Instructor: Timothy S. Lee

Prerequisites: None

Description of Content:

The current bifurcation of US Protestantism into Liberalism/Progressivism and Conservatism/Fundamentalism traces its roots back to the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, with the Fundamentalist-Modernist conflict of the 1920s and 1930s being the most illustrative. This course explores the social and theological background of this conflict. It examines, in particular, the rise of premillennialism in US Protestantism and thoughts of two representative figures in the conflict: Harry Emerson Fosdick and J. Gresham Machen, champions, respectively, of Modernism and Fundamentalism.

Class Procedure: Seminar format with presentations, discussions, and audio-visual presentations

Requirements (tentative): 1) class participation, 2) class presentations, 3) two reflection papers, 4) one research proposal, 5) one research paper (18–20 pages)

Required Texts


Fosdick, Harry Emerson. “Shall the Fundamentalists Win?” (available online)


Grading Procedures (tentative): Class participation and cooperation, 10%; two reflection papers, 30%; student presentations, 20%; research proposal, 5%; research paper, 35%