme: Continental Pietism and German-American Religious Traditions**

**J. Steven O'Malley, Instructor**

**Asbury Theological Seminary**

**Spring Semester, 2000**

**Class Description and Objectives:**

This course will have two foci. First, there will be a preliminary examination of the principal figures in Continental (German and Dutch) Pietism of the seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries, with attention given to their writings within the historical contexts. Second, there will be an examination of major representative documents from eighteenth and early nineteenth-century German-American religious traditions, that represent an interaction between Continental Pietist sources and the American historical milieu.

Our purpose is to gain a working knowledge of these Pietist sources, particularly as they have had influence upon significant American religious traditions. Secondary attention will be given to subsequent American denominational developments that bear the imprint of Pietist motifs and which tended to interface those motifs with a variety of missional and programmatic concerns.

While a reading knowledge of German would be helpful, it is not required.

### **Textbooks for Purchase:**

Peter Erb, ed., The Pietists; Classics of Christian Spirituality Series (Paulist Press)

J. Steven O'Malley, Early German-American Evangelicalism (Lanham, MD: Scarecrow/University Press of America, 1995).

F. Ernest Stoeffler, Continental Pietism and American Christianity (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1976). (reprint ed.) (=Stoeffler IV in reading list)

T. Tappert, ed. and tr., P.J. Spener: Pia Desideria (Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1964)

### **Collateral Texts:**

Bach, Jeffrey Alan, Voices of the Turtledoves: The Mystical Language of the Ephrata Cloister (unpublished Ph.D. dissertation, Duke University, 1997), 485 pp.

Benz, Ernst, "Ecumenical Relations between Boston Puritanism and German Pietism: Mather and Francke," Harvard Theological Review 45 (1961), 159-193.

Doctrines and Discipline of the Evangelical Association (1817 or earliest available edition)

Erb, Peter, John Arndt; The True Christianity; Classics of Western Spirituality (Paulist)

Eusden, John, William Ames: Marrow of Divinity (Introduction)

Kisker, Scott, "Radical Pietism and Early German Methodism: John Seybert and the Evangelical Association," Methodist History (April, 1999), 175-188.

Longenecker, Stephen, Piety and Tolerance: Pennsylvania-German Religion (Metuchen, NJ: Scarecrow, 1994)

Miller, George, Practical Christianity (Cleveland, n.d.)  
(original: Kurze und deutliche Lehren zum Wahren und Thätigen Christenthum. Reading, 1814)

Möller, Grete, "Föederalismus und Geschichtsbetrachtung in XVII & XVIII. Jahrhundert," in Zeitschrift für Kirchengeschichte L. (1931), 292-440.

Mulhenberg, Henry Melchior, Correspondence. Vol. 1, (1740-47). Ed. and tr. by H.W. Kleinert and H.T. Lehmann. (Camden, Me: Picton, 1993); Vol. 3 (1763-68), ed. by Kurt Aland (Berlin: de Gruyter, 1990); Vol. 4 (1769-1776), ed. by K. Aland (Berlin: de Gruyter, 1993).

Müller, Thomas J., Die Kirche zwischen zwei Welten: Die Obrigkeitsproblematik bei Heinrich Melchior Muhlenberg und die kirchengründung der deutschen Lutheraner in Amerika. (Stuttgart: Franz Steiner Verlag, 1994) Transatlantische historische Studium, 2. 302pp.

Nelson, James D., "Jacob Albright: Founder, Reformer, or Radical Pietist"  
(unpublished article)

Newcomer, Christian, Journal, Abram Sangrey, ed. (1996 ed.)

O'Malley, J. Steven, "A Distinctive German-American Credo: The United Brethren Confession of Faith," Asbury Theological Journal (spring, 1987), 51-64.

O'Malley, J. Steven, "Mission History of the EUB" (unpublished mss.)

O'Malley, J. Steven, Pilgrimage of Faith: The Legacy of the Otterbeins (Metuchen, NJ: Scarecrow, 1973).

