

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST HISTORY
SURVEY COURSE
Spring, 2010

Instructor: David Bumbaugh
Thursdays, 9-noon
Kings Chapel Room

Office Hours:
Thursdays, 1:30-3:00 pm
Other times by appointment

This survey course will provide an over-view of Unitarian, Universalist and Unitarian Universalist history from the beginnings in Europe to the present. It will also offer an opportunity for students to explore in depth some aspect of that history. Among the topics to be addressed will be:

The emergence of Unitarian thought in the maelstrom of the Reformation era, and the relation of early Unitarianism to the political and social conflicts of the time.

The emergence of Unitarianism and Universalism in North America, with an exploration of the similarities and the differences between these two expressions of the religious ferment in the early American republic.

Individuals who shaped Unitarian and Universalist thought and institutional structures.

The relation of the two movements to various reform movements.

The road to consolidation in 1961 and the construction and subsequent history of Unitarian Universalism.

REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATION:

1. Students are expected to attend and participate in all class sessions.
2. Each student will be expected to read one or more biographies of women prominent in this history and participate in an in-class conversation concerning their lives and contributions. These conversations will compare and contrast the experience of Unitarian Universalist women who were contemporaries in an effort to enlarge our understanding of the Unitarian, Universalist or Unitarian Universalist movement and their role in the larger culture. In some cases, you may wish to challenge the identification with Unitarianism or Universalism. Students will choose among the following texts:

Olympia Brown--Cote
The First Woman in the Republic: Lydia Maria Child--Kircher

Daughter of Boston, Caroline Healy Dall--Deese
Mary Moody Emerson and the Origins of Transcendentalism--Cole
Margaret Fuller
Discarded Legacy: Florence Ellen Watkins Harper--Boyd
Fanny Kemble
Florence Nightengale: The Making of a Radical Theologian--Webb
Strong-Minded Woman: The Life of Mary Livermore--Hamand
Anna Tilden--Wilder
Mary Wollstonecraft--Flexnor
The Remarkable Mrs Ripley: Sarah Alden Bradford Ripley--Goodwin
Elizabeth Gaskell--Uglow
The Sea Captain's Wife--Hodes
Eden's Outcasts--Matteson
Elizabeth Palmer Peabody: A Reformer On Her Own Terms--Ronda

4. Each student will prepare a twelve-fifteen page paper exploring and researching a critical moment in the development of this history. Examples of topics would include:
Kenneth Patton and the liturgical revolution of the mid-twentieth century
The contribution of Unitarians and Universalists to American hymnody
The history of Unitarianism in Canada
The history of Unitarianism in India
The Humiliati and the emergence of the new Universalism
John Haynes Holmes and the polity crisis of the First World War
The changing role of women in the Unitarian Universalist movement.
Unitarians and Universalists and the Search for Social Justice.
Race, Class and Gender in Unitarian Universalist History
The Legacy of the Black Affairs Council Controversy
The Emergence of the GLTB Community within Unitarian Universalism
The Emergence of Paganism within Unitarian Universalism

In consultation with the instructor, students may develop other topics for this paper, which will be due at the final session, December 11, 2008.

Evaluation:

Grades will be awarded on the following basis: Class Participation 50%, paper: 50%. Students who wish to take the course on a pass/fail basis must speak with the instructor at the beginning of the quarter.

REQUIRED READING: Texts:

Bainton: Hunted Heretic (2005 edition)
Bressler: The Universalist Movement in America
Carpenter: Long Challenge: The Empowerment Controversy
Cassara: Universalism in America
Cleary: A Bold Experiment
Hewett: Racovia

Lyttle: Freedom Moves west
Morrison-Reed: Black Pioneers in a White Denomination
Tucker: Prophetic Sisterhood
West: Crisis and Change
Williams: American Universalism
Wright: Three Prophets of Religious Liberalism

REQUIRED READING: (on line)

