

**Northeastern State University, College of Liberal Arts  
Department of History, Tahlequah, Oklahoma, Spring 2009**

**Instructor:**

Christopher H. Owen, Professor of History, Office: SH308  
Office Hours: MW: 8:30-10:00; TTH: 2:00-4:00; F: 9:00-10:00  
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**Course Title and Number:**

HIST 4513 - American Social History

**Class Days and Time:**

TTH (12:30 - 1:45)

**Required Books:**

Reinhold Niebuhr, *Moral Man and Immoral Society*. (New York: Scribner's, 1995).  
Chaim Potok, *My Name is Asher Lev*. (New York, Ballantine Books, 1996).  
Christopher H. Owen, *The Sacred Flame of Love* (Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1998).

**Attendance/Punctuality:**

Regular, punctual attendance is required, and students should be on time. The instructor takes attendance each day. **Any student with six or more absences, for whatever reason they occurred, including absences before enrollment and otherwise "excused" absences, will receive an "F" for the course, unless withdrawing on or before November 10.** There will be no exceptions to this policy so students should watch their absences, including excused absences, carefully. If you are going to miss a test (including the final), discussion, or other assignment, let me know as soon as possible. **Whether the test or assignment can be made up depends on whether the absence is excused. Absences will be evaluated on an individual basis, in accord with university policy. All make-ups, including discussions are written essays. Students often do poorly on them should avoid them if possible. All make-ups must be scheduled with the instructor as soon as possible after the original assignment is missed. Students must inform the instructor of the desire to schedule a make-up on the first day they return to class after a missed assignment, or they will not be allowed to take a makeup. Under no circumstance may students take tests, quizzes, or discussions (including the final) or quizzes before the scheduled time. Don't ask.**

**Course Guidelines:**

1. The course will consist lecture and of student discussion, analysis, and evaluation of assigned readings. There will be take-home midterm and a take-home final. Students will produce and be graded on a relatively short biographical research paper (10-12 pages) about an individual **prominent in late twentieth- or early twenty-first-century American religion.**
2. The instructor will take attendance each day, and students should be on time. If you are going to miss an assignment, let the instructor know as soon as possible. Whether the assignment can be made up depends on whether the absence is excused. All absences will be evaluated individually in accord with university policy. Makeups will be in writing and students will have the choice of only one question. Makeup tests will be take-home format, with less choice of questions. Makeups shall be scheduled at the instructor's convenience as soon as possible after the original assignment is missed. Students **must** inform the instructor of the desire to schedule a make-up on the first day they return to class after a missed assignment, or they will not be allowed to take a makeup. Students may **not** complete assignments before the scheduled time.
3. All grades shall conform to the following scale. 90-100=A; 80-89=B; 70-79=C; 60-69=D; below 60=F. All grades are rounded to the nearest whole number.
4. The cumulative semester grade will be determined as follows:

Class Discussion/Participation.....	25%
Take-Home Midterm .....	25%
Take-Home Final.....	25%
Research Paper.....	25%
5. The midterm and final will consist of essay questions taken from discussions, lectures, assigned readings, videos, and other applicable assignments. They will both be take-home exams and must be completed in pen on blue books (8 /12" by 11") available in the university bookstore.
6. Students should complete readings by the date listed in the course schedule. Each class for which reading assignments are listed for completion will be divided into two discussion period segments, with a break in between. For each segment, I will ask each individual student one or more direct questions from the assigned reading. Students who answer at least one direct question correctly & completely will receive 100% credit for that discussion segment. Students who give only partially correct or incomplete answers get 50% credit for that segment. Students who are absent or unable to answer a question receive 0% credit for that segment. Students will generally get an opportunity to answer more than one question during each discussion segment. The instructor may occasionally ask students to answer discussion questions in writing as part of their discussion grade. Students may receive up to ten bonus points for the class participation grade. Such points are awarded for active input and questioning outside the direct question format.

7. Texts and instructions for the research paper will be provided to students on a separate handout. Papers must be written and evaluated in accord with instructions on this handout.

8. The last date that students may drop the course with an automatic "W" is Wednesday, April 15. Students who drop after that date will receive the grade earned up to the date on which they drop. After April 15, a grade of "W" will be assigned to students with a grade of "D" or higher, but an "F" will be assigned if the student average is below 60%. For students withdrawing after November 12, all assignments and discussions scheduled on or before the withdrawal date due but not completed will receive a semester grade of "F."

10. No papers or take-home exams will be accepted after the due date. In not turned in on time, students will, except in cases of bona fide and documented emergency, receive a zero.