O'Malley, J. Steven, "The EUB Confession of Faith in Comparison with The Methodist Articles of Religion," in Russell E. Richey, William B. Lawrence, and Dennis M. Campbell, United Methodism and American Culture: Doctrines and Disciplines (Abingdon, 1999)

Sattler, Gary, God's Glory; Neighbor's Good: A Brief Introduction to the Life and Writings of August Hermann Francke (1982)

Schaff, Philip, The Creeds of Christendom, I and III (on the Heidelberg Catechism)

Schmidt, Martin, "Epochen der Pietismusforschung," in Der Pietismus als Theologische Erscheinung: Gesammelte Studien zur Geschichte des Pietismus, Band II (Göttingen: Vandenhoeck und Ruprecht, 1984), 34-83.

Schrenk, Gottlob, Gottesreich und Bund im älteren Protestantismus (Gütersloh: C. Bertelsmann, 1923).

Seybert, John, Journal (microfilm, 1821-1855)

Stein, K. James, Philipp Jakob Spener: Pietist Patriarch (Chicago: Covenant Press, 1986)

Stoeffler, F. Ernest, German Pietism During the Eighteenth Century (Leiden: Brill, 1973) (=Stoeffler II on reading list)

Stoeffler, F. Ernest, Mysticism in the Devotional Literature of Colonial Pennsylvania (Lancaster, Pa: Pennsylvania-German Folklore Society, 1949) (=Stoeffler III)

Stoeffler, F. Ernest, The Rise of Evangelical Pietism (Leiden: Brill, 1966) (=Stoeffler I on reading list)

Vogt, Peter, An Authentic Relation (Zinzendorf's American correspondence, 1742) (New York: George Ohms, 1998)

Ward, W.Reginald, The Protestant Evangelical Awakening (Cambridge,1993)

additional titles on Pietist themes to be found in: Pietist and Wesleyan Studies Series, edited by D. Bundy and J.S. O'Malley, and published by Scarecrow/University Press of America

### **Class Procedures:**

1. There will be lectures on the rise and development of Continental Pietism in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, as well as the formation of principal German-American religious traditions in the eighteenth and early nineteenth-centuries. Students are required to attend class sessions and complete a reading program of min. 1000 pages (bibliography to be submitted on last day of class.)  
(10 %)
2. There will be two class group presentations, reflecting the pro/contra/reply format on a team approach. Class members will be organized into working groups for these exercises, and 5-8 page briefs (double-spaced and documented where appropriate) will be prepared by each group for presentation on the day of the exercise. Copies of briefs are to be prepared for all class members.  
(20 %)
3. Two textual studies will be selected and prepared using the following guidelines (they are to be 5-8 pages, double-spaced, and documented where appropriate). They will be presented in class according to the schedule below, with copies to class members, to be made available for reading twenty-four hours before the session
  - a. Define the historical and theological significance of the document within the larger contexts of the Pietist tradition and that of American church history.
  - b. Give a brief review of literature that pertains to the document (primary and secondary).
  - c. Evaluate the historiography represented in # b above.
  - d. Examine the document using the theological and historical categories and perspectives of interpretation represented by the contexts identified in # a above.

e. Conclusions: In light of the findings in # d above, indicate how the existing historiography is vindicated or stands in need of revision.

(20 %)

4. One selected problem in Pietist studies will be developed into a 15-20 page research paper, double-spaced and fully documented. The proposed subject of study (which may be an expanded study of one of the above briefs) is to be submitted by November 23, and the paper will be due by Monday, May 14. Papers will be evaluated in terms of style and content, reflecting a convincingly argued discussion of the proposed problem under investigation. Theological and historical problems stemming from this research will be presented in class (in 2-3 page precis of research being conducted) during a final symposium. This will also provide guidance for completion of the research.

