PROPHETS PRIESTS & PRODIGALS
SELECTED TOPICS IN THE HISTORY OF RELIGION
IN CANADA

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 to 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 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 2, 2009..................30%
2. Documentary Analysis DUE Mon. April 6, 2009 ...................30%
3. Take-Home Final Examination DUE Fri. April 24, 2009.........40%
Information about the documentary analysis is contained on attached sheets that are also available on the History 435 Blackboard site.

Also on the History 435 Blackboard site is an extensive bibliography on Canadian religious history, organized by the major themes that dominate the historiography. It is expected that this bibliography will be utilized to help students identify secondary sources to assist them in analyzing the documents they choose.

The take-home Final Examination will be distributed on the final day of classes, Friday April 17, 2009. It is due in my office no later than 4:00 p.m. on Friday April 24, 2009. No examination can exceed what can be contained in a University of Calgary examination booklet – one side of the page only.

The examination will consist of essay style questions that are based on the main themes of the course. Students will be required to answer TWO questions and they will be expected to incorporate the readings from the assigned articles in their answers.

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 the History 435 Blackboard site, with the exception of those from the text by Choquette)

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

Week #1: Native Spirituality and Jesuit Missions
Reading:
-Choquette, Chapters 2, 4-5.

Week #2: Popular Religion in the Colonies
Reading:
-Choquette, Chapters 6-8 & pp. 159-165

Week #3: Church and State/ Evangelicalism and Reform
Reading:
-Choquette, pp. 165-173, Chapter 11, 226-241, 286-295
-Noel, “Dry Patriotism: The Chiniquy Crusade”
**Week #4: The Catholic Church and Identity in the Nineteenth Century**
Reading:
- Choquette, pp. 173-177, 241-252
- Clarke, “The Parish and the Hearth: Women’s Confraternities and the Devotional Revolution Among Irish Catholics of Toronto”,
- J.R. Miller “Anti-Catholic Thought in Victorian Canada”

**Week #5: Popular Piety and Church-Going**
Reading:
- Christie, “Carnal Connection and Other Misdemeanours: Continuity and Change in the Presbyterian Church Courts, 1830-1890”
- Marks, Lynne, Railing, Tattling and general Rumour: Gossip, Gender and Church Regulation in Upper Canada”

**READING WEEK**

**Week #6: Onset of Doubt**
Reading:
- Choquette, pp.255-266, 311-327
- Marshall, “Clergymen and the Problem of Religious Doubt”

**Week #7: Fracturing of the Evangelical Consensus & Rise of Social Gospel**
Reading:
- Choquette, pp. 331-338
- Warne, “Nellie McClung’s Social Gospel”

**Week # 8: The Age of Missions**
Reading:
- Choquette, Ch. 10
- Ion, “Missions and Empires: A Case Study of Canadians in the Japanese empire, 1895-1941”

**Week # 9: Urban Revivalism/From Holy Day to Holiday?**
Reading:
- Kee, Kevin, “A Night at the Theatre: Hugh Crossley, John Hunter, and the Marketing of Late Nineteenth Century Mainstream Protestant Revivalism”
- Little, “Railways, Revivals, and Rowdyism: the Beebe Adventist Camp Meeting, 1875-1900”
Week #10: Churches, War & Pacifism
Reading:
-Marshall, “Battling With the Great War”

Week #11: The Impact of War & Rise of Fundamentalism
Reading:
-Marshall, “Premier E.C. Manning, Back to the Bible Hour and Fundamentalism in Canada”

Week #12: Judaism, Anti-Semitism and World War II
Reading:
-Palmer, “Politics, Religion and Anti-Semitism in Alberta, 1880-1950”
-Bialystock, “The Holocaust and Canadian Jews in the 1930s and 1940s”

Week #13: After 1945 Religious Tolerance & the Emergence of Post-Christian Canada
Reading:
-Choquette, pp. 340-350, Chapter 17-18
-Noll, “What Happened to Christian Canada?”