The purpose of this course is to explore the history of religion in Canada. For the most part, it will focus on the Judeo-Christian tradition. Native spirituality and the “religions of the world” will also be incorporated into the course. This admittedly narrow scope reflects the history of religions in Canada. Until recently, when immigration from non-European countries has had a significant impact on Canada’s multi-cultural character, Christianity has dominated the religious landscape. Encounter between Christianity and other faiths –including native spirituality and world religions- will form a major theme throughout the course.

This course is not designed as a survey, but rather a forum for in-depth study of religious beliefs, worship practices, and missionary activity. Themes will include: the missionary impulse; Protestant-Catholic relations; religion as a source of identity; Church-State relations; revivalism and evangelicalism; religious bigotry and tolerance; impact of science and modern thought; and the issue of secularization.

The overarching narrative will argue that Canada has moved from a an age of faith that were dominated by the “historic” churches –notably, Roman Catholic, Church of England, Methodists, Presbyterians, and to a lesser extent Baptists and Lutherans. Sometime in the late nineteenth century, Canadians experienced the seeds of religious doubt. From the late Victorian age, the historic churches in Canada have been losing their predominance. We now live in an age in which the churches are in retreat and many religious people have denominational (or church) affiliation. Indeed according to the census taker the fastest growing religion in Canada over the last forty years has been “no religion”. Religious diversity has replaced the monopoly of the historic churches. The religious landscape has changed in the most profound ways since Canada’s beginnings and it is the purpose of this course to explore the nature of the changes and the reasons for them.

**Assignments**

1. Documentary Analysis       DUE Mon. March 3, 2008...............30%
2. Documentary Analysis       DUE Mon. April 7, 2008 .................30%
3. Take-Home Final Examination DUE Fri. April 25, 2008.............40%
**Textbook** (available in the bookstore)

Choquette, Robert, *Canada’s Religions: A Historical Introduction* (University of Ottawa Press), pb

**Lecture Outline and Readings** (All the reading assignments are posted on Blackboard, with the exception of those from the text by Choquette)

Chapter 3 of Choquette should be read to acquire a basic understanding of the European background.

Week #1
- Canadian Religious Historiography
- Native Spirituality, Choquette Chapter 2
- Jesuit Missions and Conversion, Choquette Chapters 4&5

**Readings:** Greer, “Colonial Saints: Gender Race and Hagiography in New France”, OR Goddard, “Converting the Sauvage: Jesuit and Montagnais in Seventeenth Century New France”

Week #2
- Catholicism in New France, Choquette Chapters 6&7

**Readings:** Wallot, “Religion and French Canadian Mores in the Early Nineteenth Century”
- The Established Church in British North America, Choquette Chapter 8 & pp.159-165
- The Great Awakening in Nova Scotia

Week #3
- Frontier Religion, Revivals and Camp Meetings
- Evangelical Religion and Moral Reform, Choquette, pp.165-173; 226-241

**Readings:** Birrell, “D.I.K. Rine and the Gospel Temperance Movement in Canada”
- Voluntarism and the End of Establishment, Choquette Chapter 11

Week #4
- Ultramontanism and the Catholic Church in Quebec, Choquette, pp. 241-252
- The Devotional Revolution and Irish Catholicism

- The Ukrainians and the Eastern Rite Tradition
Week #5
-Religious Practice, Piety & Gender
-Attitudes to Death and Dying

READING WEEK

Week #6 Choquette, pp.255-266, 311-327
-Darwin and the Challenge of Evolution
-Biblical Criticism
Reading: Moir, “Frank, Scientific Discussion”
-The Problem of Doubt

Week #7
-The New Certainty?
-The Social Gospel Choquette, pp. 331-339
-Persistence of the Evangelical Creed & the Rise of Urban Revivalism

Week #8
-Missions to Natives (Residential Schools)
Reading: Greenwell, “Picturing Civilization: Missionary narratives and the Margins of Mimicry”
-Missions to Immigrants in the Canadian City
Reading: Wang, “Organised Protestant Missions to Chinese Immigrants in Canada, 1885-1923”
-Missions to Foreign Lands (China & India)

Week #9
-The Sunday Question: From Holy Day to Holiday?
-New Age Religions
Week #10
-Canadian Churches at War
-Mennonites and Pacifism
-Impact of War: Rethinking Missions

Week #11
-Canadian Religious Depression?
-Fundamentalism in Canada
-Religion and Radio
Reading: Johnson, “Early Trials of Protestant Radio”

Week #12
-The Jewish Community in Canadian Life
-Anti-Semitism, the Churches and the Holocaust
Reading: Palmer, “Politics, Religion and Anti-Semitism in Alberta, 1880-1950”
-Religious Dissent and the State During World War II: The Case of the Jehovah’s Witnesses

Week #13
-Revival in the Age of Conformity, Choquette, Chapter 17
Reading: Kee, “Bobby-Sox to Bach: Charles Templeton and the Commodification of Popular Protestantism in Post World War II Canada”
-The Immigrant Church Choquette, Chapter 18
-Post Christian Canada?
Reading: Noll, “What Happened to Christian Canada?”