Belsham: American Unitarianism
Call: Fellowships: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow
Channing: Unitarianism: Most Favorable to Piety
Commission of Appraisal: Unitarians Face a New Age
Commission on Appraisal: Evaluation of Merger
Emlyn: Humble Inquiry into the Scripture Account of Jesus Christ
Gannett: Francis David
Hopkins:
Norton: The Latest Form of Infidelity
Tucker: Our Prophetic Sisterhood and the Universalist Experience
Unitarian Universalist Association: Free Church in a Changing World pp1-46
Women and Religion Resolution
-----A South Boston Ordination

OTHER RESOURCES ON LINE:

Howe: Doctrine of the Liberal Church from a Historical Standpoint
Johnson: Chicago Universalism
Miller, Perry: Edwards to Emerson
Patton: Plentitude of Being
Songs and Celebrations
Hymns of the Spirit
A Proposed Plan to Consolidate the AUA and the UCA
The Cambridge Platform

RECOMMENDED READING:

Emerson, Dorothy: Standing Before Us
Conkin: American Originals
Grodzins: Theodore Parker
Howe: For Faith and Freedom
The Larger Faith
Skinner
Robinson: The Unitarians and the Universalists
Williams: The Radical Reformation
Wright: Walking Together
Polity

Tentative Schedule:

September 4: Introduction: The Christian Background/The Reformation Setting/Servetus and the Italian Reformation:
Readings: Bainton/ HUNTED HERETIC

September 11: Socinianism in Poland and the Netherlands
Readings: Hewett/ RAKOVIA

September 18: Unitarianism in Transylvania
Readings: Gannett FRANCIS DAVID
_____ / ACT OF RELIGIOUS TOLERATION

September 25: Unitarianism in England
Read: HUMBLE INQUIRY INTO THE SCRIPTURAL ACCOUNT
Conversation: FLORENCE NIGHTENGALE
MARY WOLLSTONECRAFT
ELIZABETH GASKELL

October 2: Unitarian Beginnings in North America
Read: Edwards/SINNERS IN THE HANDS OF AN ANGRY GOD
Belsham/ AMERICAN UNITARIANISM
Channing/ UNITARIAN CHRISTIANITY
UNITARIANISM MOST FAVORABLE TO PIETY
Conversation: MARY MOODY EMERSON
SOPHIA ALDEN BRADFORD RIPLEY
ELIZABETH PALMER PEABODY
ANNA TILDEN

October 9: Transcendentalism
Read: Emerson/ THE DIVINITY SCHOOL ADDRESS
Norton/ THE LATEST FORM OF INFIDELITY
Parker/ THE TRANSIENT AND THE PERMANENT
_____ / A SOUTH BOSTON ORDINATION
Conversation: EDEN'S OUTCASTS
MARGARET FULLER
CAROLINE HEALY DAHL
LYDIA MARIA CHILD

October 16: The Western Conference and the Opening to Non-Christians
Read: Lyttle/ FREEDOM MOVES WEST
Tucker/ PROPHETIC SISTERHOOD

October 23: Universalist Beginnings in North America
Read: Bressler/ THE UNIVERSALIST MOVEMENT IN AMERICA

Williams/ AMERICAN UNIVERSALISM

Tucker/ PROPHETIC SISTERHOOD THE UNIVERSALIST EXP.

October 30: The Age of Reform/The Social Gospel

READ: Cassara: UNIVERSALISM IN AMERICA

Conversation: KEMBLE

LIVERMORE

HARPER

BROWN

THE SEA CAPTAIN'S WIFE

November 6: Age of Decline and The Road to Merger

Read: Commission of Appraisal: UNITARIANS FACE A NEW AGE

_____ / HUMANIST MANIFESTO

Call/ FELLOWSHIPS

Cleary/ A BOLD EXPERIMENT

November 13: Unitarian Universalist Beginnings

Read: West/ TIMES OF CRISIS

Hopkins/ Journal of UU History

UUA/ FREE CHURCH IN A CHANGING WORLD pp 1-46

November 20: The Black Affairs Council

Read: Morrison-Read/ BLACK PIONEERS

Carpenter/ LONG CHALLENGE

November 27: THANKSGIVING BREAK

December 4: Emerging Dynamic: The Seven Principles; Anti-Racism, Anti-Oppression

Read: WOMEN IN RELIGION RESOLUTION

Commission on Appraisal/ EVALUATION OF MERGER

December 11: Final Papers