

# Harding, Susan (University of California, Santa Cruz) - American Evangelicalisms

**Anthropology 128**

**Instructor: Susan Harding**

**American Evangelicalisms 347 SS I, 459-2240**

**Winter 2013**

**Office Hrs: TTh 3-4; by appt**



*The global religious resurgence [is] a process through which the most basic terms of the political and religious order are themselves renegotiated.*

Elizabeth Hurd

This course is an introduction to varieties of contemporary evangelicalisms and their engagements with “the secular” in America. The course will provide a theoretical framework for thinking about American “religion,” “the secular,” and “religious movements.” It will also provide some historical background, but mostly it will concentrate on the last fifty years, and, within that period, the main focus will be on the life worlds and public actions of theologically conservative white evangelical Christians.

Required books are at the Literary Guillotine, 204 Locust Street (457-1195):

- Susan Harding, *Book of Jerry Falwell: Fundamentalist Language and Politics*
- Shirley Nelson, *Last Year of the War*
- Kathryn Lofton, *Oprah: The Gospel of an Icon*.
- Course Reader (call first if you are picking it up after first couple of days)

Readings in the syllabus marked with an “\*” are in the Course Reader. The course reader also contains important handouts on the course approach, a vocabulary list, timelines, and questions to guide your reading of books by Balmer, Harding, and Nelson.

# Syllabus

## Part I. Introduction

8 January T: Course Overview

In class film clips: Balmer, MESH, I and II Intros

10 January Th: Monotheisms/Protestant Reformations/in America (HOs 1-8\*)

“Religion: 3 Religions, 1 God”\*

“Protestantism”\*

Randall Balmer, Mine Eyes, “Word on Words,” “Prologue”\*

Susan Harding, Book of Jerry Falwell, Preface, Guide to Terms

In class film clips: Balmer, MESH, Adirondack Fundamentalism

15 January T: Pentecostal/Fundamentalist/Charismatic/Evangelical (HOs 6, 9-10\*)

Balmer, Mine Eyes, “California Kickback,” and “Prime Time”\*

Harding, BJJ, Introduction

In class film clips: Balmer, MESH, Calif. Kickback, Georgia Charismatics

## Part II. Fundamentalist/Evangelical Worlding

17 January Th: Becoming Christian I (HO 13)

Blue Like Jazz background:

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Donald\\_Miller\\_\(author\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Donald_Miller_(author))

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blue\\_Like\\_Jazz](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blue_Like_Jazz)

<http://thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/tgc/2012/04/17/review-revue-blue-likejazz/>  
(short excerpts from mixed Christian reviews)

<http://www.movieguide.org/reviews/movie/blue-like-jazz.html> (v. critical)

Shirley Nelson, The Last Year of the War, 1-25 (or more...)

In class film: Blue Like Jazz

22 January T: Becoming Christian II (HOs 7-8, 13\*)

Harding, BJJ, Chap. 1, “Speaking is Believing”

Nelson, The Last Year of the War, 25-80

In class audio clips: Billy Graham 5th Wonder; Oral Roberts, 4th Man

Sunday option: visit Jubilee Christian Center

24 January Th: How to Read The Christian Bible (HO 13\*)

Genesis 1-3\* [recommend your reading Genesis 22 as well - find it online]

Harding, BJJ, Chap. 3, “The Art of Jerry Falwell,”

Nelson, The Last Year of the War, 80-135

In class film clip: Balmer, MESH: Bibl. Inerrancy

29 January T: Becoming Christian III (HO 9-10\*)

Nelson, The Last Year of the War, 135-255

In class film clips: Balmer, MESH: Moody Bible College

### **Part III. Renegotiating Secularreligious Boundaries**

31 January Th: Secularreligious conflicts, background (HOs 3, 7-8\*)

Harding, BJF, chap. 2, "Fundamentalist Exile"

Harding, "Religious Right"\*

In class film clips: Balmer, MESH: Scopes; Inherit the Wind

5 February T: Shots over the Bow #1 Narrative Belief Paper due

Harding, "American Secularities," excerpt\*

In class film: Through These Eyes

Sunday option: visit Jubilee Christian Center

7 February Th: Breaking Out (7-8\*)

Harding, BJF, Chap 5, "Cultural Exodus" Schaeffer, Crazy for God, 1-37\*

Sunday option: visit Twin Lakes Church

12 February T: Millennialisms (see HOs 7-8, 14\*)

Harding, BJF, Chapter 9. Balmer, "On Location"\*

Trailer for Left Behind; End Times & Rapture websites, videos

In class film clips: Balmer, MESH: On Location

Sunday option: visit Vintage Faith Church

14 February Sex/Abortion & Gender (HO 7-8\*)

Harding, BJF, Chap 6 and 7, "Moral Majority Jeremiad" and "If I Should Die"

19 February T: Sex/Homosexuality

Lee, Torn: Rescuing the Gospel from the Gays-vs.the Christians Debate, 1-50\*

Jacobsen and Pelligrini, Love the Sin: Sexual Regulation and the Limits of Religious Tolerance, ix-23\*

21 February Th: Empires, Mega-churches, Music (HO 6-8\*)

Harding, BJF, Chap. 10 "Born-Again Telescandals" Balmer, "Purpose-Driven," and "Sound Check"\*

In class film clips: BAT, Josh McDowell

26 February T: Emerging Church Movements #2 Church Paper due  
Dan Kimball, They Love Jesus But Not the Church, excerpts\* Harding, Anthro.  
Now, "The Transevangelical Zone"\* Kathryn Lofton, Oprah, 1-19  
In class film clips: Kimball, They Love Jesus but Not the Church Sunday option:  
visit Vintage Faith Church

28 February Th: Other Theologies

Tanya Lurhmann, When God Talks Back, Chap 10 "Bridging the Gap"\*  
Christian Smith, Soul Searching, excerpt from Chap. 4, "God, Religion, Whatever:  
On Moralistic Therapeutic Dism," 161-171\*  
Rod Bell, Love Wins, Chap. 1\*  
Lofton, Oprah, 20-50

5 March T: Oprah's Gospel I

Lofton, Oprah, 51-147

Oprah.com: <http://www.oprah.com/index.html>

Oprah Show: [http://www.oprah.com/oprah\\_show.html](http://www.oprah.com/oprah_show.html)

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<http://www.oprah.com/oprahshow/Oprahs-Grand-AnnouncementsVideo/topic/oprahshow?page=17>

Oprah Vision: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rpwW42HVZws>

Oprah Exposed: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JW4LLwkgmqA>

7 March Th: Oprah's Gospel II

Lofton, Oprah, 148-221

Part IV. Last Things

12 March T: Final Presentations

14 March Th: Final Presentations #3 Final Paper due.