

RELI290: 19TH-CENTURY AMERICAN RELIGION

Contact Info

clarke2@gonzaga.edu

Twitter: [@clarck_ems](https://twitter.com/clarck_ems)

Robinson House 008

Phone: 509-313-6781

Office Hours: MW 1:00-2:00 pm, Thurs 1:30-3:30; and by appointment

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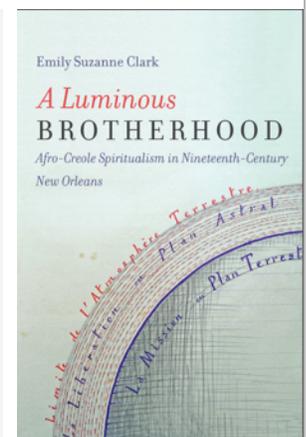
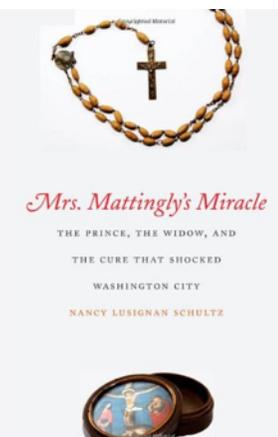
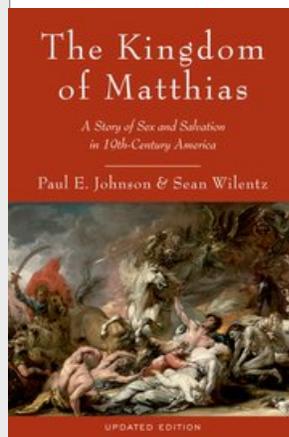
Paul Johnson and Sean Wilentz, [*The Kingdom of Matthias: A Story of Sex and Salvation in 19th Century America*](#) (Oxford University Press, 1994).

Nancy Lusignan Schultz, [*Mrs. Mattingly's Miracle: The Prince, the Widow, and the Cure that Shocked Washington City*](#) (Yale University Press, 2014).

Emily Suzanne Clark, [*A Luminous Brotherhood: Afro-Creole Spiritualism in Nineteenth-Century New Orleans*](#) (UNC Press, 2016).

Course Description

This directed readings focuses on the religious diversity of 19th century America by examining various forms of Christianity. We will focus on what Jon Butler terms “the antebellum spiritual hothouse,” except we will extend that idea to include more of the 19th century. A period of religious innovation and creativity, the 19th century saw a veritable boom in religious activity in the United States.



Course Learning Outcomes

1. Map various themes, trends, texts, and people in 19th-century American religion.
2. Compare and critique how various Christian groups have related to one another and found their place in American culture.
3. Critically analyze scholarly monographs on the topic and show an understanding of their

Course Policies

I do not tolerate plagiarism or cheating. We are an intellectual and academic community, and all of us are responsible to act with integrity. All violations of the Gonzaga Academic Honesty Policy will result in a zero on the assignment.

Plagiarism is the act of passing another's work off as your own. In your journal reflections, I encourage you to engage with others' ideas but do not copy and paste without identifying the original author.

As an ironic example, part of this syllabus is lifted from a common syllabus used in every syllabus I write.

The GU Academic Honesty Policy outlines the University's expectations for the integrity of students' academic work. It is your responsibility (1) to uphold the highest standards of academic integrity, (2) to refuse to tolerate violations of academic integrity in the university community, and (3) to foster a high sense of integrity and social responsibility on the part of the university community.

[Click here for more on Academic Citizenship at Gonzaga.](#)

argument, source material, and methodology.

4. Analyze and contextualize primary sources about American religious history and culture.
5. Identify the complex interactions between religious belief and practice and the rich historical, social, political, cultural, economic, and intellectual context in which religious people inhabit and live their religion.

Student Responsibilities

As a student enrolled in this course, you agree to do the following:

- 1) Come to our scheduled meetings on time. If something comes up and you need to change our meeting, please let me know 24 hours in advance.
- 2) Complete assigned readings, in their entirety, on schedule. You should complete assigned readings before we meet. And **bring** the readings with you.
- 3) Complete all assignments, in a timely manner. Let me know at least 24 hours in advance if you need more time.
- 4) Ask for help when you need it.

Requirements and Grading

- 1) Reflection Papers. Every week you'll write a two page reflection paper on our reading. If we read a scholarly monograph (one of the three texts), focus your thoughts on the book's argument, methodology, and source material. Also think about how it intersects with the larger picture we're developing over the semester. If we read primary source material, think about the purpose of that primary source. Why did the author write it? What is she/he/they trying to get across? Worth 40% of your final grade.
- 2) Discussion. Every meeting you'll discuss the reading with me. Worth 20% of your final grade.
- 3) Final Paper. You'll write a final essay based on the readings from the semester and describe what seems more significant to 19th-century American religion. Worth 40% of your final grade.

Course Schedule

Important: You need to come to class having already read the assigned reading for that day. In other words, readings and assignments are due the date listed.

Week 1: Wednesday, Aug 31 Meet at Thomas Hammer for first week coffee!

Introductions; Setting the Stage

Week 2: Wednesday, Sept 7

Kingdom of Matthias, Prologue and Chapter 1

Week 3: Wednesday, Sept 14

Kingdom of Matthias, Chapter 2 and 3

Week 4: Wednesday, Sept 28

Kingdom of Matthias, finish; and TBA primary source

Week 5: Wednesday, Oct 12

Mrs. Mattingly's Miracle, Prologue and Chapters 1, 2, and 3

Week 6: Wednesday, Oct 26

Mrs. Mattingly's Miracle, 4 and 5

Week 7: Wednesday, Nov 9

Mrs. Mattingly's Miracle, finish; and TBA primary source

Week 8: Wednesday, Nov 16

A Luminous Brotherhood, Introduction and Chapters 1, 2, and 3

Week 9: Wednesday, Nov 30

A Luminous Brotherhood, finish

Week 10: Wednesday, Dec 7

Cercle Harmonique primary sources

Final Exam Week

Wednesday, December 14: Final Essay Due by 5 pm