(50%)

**Class Schedule: (3:50-5:05, MW, M 306)**

**(note: collateral reading is given in parentheses; readings are indicated by chapters or pages; see bibliography for full entries, including references to the Stoeffler works as indicated by I-IV.)**

**Readings:**

**note: dates are in parentheses (); authors in parentheses are highly recommended**

February 7 & 9 -- Introduction

-- Classification and Historiography of Pietism (Schmidt article),  
(note: Erb refers to Pietists; Selected Writings)

\*Stoeffler, Rise, 1-23,

\*Erb, Intro.(2/9)

Weeks of Feb. 14 -- Lutheran Pietism: J. Arndt, Spener,  
& 21 Francke

\*Stoeffler, I, 202-243; \*Erb, Arndt, 1  
233-262(14); \*Spener, Pia, I-II (16&

\*Erb, 50-96 on Spener (23); \*Stoeffle

Week of Feb. 28

I, 1-38; \*Erb, 97-166 on Francke (28&

Week of March 6 -- Moravianism: Zinzendorf

\*Stoeffler, I, 131-167; \*Erb, 289-330  
Zinzendorf (6 & 8)

-March 8 -- Pro/contra/reply group discussion:

Halle/Herrnhut/John Wesley  
on the "ordo salutis"

(3/8)

Weeks of March 13

& 20)

--Reformed Pietism: Dutch Precisianism & Federalism, Labadism, F.A. Lampe, & the Herborn Academy

\*Stoeffler,I, 24-29, 109-21,162-  
\*Eusden, Introduction; (Schaff, 529-550, III, 307-355) (13);  
\*Stoeffler,II,217-236,\* JSO,VI (III ,(Möller, Schrenk) (20)

March 22 & Week --Radical Pietism: G.Arnold, the  
of March 27 “Berleberger Bibel” circle, von Hochenau, and G. Tersteegen

\*Stoeffler,II,168-216; \*Erb, 217-  
\*JSO,VIIA (22)  
\*V (24, 27)

March 29

--Württemberg Pietism: A. Bengel & F.C. Oetinger

\*Erb, 253-288 (29

Week of April 10 --The Influence of Pietist Motifs in Eighteenth and Nineteenth-century America (as found in Anabaptist/Radical Pietist, Lutheran, Reformed, and Indigenous Traditions

Stoeffler, (III- recommended) & \*Stoeffler,.IV, 8-11

Text Studies:

The Church of the Brethren and the Ephrata Cloister

\*Stoeffler,IV,Ch. 7  
\*Bach, 71-116 (10)

The River Brethren Confession of Faith

\*Stoeffler, IV, Ch. 3,  
(Schrag, “RB Confession”) (12)

Week of April 17 -- Adaptations of Halle and Herrnhut in America:

The Muhlenberg Journal

\*Stoeffler, IV, Ch. 1 (17)

The Zinzendorf Correspondence:  
The Congregation of God in the Spirit

\*Stoeffler, IV, Ch, 4 (17-19)



Week of April 24 :

-- J. Frelinghuysen and the Heidelberg Catechism \*Stoeffler, IV, 2 (24)

Textual Study: P.W. Otterbein's sermon: "The Salvation-bringing Incarnation" \*JSO, I,II,&IV  
\*Stoeffler IV, 6. (24-

-- New England Puritans & German Pietists (Benz, 159-193)

May 1 -- Pro/contra/reply discussion: Otterbein/the Reformed Coetus/F.Asbury (5/1)

May 8 -- Textual studies:

-- The United Brethren in Christ Confession of Faith & the Journal of Christian Newcomer (Newcomer's Journal)

-- The Doctrine of Entire Sanctification & Christian Perfection in the Evangelical Association, & the Journal of Bishop Seybert (Ev Discipline), (Miller, "Practical Christianity"), \*JSO, "Warmed Heart", (Nelson on Albright, J. Seybert, Journal), \*Kisker on Seybert, in Meth. History, 175-188  
\* JSO, "The EUB Confession", in Campbell, 55-78

Week of May 15:

-- Symposium on Theological and Historical Problems Raised from Research Projects; Conclusions

