
HL 248

Ecumenism - Shaped by Our Histories

Time: Mondays and Wednesdays, 8:30 – 9:50 am.

Instructor: Dr. Gordon Jensen phone: 966-7866

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Course Description:

This course explores the historical development of the church in Canada in general, and the *Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada* in particular, against the backdrop of an ecumenical perspective. The first part of the course will cover the historical background of the ELCIC. This first part of this course is designed to help students situate the development and commitment to the ecumenical involvements of the ELICC in its historical perspective, and in relationship to their ecumenical partners. In the second half of the course, the class will look at the ecumenical agreements and cooperative ventures that the ELCIC is involved in. Students will discover how our history is shaped and affected our self-understanding as a church, and it will help us to identify the gifts and the baggage which our church brings to the ecumenical scene within Canada and internationally.

Student Outcomes:

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

1. Name and describe the important historical events in the Canadian churches and how Lutheranism developed in the Canadian context
2. Analyze and discuss our ecumenical contributions as a church, and the important role history plays in shaping this self-understanding.
3. Record and document an oral history of a member of a local congregation, compare it to an "official history," in that congregation, and be able to interpret and integrate that history into a contribution to ecumenism.
4. State and explain to parishioners the main contents of three ecumenical dialogues and cooperative ventures in which the ELCIC is involved, either directly or through its membership in the Lutheran World Federation and the World Council of Churches, including their implications for them as members of ELCIC congregations.

Required Texts:

Eric W. Gritsch, *Fortress Introduction to Lutheranism*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1994. (this text is also very useful for congregational libraries)

Norman J. Threinen, *A Religious-Cultural Mosaic: A History of Lutherans in Canada*. Lutheran Historical Institute Monograph Series, Number 1. Vulcan, AB.: Today's Reformation Press, 2006.

Various ecumenical documents, which can be accessed on the internet or on the professor's website (www.gjlts.com) An ID and password for access to documents will be given in class.

Starting Bibliography:

E. Theodore Bachmann, *The United Lutheran Church in America, 1918-1962*. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress Press, 1997.

Carl R. Cronmiller, *A History of The Lutheran Church in Canada*, Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Canada, 1961.

George O. Evenson, *Adventuring for Christ: The Story of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Canada*, Calgary: Foothills Lutheran Press, 1974.

Walter Freitag, *Prospect and Promise of Lutheran Unity in Canada*. Calgary: Foothills Lutheran Press, 1974.

_____, *The Ordination of Women: Challenge For Canadian Lutheran Unity*. Saskatoon: Mr Zip Printing, 1978.

John Webster Grant, ed., *The Churches and the Canadian Experience: A Faith and Order Study of the Christian Tradition*. Toronto: The Ryerson Press, 1963.

_____, *The Church in the Canadian Era*. Updated and Expanded. Burlington, ON.: Welch Publishing Company Inc., 1988.

James E. Griffiss, *The Anglican Vision*. The New Church's Teaching Series, Volume 1. Toronto: Anglican Book Centre, 1997. *Part 1 covers the origins of Anglicanism*.

Eric W. Gritsch, *A History of Lutheranism*, Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2002. (a more detailed treatment of Lutheran Church history than is found in *Fortress Introduction to Lutheranism*).

Fred W. Meuser, *The Formation of the American Lutheran Church*. Columbus: The Wartburg Press, 1958.

John S. Moir, *Church and State in Canada: 1627-1867*. Toronto: McClelland and Stewart Ltd, 1967.

E. Clifford Nelson, *Lutherans in North America*, Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1972.

Douglas J. Wilson, *The Church Grows in Canada*. Toronto: Canadian Council of Churches, 1966.

Course Requirements:

1. Completion of all reading assignments at the time required; taking part in discussion in class, regular attendance.
10% of the grade
2. Oral History project in a local congregation (see separate sheets), due November 5, 2008.
20% of the grade
3. Two 10-minute presentations in class on assigned topics: one in some aspect of one's own denominational history, and a second on some aspect of ecumenism. Each presentation is to cover the basic issues of the topic. A written report is to be handed in to the professor. The presentations will be strictly timed, and students will not be permitted to go beyond the 10 minute limit. This means that the student will need to be very clear and concise about their topic.
40% of the grade
4. A 14-15 page final paper on some historical aspect of ecumenism in Canada. This topic is to be discussed with your professor, and is due by noon on December 5, 2008.
30% of the grade

