

Course Syllabus

Elizabethtown College, Spring 2010

HRE 285: Amish, Mennonites, and Brethren in the U.S. Since 1850

Honors Course WRI (Writing/Research Intensive) Western Heritage AU

[This syllabus may be modified at the discretion of the instructor any time during the semester]

Time: Tuesday, 6:30–9:15 p.m.

Office Hours: By appointment

Room: Young Center Seminar Room

Office Phone: 1469 or 1470

Instructor: Donald B. Kraybill

E-mail: kraybilld@etown.edu

Office: Young Center

Required Texts

Bowman, Carl, *Brethren Society*, The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1995.

----*Portrait of a People*, Brethren Press, 2008.

Kraybill, Donald B., *Who Are the Anabaptists?* Herald Press, 2003.

----*The Amish of Lancaster County*, Stackpole, 2008.

Kraybill, Donald B., and Marc Olshan, *The Amish Struggle with Modernity*, University Press of New England, 1994. [DO NOT PURCHASE THIS BOOK; COPIES PROVIDED IN CLASS]

Other articles and essays will be distributed in class

Course Description

An interdisciplinary study of the Amish, Brethren, and Mennonite experience (beliefs, history, practices) in the context of modern American culture. Primary attention will be given to understanding how these communities responded to major developments in American society since 1850—the industrial revolution, the modern state, individuation, modern warfare, conscription, the rise of technology, compulsory public education, theological liberalism, and religious pluralism. The course will explore how changes in American society have encouraged assimilation, fragmentation, and reaction (Old Order) movements within Anabaptist and Pietist groups.

Course Objectives for Students

1. To appreciate the value of an interdisciplinary approach to understanding the beliefs, history, and practices of three religious communities (Amish, Brethren, and Mennonites).
2. To understand how Anabaptist and Pietist communities have grappled with the changing cultural, religious, and social forces of the United States since 1850.
3. To explore how major developments in American society have encouraged assimilation, fragmentation, and cultural resistance among Anabaptist and Pietist communities.
4. To appreciate the complex and dynamic interaction between external cultural forces and minority communities.
5. To analyze primary source materials and compare various interpretations of these movements in contemporary scholarship.
6. To develop an in-depth knowledge of a topic related to one of these groups and cultivate research, writing, and speaking skills through a semester-long research project.

Course Requirements

1. Participation (attendance, assigned readings, assigned activities, discussion, debates, field trips, peer critique of paper, and attendance at some Young Center events).
2. Completion of quizzes.
3. Preparation of three short papers.
4. Preparation of a research proposal and paper.
5. Presentation of research findings on Scholarship Day.
6. Completion of a final exam.

Course Components and Grading Scheme

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|-------------------------------------|-----|
| 1. Participation (as defined above) | 10% |
| 2. Quizzes (about 14) | 15% |
| 3. Short Papers (3) | 15% |
| 4. Research Paper | 30% |
| 5. Research Presentation | 5% |
| 5. Final Exam (comprehensive) | 25% |

Grading

The six components when averaged together by their relative importance will generate a course grade based on the following scale:

90 – 100 pts	A	Excellent
80 – 89 pts	B	Good
70 – 79 pts	C	Average
60 – 69 pts	D	Poor
below 60 pts	F	Failing

A plus and minus grading system is used to make finer distinctions within each grade, eg:

70–72 = C- 73–76 = C 77–79 = C+

Sample Grade Calculation

Participation	85% x .10 =	8.5	pts	
Quizzes	75% x .15 =	11.3	pts	
Short Papers (3)	90% x .15 =	13.5	pts	
Research Paper	85% x .30 =	25.5	pts	
Research Presentation	90% x .05 =	4.5	pts	
Final Exam	80% x .25 =	20.0	pts	
	Total:	83.3	pts	Grade = B

Evaluation of Written Work

Spelling, grammar, style, and appearance will be considered in determining the grade for all written work in the course! All papers (except in-class quizzes) must be typewritten. Late papers will be reduced by a letter grade unless you have obtained prior permission for an alternate date.

