



Pentecost & Prosperity
The Ethics of Pentecostal-Charismatic Movements
HDS 3251
Fall Term 2014

Professor Jonathan L. Walton

Tues/Thurs 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

Pusey Room (upstairs behind the balcony of the Memorial Church)

Office Hours: Wednesdays 2p.m.-5p.m./Thursdays 1:15p.m.-3p.m.

Please contact Elizabeth Montgomery to schedule an appointment

elizabeth_montgomery@harvard.edu

617-496-7116

Course Description

Pentecostal-Charismatic movements represent the fastest growing segments of global Christianity. The aim of this lecture course is to trace the historical and ethical formations of such movements in several global contexts, including, but not limited to, the United States, Latin America, West Africa, and South Korea. We will pay particular attention to rationales for conversion and commitment, perceived social and/or political capital that believers accrue, as well as a theological basis for a "prosperity lifestyle" and consumerist ethic.

Course Requirement

Attendance; Completion of assigned reading; one in-class group presentation; critical reading journals due at assigned dates (1 page per reading date; i.e. 2 pages per week); and your choice between a.) a critical essay to be submitted at the end of the semester based on a the particular ways Pentecostalism has taken root and made a social impact upon an identified community b.) three sermons (4 pages double-spaced per sermon) that address from a theological/ethical perspective the implications of Charismatic renewal on so-called "mainline

communities,” or c.) four editorials addressing a pressing/relevant topic with the intent of publication about the theological and political impact of Pentecostalism. Each editorial should address a distinct community and/or theme; i.e., healing and access to healthcare in rural communities, gender politics of Pentecostalism and domestic violence, or economic inequality and the role of the prosperity gospel....(One per week beginning at week 7. Each editorial should be 700-1200 words.)

Grade Distribution:

In-Class Group Presentation	25 points
Attendance/Discussion Participation	10 points
Critical reading journals	25 points
Final Critical Essay/Sermons/Editorials	40 points

Required Texts:

Scott Billingsley, *It's a New Day: Race and Gender in the Charismatic Movement*

Anthea Butler, *Women in the Church of God in Christ*

R. Andrew Chestnut, *Born Again in Brazil: The Pentecostal Pathogens of Poverty*

Gaston Espinosa, *William J. Seymour and the Origins of Global Pentecostalism: A Biography and Documentary History*

Paul Gifford, *Ghana's New Christianity*

Ruth Marshall, *Political Spiritualities: The Pentecostal Revolution in Nigeria*

Donald E. Miller, editor. *Spirit and Power: The Growth and Global Impact of Pentecostalism*

Grant Wacker, *Heaven Below: Early Pentecostals and American Culture*

Schedule for the Term

September 2nd-4th

Review syllabus, schedule, introductory comments

Jay R. Case, "And Ever the Twain Shall Meet: The Holiness Missionary Movement and the Birth of World Pentecostalism, 1870-1920," in *Religion and American Culture: A Journal of Interpretation*, Vol 16, No. 2 (Summer, 2006), pp. 125-159

Deborah Kaye Cole, "Historiographic Approaches to Asian Pentecostalism," *Asian Journal of Pentecostal Studies*, Vol 9, No. 1 (January 2006), pp. 59-82

September 9th-11th

Pierre Bourdieu, "Social space and symbolic power," in *Sociological Theory*, Vol 7, No 1 (spring 1989), pp 14-25.

Bradford Verter, "Spiritual Capital: Theorizing Religion with Bourdieu against Bourdieu" in *Sociological Theory*, Vol. 21, No 2 (Spring 2003), pp 150-174

Gaston Espinosa, *William J. Seymour and the Origins of Global Pentecostalism*

September 16th-18th

Espinosa, *William J. Seymour*

Grant Wacker, *Heaven Below: Early Pentecostals and American Culture*

September 23rd-25th

Wacker, *Heaven Below*

September 30th-October 2nd

Anthea Butler, *Women in the Church of God in Christ*

October 7th-9th

Donald Miller, ed. *The Growth and Impact of Global Pentecostalism*

Introduction, Chapters 3, 4, 5

October 14th-16th

R. Andrew Chestnut, *Born Again in Brazil*

October 21st-23rd

Miller, *The Growth and Impact*

Chapters 6, 8, 9, 12

Ruth Marshall, *Political Spiritualities: The Pentecostal Revolution in Nigeria*

October 28th-30th

Ruth Marshall, *Political Spiritualities*

November 4th-6th

Paul Gifford, *Ghana's New Christianity*

November 11th-13th

Miller, *The Growth and Impact*, Chapter 13

Wonsuk Ma, "Pentecostal Worship in Asia: Its Theological Implications and Contributions," *Asian Journal of Pentecostal Studies*, Vol. 10 Issue, 1 (January 2007), pp. 136-152.

November 18th-20th

Isabelle Barker, "Charismatic Economies: Pentecostalism, Economic Restructuring, and Social Reproduction," *New Political Science*, Vol 29. Issue 4 (December 2007), pp 407-427

Jonathan L. Walton, "Stop Worrying and Start Sowing! A Phenomenological Account of the Ethics of Divine Investment," in *Pentecostalism and Prosperity: The Socio-Economics of Global Charismatic Movements*, edited by Amos Yong and Katy Attanasi. Palgrave Macmillan. 2012. pp. 107-129

November 25th-December 2nd

Scott Billingsley, *Its a New Day: Race and Gender in the Charismatic Movement*