**STUDENT CONDUCT:** DO NOT TALK, READ, SLEEP, EAT, TEXT-MESSAGE, OR STUDY DURING LECTURES OR DISCUSSIONS. DO NOT BRING CHILDREN OR FRIENDS TO CLASS (WITHOUT SPECIFIC PERMISSION FROM THE INSTRUCTOR). DURING CLASS TIME, THE INSTRUCTOR EXPECTS YOU TO BE ELECTRONICALLY DISENGAGED; THEREFORE, CELL PHONES, LAPTOPS, AND ALL OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES MUST BE TURNED OFF DURING CLASS. IF YOU MUST LEAVE BEFORE CLASS IS OVER AND HAVE A LEGITIMATE REASON FOR DOING SO, INFORM THE INSTRUCTOR BEFORE CLASS, IF POSSIBLE. EXCEPT IN EMERGENCY SITUATIONS **DO NOT** LEAVE CLASS WITHOUT INFORMING THE INSTRUCTOR ABOUT WHY YOU NEED TO LEAVE. AFTER AN INITIAL WARNING TO EACH STUDENT, THE INSTRUCTOR WILL DEDUCT FIVE POINTS FROM THE STUDENT'S FINAL SEMESTER AVERAGE FOR THE FIRST VIOLATION OF THESE POLICIES, TEN FOR THE SECOND, FIFTEEN FOR THE THIRD, AND INCREASING BY INCREMENTS OF FIVE FOR ANY SUBSEQUENT VIOLATIONS.

**ADA COMPLIANCE:** IF ANY MEMBER OF THE CLASS NEEDS SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS PLEASE ADVISE THE INSTRUCTOR AT THE FIRST CLASS ATTENDED.

**INCLEMENT WEATHER/DISASTER POLICY:** IN INCLEMENT WEATHER THE UNIVERSITY WILL HOLD CLASSES IF POSSIBLE. CLASS WILL MEET IF THE UNIVERSITY IS OPEN & I CAN SAFELY GET TO CLASS. I WILL BE FLEXIBLE REGARDING ABSENCES DURING SEVERE WEATHER. STUDENTS SHOULD ATTEND BUT NOT RISK LIFE OR LIMB TO GET TO CLASS. STUDENTS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR RECEIVING INFORMATION ON QUESTIONABLE WEATHER. REGARDING CLOSING OF CLASSES NSU WILL NOTIFY THE MAJOR TULSA AND FORT SMITH TELEVISION STATIONS.

#### **COURSE SCHEDULE**

(Dates, except the Final, are subject to change)

##### WEEK 1

January 15            Lecture: Introduction, Syllabus, and Course Requirements

##### WEEK 2

January 22            Lecture: Judeo-Christian Background, Terminology, and Orthodoxy  
January 24            Lecture: Denominational Families in American Religion

##### WEEK 3

January 29            Lecture: Religion in Colonial America; **Paper Topic Due**  
January 31            Lecture: Separating Church and State

##### WEEK 4

February 3            Lecture: Religion in the Antebellum North  
February 5            Lecture: Religion in the Antebellum South

##### WEEK 5

**February 10**            **Discussion: Owen, *Sacred Flame*, chs. 1-5**  
February 12            Lecture: Gilded Age Religion & Social Darwinism

##### WEEK 6

February 17            Lecture: The Holiness and Pentecostal Movements  
**February 19**            **Discussion: Owen, *Sacred Flame*, chs. 6-7**

##### WEEK 7

February 24            Lecture: Religion and the New Immigration  
February 26            Lecture: Building American Catholicism

WEEK 8	March 3 March 5	Lecture: Modernism and the Social Gospel Lecture: The Fundamentalist Controversy
WEEK 9	March 10 <b>March 12</b>	Lecture: Research and Writing Day <b>Lecture: Take-Home Midterm Due (1:00 P.M.)</b>
WEEK 10	March 24 March 26	Lecture: The Black Churches Lecture: War, Pacifism, and the American Churches
WEEK 11	March 31 April 2	<b>Discussion: Niebuhr, <i>Moral Man</i>, Introduction, Preface, and chs. I-V</b> <b>Discussion, Niebuhr, <i>Moral Man</i>, chs. VI-X</b>
WEEK 12	April 7 April 9	Lecture: Religion and Consensus in the 1950s Lecture: Religion and the Civil Rights Movement
WEEK 13	April 14 April 16	Lecture: American Churches and the 1960s Cultural Revolution Lecture: Emergence of Eastern and New Age Religions
WEEK 14	April 21 April 23	Lecture: American Catholicism After Vatican II Lecture: American Judaism
WEEK 15	April 28 April 30	<b>Discussion: Potok, <i>My Name is Asher Lev</i>, Entire Book</b> Lecture: Re-emergence of the Religious Right
WEEK 16	May 5 <b>May 6 (Wed)</b> May 7	Lecture: The Culture Wars and Mainline Disintegration <b>PAPER DUE, 5:00 P.M.</b> STUDENT STUDY DAY: NO CLASS
WEEK 17	<b>May 14</b>	<b>TAKE-HOME FINAL DUE (3:00 P.M.)</b>