Examinations

The weekly quizzes will cover assigned material designated in the course calendar. Quizzes may be a one page written assignment or a classroom quiz. Missed quizzes may not be taken later. The two lowest quiz scores will be dropped from the quiz grade calculation. The final exam will consist of essay questions covering assigned readings and material presented in class. The questions may stretch your imagination! The questions will be randomly selected from a previously distributed list.

Participation

You are expected to attend class regularly, to be prepared to discuss the assigned material, to engage in class discussions, debates, and other assigned class activities. Poor attendance and poor participation will adversely impact your class participation grade. We will have two debates in class. Each student will participate in one of the debates. Participation in the debate will be graded as a quiz.

Field Trips

As a part of the course requirements, you are expected to participate in **two full-day** field trips **outside** the regular class time. One field trip will be on a Sunday (8 am to 3 pm) to visit a Church Service. The other field trip will focus on Mennonites and Amish and will include a meal in an Amish home (cost \$15). In addition, you are also required to attend an assimilated Brethren or Mennonite Sunday church service on your own or with friends and write a one page response/analysis of your observations (graded as a quiz). More details regarding the exact dates and plans will be announced in class.

Three Short Papers

Paper One (Due Feb 2)

A three page paper (with at least six sources) that overviews the rise and impact of one major social change in 20th century American society. Topics will be allocated in class.

Paper Two (Due Feb 23)

A three page proposal for a research project including at least six sources/references.

Paper Three (Due March 30) (Please present two copies.)

This paper will be three pages of your research paper plus relevant sources/citations. You are required to take a draft to the Writing Center **before** submitting it on 3/30.

Specifications for Papers

Citation Format

All papers must appear in 12 pt font, Times New Roman, 1.5 line spacing, & .90 margins. Preferred citation/style format is APA (author/date) as found in *Amish Struggle with Modernity*. Upon approval of the instructor, you may use another standard format if you follow it consistently and indicate at the end of the paper which style you followed. Consult *Key for Writers*. Length of any text excludes cover page, references, photos/tables/graphics/illustrations.

Americans with Disabilities Act

Any student whose disability falls within ADA guidelines should inform the instructor at the beginning of the semester of any special accommodations or equipment needs necessary to complete the requirements for this course. If you have a documented disability and need reasonable accommodations to fully participate in the course activities or meet course requirements, **you must:** 1) contact the Director of Disability Services, Kristin Sagun in the Center for Student Success, BSC office 228 (Ph: 361-1227), sagunk@etown.edu and then 2) meet with Prof Kraybill, the instructor, within two weeks of receiving a copy of the accommodation letter from Disability Services, to discuss your accommodation needs and their implementation.

Plagiarism and Cheating

You are expected to follow the highest standards of academic integrity and honor. Plagiarism and cheating are serious breaches of academic integrity and according to College Policy **could result in a course grade of F**. See *College Catalog* (p. 262-264). Academic dishonesty is a serious issue and you will be responsible for the full consequences of any violations. Academic integrity applies to exams, written work, use of internet resources, and any other information that you present as your own. Inappropriate use of the ideas or work of others without full acknowledgment is considered plagiarism. Please read and be familiar with the booklet *Academic Integrity at Elizabethtown College*.

Research Paper: An Analysis of the Impact of One Aspect of Modernity on One of the Anabaptist Groups

Length: 14-15 pages of text.

Dates: Proposal (**Paper Two**): Feb 23.

Three pages (**Paper Three**): March 30 (two copies).

Presentation on Scholarship Day: April 27.

Final version due: May 7. Submit as E-mail Attachment by Noon.