Course Schedule:

Note: readings marked with an asterisk (*) can be found on Professor Jensen's website, www.gilts.com

Week 1: September 8 & 10:

-Introduction

-Readings:

- The Growth and Development of the World Council of Churches* *
- Ellen A. Macek, *The History of The Ecumenical Movement* *
- Phyllis Anderson, "Formation of an Ecumenical Consciousness" *The Ecumenical Review* 57 No 1 (January 2005), 3-11 *

-Topics:

- The development of the study of history
- How our contributions to Ecumenism are shaped by our history as a church
- Introduction to the background to, and the development of, Ecumenism
- Common approaches to ecumenism
- Expectations of the course

Week 2: September 15 & 17:

-Historical Overview of Churches in Canada – Setting the Framework

-Readings: *The Churches and the Canadian Experience*, 1-93. (on reserve)

- Oral History Project* *
- Guidelines for Oral History* *
- Tips for interviews* *
- Fact Sheet for Oral History* *
- Faith Rohrbough, "History as a Resource for Parish Ministry" *

-Topics:

- Introduction to the Oral History Project
- The English Church Experience in Canada
- The French Church Experience in Canada
- Immigrant Church Experience in Canada

Week 3: September 22 & 24:

-Lutherans in North America

-Readings: *Gritsch* 3-94.

Topics:

- the beginnings and the development of Lutheranism on the continent
- relationship of Lutheran churches to other churches and to society
- the role of the Lutheran Confessions
- the beginnings of synodical affiliations; theological debates

Week 4: September 29 & October 1:

-The Lutheran and Anglican Experience in Eastern and Central Canada in the 18-19th Centuries

-Readings: Threinen, 1-68

Topics:

- the early struggles of the church
- the role of the church in Canadian society
- theological debates, development of seminaries
- interactions with other denominations

Week 5: October 6 & 8:

-The Lutheran and Anglican Experience in Western Canada to 1939

-Readings: Threinen, 69-125

-Topics:

- ‘development’ of the West through immigration
- role of the church in society
- theological debates, beginnings of “mergers,” development of seminaries
- interactions with other denominations,
- movement towards use of English in worship

Week 6: October 15: (October 13th is Thanksgiving Day)

-The Lutheran and Anglican Experience in Western Canada after 1939

-Readings: Threinen, 127-47

Topics:

- Refugee resettlement – formation of the CLWR
- Missionaries of the Lutheran Churches in Canada
- movement toward visible unity amongst Lutherans
- missionaries, relief agencies and social justice movements
- theological controversies
- affect of the ‘baby boom’ and other social factors upon the church

October 20 & 22: No Class – Reading Week

Week 7: October 27 & 29:**-The Movement toward an Independent Canadian Lutheran Church**

-Readings: Threinen, 149-82

(all on reserve shelf)

-William Hordern, "Canadian Culture and the Gospel," *Consensus* 1 No. 2 (1975), 7-14;

-_____, "Canadian Lutheranism, Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow," *Consensus* 13 No. 2 (1987), 5-66:

-Walter Freitag, *The Ordination of Women: Challenge for Canadian Lutheran Unity*, 34-67, 94-105.

-:H. Frederick Reisz, Jr., "The Authority Of The Bible In The Lutheran Tradition" *

-Handout: "The understanding of Scriptures" *

Topics:

- Lutheran church mergers in the USA and their effect on the church in Canada
- the quest for a "made in Canada" church for Lutherans
- theological issues
- struggles along the way

Week 8: November 3 & 5:**-Our Recent Past**

-Readings: Threinen, 183-96

Statement on Sacramental Practices *

The Evangelical Declaration *

-*The Plan of Union and Bylaws*, The Anglican Church of Canada, Christian Churches (Disciples of Christ) in Canada, and the United Church of Canada.1973.

