

History 396G: Canadian Mennonite History

4 Credits

Fall 2009

Tuesday 17:30-21:10

Instructor: Bruce Hiebert, Ph.D.

Abbotsford is the centre of one of the largest Mennonite communities in Canada. This course will explore the Mennonite experience in North America from the late 1600s to the present day. Beginning with their roots in the Protestant Reformation, the course will explore how and why Mennonites arrived in North America and what they experienced once here. Specific foci of the course will include Mennonite pacifism and the conscriptions of the 20th century; Amish and Old Order Mennonites, rural to urban transformations; changing relationships between men and women; the current multiplicity of Mennonitisms; traditional Mennonite crafts; and the development of Mennonite Central Committee. While not the focus of the class, the course will pay special attention to the formation of the Mennonite communities in the Fraser Valley. The course will also explore the more general methodologies of doing ethno-cultural and religious history.

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.*

Mary Lynn Rampolla. *Pocket Guide to Writing in History*, 6th ed.

Class format: Lecture/Discussion

Student Expectations:

Students are expected to come to class prepared to discuss readings and course materials.

1. Project proposal 10%
2. Reading Reports 24%
3. Research Exercise 10%
4. Major paper/project 35%*
5. Take Home Final Exam 21%

*The major paper/project may be on any subject of Canadian religious history. For those who wish to pursue Mennonite studies, both the Columbia Bible College Library and the BC Mennonite Historical Society archives are available as additional resources.