Method: Select a major socio-cultural change in 20th century America. Describe and analyze how one of the religious communities responded to it by resistance, adaptation, acceptance or a combination of these responses. Use pertinent concepts and/or theoretical orientations to analyze the issue. (Other options for a topic are possible with consent of instructor)

Sample topics: schools, higher education, gender roles, rituals (love feast, ordination, singing, shunning, worship, etc), technology (automobiles, tractors, farm and production technology, household technology, electricity, telephones, TV, computers, other electronic media,) understanding of the self, individualism, mobility, bureaucracy, institutionalization, changing occupations, family structure and size, dress, medicine, role of church leaders, professional ministry, use of meetinghouses, church discipline, separation from the world, language, interaction with the state/government, conscription, conscientious objection to war, missions, life insurance, media, and many other possibilities.

Sources: The research paper should utilize at least 15 different sources, including primary source materials whenever possible. Internet sources may only be used by consent of instructor.

Organization of the Paper: (Issues to address in crafting the paper.)

1. Select and describe the emergence of a socio-cultural issue reflecting the impact of modernity in the 20th century that challenged one of the three groups.
2. Trace the rise and the significance of the selected issue in American society.
3. Why and how did this issue challenge the group? What led up to it? Why did this aspect of modernity challenge the group at that particular point in history? Why was it an issue of particular interest for the group?
4. Explain how the group approached this issue. How did they respond to it? With rejection, resistance, adaptation, acceptance and/or a combination of these responses? Provide evidence to document the group's response.
5. What was the **consequence** of the group's response? This section of the paper should **analyze** the socio-cultural consequences of the group's response. What if the group had responded in a different fashion? What difference did their particular response make? So what? Devote at least three full pages to the analysis.

A three-page proposal is due Feb 23. The proposal should provide an overview of your topic, explain your methods of research and include at least six preliminary sources.

Presentation on Scholarship Day, April 27. You will present a brief summary of your research findings on Scholarship Day in a public setting. The presentation will be graded.

Mid-Atlantic Undergraduate Social Research Conference. You are **strongly encouraged**, but not required, to present the findings from your paper at the 28th Annual Mid-Atlantic Undergraduate Social Research Conference scheduled for April 15, 2010 at Lincoln University. Students from other Etown College courses will also present their work at the conference. The college will provide transportation to the college. More details will be provided in class.

Spring 2010 Class Schedule

Date	Topic/Activity	Assigned Reading
Jan 19	Course Introduction, What is Modernity? The Research Question/Problem	
22	“Who Are the Anabaptists?” The Research Problem Overview	AS: 21-33 WAA: 3-45
Feb 2	Amish: Turning Points: 1880-1980 Guest speaker (Riehl) Paper One Due	AL: 1-44,
9	Amish: Culture, Community, and Society [Debate]	AL: 45-84
11	(Thursday) Young Center Event 7:30	
12	(Friday) FIELD TRIP noon to 9 pm	
16	Amish: The Struggle with Modernity	AS: 35-50,215-242
21	(Sunday) FIELD TRIP 8:30 am to 3 pm	
23	Brethren: Turning Points: 1880-1980 Guest speaker (Scott), Paper Two Due	BS: 95-131,159-183
Mar 2	Brethren: Struggle and Change	BS: 184-244
8-12	Spring Break: Class will not meet	
16	The Brethren: Cultural Transformations Guest speaker (Heffley)	BS: 317-381
23	The Brethren: The Brethren Today [Debate]	PP: 1-89
30	Mennonites: Turning Points: 1880-1980 Paper Three Due (Three Pages of Research, 2 copies)	TBP
April 6	Mennonites: Topics TBA Guest speaker (Nolt)	TBP
8	(Thursday) Young Center Event 7:30 pm	
13	Mennonites: Topics TBA	TBP
15	(Thursday) MAUSRC All Day, Young Center Event 7:30 pm	
20	Preparations for Presentations	
27	Scholarship Day: Research Presentations [No Class]	
May 4	Summary: Solving the Research Problem Review for Final Exam	TBP
7	Research Paper Due [Submit as E-mail Attachment by Noon]	
11	Final Exam	

Key: WAA=*Who Are the Anabaptists*; AS=*The Amish Struggle with Modernity*; AL=*The Amish of Lancaster Co.*; BS=*Brethren Society*; PP=*Portrait of a People*; TBP=*To Be Provided*