Seminar Description:

This seminar is a study of the rise and development of New Religious Movements in the 19th and 20th centuries. Major emphasis is given to movements arising in the Christian West.

Course Objectives:

1. To develop a broad understanding of the scope and impact of New Religious Movements

2. To develop an understanding of the religious, social, political, economic, and cultural forces which foster the rise of New Religious Movements

3. To develop an appreciation of the religious, political, and legal responses to the perceived threat of New Religious Movements

4. To acquaint the students with the scholarship on New Religious Movements

5. To develop an understanding of the relationship of New Religious Movements with the Christian Mission and to develop strategies for evangelistic encounter with persons involved in New Religious Movements
Requirements:

1. Attendance at all sessions

2. Students are expected to acquire a general knowledge of the development of New Religious Movements in North America. The following is required reading:

   Philip Jenkins. *Mystics and Messiahs*. Oxford UP.


3. Students will be expected to make several presentations during the seminar. Each student will be assigned a chapter in both *Mystics and Messiahs* and *Cults and New Religious Movements: A Reader*. Each student will conduct independent research of further relevant material in support of assigned sections of these works. Each student will read *Life in The Family* and be prepared to discuss this work in class. Each student will read and present additional works.

4. Students will develop a working outline for a six-hour presentation on Cults and New Religions in America. These presentations will be for use in a church setting and will include history, doctrines, and ethical issues that distinguish particular movements from Evangelical Christianity, and methods for effective witness.

5. Members will participate in a group oral examination at the close of the seminar.
Aug. 17  Introduction and assignments for Mystics and Messiahs

Aug. 24  Remaining Assignment
Mystics and Messiahs -
Chapt. 1
Chapt. 2
Chapt. 3
Chapt. 4
Chapt. 5

Aug. 31  Mystics and Messiahs
Chapt. 6
Chapt. 7
Chapt. 8
Chapt. 9
Chapt. 10
Chapt. 11

Sept. 7  Cults and New Religious Movements
Section 1 All students
Section. 2
Section. 3
Section. 4
Section. 5
Sept. 14  
Cults and New Religious Movements

Section. 6

Section. 7

Section. 8

Sept. 21  
Life in The Family - Professor

Sept. 28


Oct. 12
Catherine Wessinger. *When the Millennium Comes Violently*


Oct. 19


Oct. 26


Nov. 2

Janis Hutchinson. *Out of the Cults and into the Church*. Kregel, 1994
Nov. 9


Nov. 16 Cults and the Christian Mission / Oral exam
## Class roster:

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Bibliography


