

CHHI 70293/80293/90293

Issues in American Life and Thought: USA Christian Liberal/Progressivist Theologies
Friday 9:30-12 noon 3 Semester Hours

Instructor: James Duke

Prerequisites: None

Description of Content:

This course attempts an overview of the most notably influential of liberal/progressivist Christian theologians and theological movements in the USA from colonial times to the present. In so doing it tracks the ever-changing meanings of such labels as “conservative or liberal” and “traditionalist or progressivist.” Students may in their final paper focus on a figure, movement or issue of special interest to them, relating to the liberal/progressivist theological developments.

Class Procedures: Mainly group discussions of readings, with some lecture and student presentations

Requirements:

1. Regular class attendance, and preparation for productive contributions to discussion
2. Weekly reading reports of 1 or 2 pages identifying key points of the readings and questions worthy of further group discussion.
3. Final Exercises—either 3a or 3b
3a: a take home essay exam responding to 3 questions (6/8 pages each)
3b. a take home essay exam of 1 question (4/5 pages) and a research paper on a topic chosen in consultation with the instructor (15 pages.)

Required Texts Note: Vendors prices vary widely.

Toulouse, Mark, and James O. Duke, eds. *Makers of Christian Theology in America*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1997. ISBN: 0-687-00766-6 pbk. \$32.90.

Dorrien, Gary. *The Making of American Liberal Theology: Imagining Progressive Religion, 1805 - 1900*. Westminister John Knox Press; 2001). ISBN 978-0-664-22354-0 pbk \$38.00

Dorrien, Gary. *The Making of American Liberal Theology: Idealism, Realism, and Modernity, 1900-1950*. Westminister-John Knox. ISBN: 0-664-22355-9 pbk \$55.00

4. Dorrien, Gary. *The Making of American Liberal Theology: Crisis, Irony, and Postmodernity, 1950-2005*. Westminister-John Knox, 2006. ISBN-13: 978-664-2235-4; ISBN-10: 0-664-22356-7 pbk \$37.08

5. Other required resources, e.g., primary source readings, internet links, and handouts, provided cost-free by the instructor.

Grading procedures:

Weekly reading reports = 20%

Final paper = 60%

Class participation overall = 20%