-Topics:

- The ELCIC from its merger in 1986 to the present
- Issues for the churches:
 - theological debates, the changing structure, shifting self-understandings
 - challenges: blessings of same-sex couples; homosexuality, the formation of 'conservative' groups; books of worship, sacramental practices, diaconal ministry
- the attempts at merger between the Anglican and United Churches

Week 9: November 12: (Note: Professor gone on November 10)**-Growth in Agreement: Settling Doctrinal Issues Together: Canadian and International Dialogues and Conversations affecting Canadians**

-Readings:

-Alan P.F. Sell, "The Role of Bilateral Dialogues within the One Ecumenical Movement," *Ecumenical Review* 46 (Oct 1994), 453-60

-*The Waterloo Declaration*

-Topics:

- Approaching Bilateral Dialogues with Integrity
- The Waterloo Declaration* – ACC and ELCIC

Week 10: November 17 & 19:**- Growth in Agreement: Settling Doctrinal Issues Together: Bilateral Dialogues (North American and International, continued)****-Readings:**

- The Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification* and related documents (Annex, Official Common Statement, Action Taken on JDDJ by LWF Council 1998; Vatican Response to JDDJ, 1998) *
- The Gift of Authority*, (ARCIC) *
- Michael Root, *The Gift of Authority – An Observer’s Report and Analysis*,” *The Ecumenical Review* 57 no 1 (January 2000), 57-71. *
- Mary: Grace and Hope in Christ* (ARCIC) *

-Topics:

- Lutheran and Roman Catholic dialogue, especially on the topic of justification
- Anglican and Roman Catholic dialogues

Week 11: November 24 & 26:**- Addressing Doctrinal Issues Together: Multilateral Dialogues and Obstacles****-Readings:**

- Baptism, Eucharist, Ministry* *
- Dominus Iesus* *
- Questions and Answers about Dominus Iesus* *

-Topics:

- Baptism, Eucharist, Ministry
- Who is the true church? Roman Catholic ecclesiology in “*Dominus Iesus*”
- Evolving nature of the CCC, the WCC, and denominational international alliances

Week 12: December 1 & 3:**-Working it Out Together: Coalitions, Covenants, and Convergences****-Readings:**

- *Ecumenical Considerations for Interfaith Dialogue* (WCC) *
- Other readings, TBA

-Topics:

- the KAIROS coalition; other coalitions involving churches on national level; chaplaincies; working together on the local level; local coalitions
- covenants among denominations on local levels
- ecumenical shared ministries
- denominational educations and shared ministries

Presentation Topics - History Section

Date:	Lutheran Church History Topics	Student:
September 22	1. Muhlenberg and the founding of the Lutheran Church in North America	
September 29	2. The Development of Lutheranism in Atlantic Canada	
October 1	3. The Development of Lutheranism in Eastern Canada	
	4. The Development of Anglicanism in Eastern Canada	
October 8	5. The Importance of the Manitoba Synod	
	6. Canadian Lutheran missionaries	
	7. The Development of Lutheran Seminaries in Canada	
October 15	8. The mergers leading to the formation of the ALC and the LCA, and their impact on the Lutheran Churches in Canada	
	9. Issues of Language as dividing and uniting the Lutheran Church	
	10. The Development of Canadian Lutheran World Relief	
October 27	11. Attempts at a three way merger in Western Canada	
	12. The role of the authority of Scripture in merger negotiations	
October 29	13. The Ordination of women in the Lutheran Church	
	14. The Ordination of women in the Anglican Church of Canada and the United Church of Canada	
November 3	15. The Formation of the ELCIC – obstacles and opportunities	
	16. <i>Statement on Sacramental Practices</i>	
November 5	17. The changing structure of the ELCIC and the <i>Evangelical Declaration</i>	

Presentation Topics - Ecumenical Section

Date:	Ecumenical Topic:	Student:
November 12	1. <i>The Waterloo Declaration</i> : Review of the Agreement	
	2. <i>The Waterloo Declaration</i> : Its implementation and its practical implications	
November 17	2. <i>The Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification</i> : Review of the Document	
	3. The History and Role of the Lutheran World Federation and its Assemblies	
November 19	4. <i>The Gift of Authority</i> (ARCIC) Review of the Document	
	5. <i>Mary: Grace and Hope in Christ</i> (ARCIC) Review of the Document	
November 24	6. <i>Baptism, Eucharist, and Ministry</i> : Review of the Document	
	7. <i>Baptism, Eucharist, and Ministry</i> : The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Canada and the Lutheran Church of America responses	
	8. <i>Baptism, Eucharist, and Ministry</i> : The Anglican Church of Canada and United Church of Canada responses	
November 26	9. <i>Dominus Iesus</i> : Review of the Document	
	10. The History and Role of the World Council of Churches and the Canadian Council of Churches	
December 1	11. KAIROS: Its History, Role, and Highlights	
December 3	12. Ecumenical Shared Ministries	