

History 328: Canadian Mennonite History

Fall 2010

Instructor: Dr. Bruce Hiebert

4 Credits

This course will explore the Canadian Mennonite experience in North America from the late 1700s to the present day as an example of religious settlement and integration. Beginning with their roots in the Protestant Reformation, the course will explore how and why Mennonites arrived in North America over the centuries, why and where they settled in Canada, and what they experienced once here. Specific foci of the course will include Mennonite pacifism and the conscriptions of the 20th century; transformations in Mennonites from a rural to urban people; changing relationships between men and women; the current multiplicity of Mennonitisms; the development of Mennonite Central Committee; and Mennonite settlement in the Fraser Valley.

Students will develop skills in historical and critical analysis, including archival, demographic, and literary source analysis of religious communities.

Topics

- Anabaptist & Mennonite origins, persecutions & early migration to America
- Post-Revolutionary migration to Canada and Ontario settlement
- Prussian-Russian Mennonite experience and migration in the 1870s
- Wars, governments and migrations (1812-1970s)
- Late 20th Century Mennonite urbanization & identity
- Mennonite Central Committee
- Mennonite masculinities & femininities
- Mennonites and American Fundamentalism & Evangelicalism
- Neo-Anabaptism, history as ideology, and becoming a “peace” people
- BC Mennonites
- The future of Mennonites in Canada

Texts

James C. Juhnke. *Vision, Doctrine, War: Mennonite Identity and Organization in America 1890-1930*.

Royden Loewen. *Hidden Worlds: Revisiting the Mennonite Migrants of the 1870s*.

Marlene Epp *Mennonite Women in Canada: A History*.

Rudy Wiebe. *Of This Earth*.

Rampolla, Mary Lynn. *Pocket Guide to Writing in History*, 4th ed.

Student Expectations & Weightings

Reading Reports: 40%

Research exercise: 10%

Major project proposal: 5%

Major project: 35% (on a Canadian ethno-religious collectivity of the student's choice)

Final Exam (take home): 10%