

THE AMISH, THE MENNONITES, AND ANABAPTISM

ANTC 306

Spring, 2005

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Office Hours:
MTW 9-9:45
TH 2-3
Or by Appointment

I. Introduction to the Course

Challenging the notion of a monolithic Eurocentric influence, this course will explore the evolution of one dominant, western, Christian philosophy—Anabaptism—and investigate the way in which this philosophy has influenced widely varying responses to different environmental, cultural, political, and historic conditions. In investigating the cultures of the Amish, the Mennonites and Hutterites, we will hope to understand better the ways in which a people's belief system is shaped by particular cultural, economic, and social situations and, in turn, shapes the way in which adherents deal with these situations. Ideally, in exploring the construction of Amish and Mennonite identities in particular, and Anabaptist identities in general, we will be challenged to consider the "naturalness" of our own belief systems and to confront the ethnocentricity inherent in all cultures.

Texts:

Dyck, Cornelius J. 1993. *An Introduction to Mennonite History*. (3rd ed.)
Scottsdale, PA: Herald Press.

Kraybill, Donald B. 2002. *The Riddle of Amish Culture*. (rev. ed.) Baltimore,
MD: Johns Hopkins University Press.

Additional Readings on Blackboard (indicated by *)

II. Course Policies

Class:

You are expected to come to class and to come prepared to discuss the readings for section under study. The course outline lists the readings for each section. There will be daily reading quizzes and periodic short writing assignments. Your performance on these will contribute towards the 10% of the grade devoted to class participation.

Your regular attendance contributes to the continuity of classroom discussion and benefits you and your colleagues in the class. You are allowed three "free cuts" for such purposes as illness, interviews, or family gatherings. Any additional absence will result in a 3 % reduction from the final class average, which is based on a 100% scale. There will be no "excused absences."

All assignments are due on the date scheduled. No late work will be accepted. There will be two exams, both of which will be cumulative. The first will be an in-class exam. The second will be a take-home exam.

Plagiarism, presenting another person's ideas or work as your own, is unacceptable and will result in a 0.0 grade on the assignment and a possible referral to the Judicial Hearing Board with my recommendation that you receive a failing grade in the course. If, at any time, you are in doubt about whether you need to document material or how to do so, talk with me or consult the College Writing Center.

Formal Written Assignments:

This course meets the WI General Education requirement. In addition to shorter writing assignments, you will have two formal (2-3 page) papers this semester, each of which will allow you to explore in more depth a subject covered in the course. Topics for these papers will be announced, and there will be a mandatory peer-review of your working draft before you turn in the final version. You will submit the final version with earlier working drafts and the comments from the peer review.

In addition, you will turn in a research proposal and an annotated bibliography, with a detailed introduction, containing a minimum of 10 sources (5 to be journal articles). The proposal and bibliography will set the stage for future research.

Method of Evaluation:

Class Participation	10%
(including reading quizzes and in-class writing)	
Midterm Examination	20%
Final Examination	20%
Formal Writing 1	10%
Formal Writing 2	10%
Research Proposal	5%
Annotated Bibliography	25%

Grading Scale:

93—100... 4.0 (A)	73—75 ... 2.0 (C)
89—92 ... 3.7 (A-)	69—72 ... 1.7 (C-)
86—88 ... 3.3 (B+)	66—68 ... 1.3 (D+)
83—85 ... 3.0 (B)	63—65 ... 1.0 (D)
79—82 ... 2.7 (B-)	60—62 ... 0.7 (D-)
76—78 ... 2.3 (C+)	0 — 59 ... 0.0 (F)

Course Outline:

PART I—ANABAPTISM

1/25 *Introduction*

1/27—2/3 *The Historical Context*

Readings: Dyck, chs. 1, 2

Video: Martin Luther

(Summary due, 2/8)

2/8—2/15 *Anabaptist Theology*

Readings: Dyck, chs. 3, 8

Schleictheim Confession*

Dortrecht Confession*

The Two Kingdoms*

Video: The Radicals

(2/8 formal essay 1 assigned; peer review 2/17; final draft due 2/24)

2/17—3/31 *The Evolution of Distinct Anabaptist Cultures*

(2/17-3/3) The Mennonites

Readings: Dyck, chs. 5, 6, 7, 9

Cavan, “From Social Movement to Organized Society”*

(2/24 – research proposal assigned; due 3/3)

(3/8-3/24) The Amish Division

Readings: Kraybill, pp. 3-8

Dyck, pp. 236-238

(3/29-3/31) The Hutterites

Readings: Dyck, 4

On The Backroad to Heaven, chp. 2 (The Hutterites)*

(3/24 – annotated bibliography assigned; due 5/10)

3/10 **EXAM I**

PART II—A CASE STUDY: THE AMISH

4/5 Film: The Amish. A People of Preservation

(formal essay 2 assigned; peer review 4/12; final draft due 4/19)

4/7—4/12 *Immigration: The Spread of Anabaptism into North America*

Readings: Kraybill, ch. 1

Bender, H. S. “An Amish Church Discipline of 1781”*

Bender, H. S. “Some Early American Amish-
Mennonite Church Disciplines”*

Beiler, D. “Memoirs of an Amish Bishop”*

4/14 *Anabaptist Culture and Religious Ideology*

Readings: Kraybill, ch. 2

4/19—4/26 *Coping with Change*

Readings: Kraybill, chs. 3, 4

Beachy, A. J. "The Rise and Development of the
Beachy Amish-Mennonite Churches"*

Yoder, J. H. "Caesar and the Meidung"*

(summary due 4/26)

4/28 *Passing on the Faith*

Readings: Kraybill, ch. 7

Stoll, J. "Who Shall Educate Our Children?""*

5/3—5/10 *Riddles of Technology*

Readings: Kraybill, ch. 8

Cong, D. "Amish Factionalism and Technological Change"*

Video: The Amish—Not to be Modern

(5/5 – annotated bibliography due)

5/12 *Our Common Riddles*

Readings: Kraybill, ch. 13

(Final exam handed out)

5/18 **FINAL EXAM Due by 4 p.m.**