Instructor Details
Professor: Dr. Johannes C. Wolfart
Office: 2A62 Paterson Hall
Campus Telephone: x2932
Email: johannes_wolfart@carleton.ca

Office Hours
Office hours will be held on Mondays and Tuesdays from 2:30-3:30.

Email Communication
Carleton communications policy states that faculty must communicate with students through their Carleton email account. To ensure that this policy is upheld without too much trouble, you should send email to me via CULearn. Please be advised, further, that students can normally expect up to a 24hour turn-around time on e-mail communication, especially during high volume times (i.e. before examinations, at essay time, etc.).

Course Objectives
The seminar will explore political dimensions of western Christianities in the modern period by means of a comparison of two examples and their representation in contemporary works of scholarship and/or engaged criticism. The underlying question of the seminar is: what makes some Christians and Christianities “radical,” in either practice or perception? The seminar will consider, comparatively, the material and ideological dimensions of:

- the so-called “Radical Reformers” in relation to the Peasants’ War of sixteenth century Germany
- prophetic leadership in Métis resistance politics (a.k.a. the Red River and Northwest “Rebellions”) in nineteenth century Canada

Our explorations will be guided by four works of very different genres: 1) an historical novel; 2) a monograph now widely regarded as a classic of “engaged” historiography; 3) a graphic novel with scholarly apparatus; 4) a monograph by a political scientist and “public intellectual.” These works may be supplemented by primary documents posted to CULearn, as well as by further bibliography appended to this syllabus.

Furthermore, the seminar will pursue critical understanding of:

- efforts, widespread and ongoing, to differentiate religious “belief” from political “ideology.”
• common claims that failure or refusal to differentiate (as above) constitutes a “radical” orientation or identity.
• assumptions about the unique and essentially “secular” nature of modernity.
• diverse approaches to representing and understanding “popular” (i.e., non-elite) politics and religion, separately or together.

The seminar will proceed as a workshop, assuming that discussion of a question is fruitful, even if it must ultimately remain inconclusive. Finally, please note that while many of the worldviews considered in this course are explicitly theological, the academic procedures and critical methods employed in the academic study of religion are not. This course presupposes your acceptance of the principles of the modern research university. Your understanding of these, especially as they pertain to the study of religion, will undoubtedly develop further during this course. Similarly, your development and presentation of the essay proposal, along with the completion of the term essay, should add to your academic skill set.

**Required Reading**


All of these books are available from Octopus Books on Third Avenue (just off Bank St.) [http://octopusbooks.ca/](http://octopusbooks.ca/) The Luther Blisset is only available on a pre-paid/pre-order basis. You will have to go to the store (either virtually or in person) and pre-pay. The book will take about a week to arrive.

**Evaluation**

Students will be evaluated on the basis of the following:

1) research proposal (10% -- due 23 January)
2) seminar presentation (20% -- 13 and 17 February)
3) ongoing seminar participation (30%)
4) research paper (40% -- due 3 April; 10-15 pages at 4000-level; 15-20 pages at the 5000-level)

**Seminar Meetings**

The seminar will meet on Mondays from 11:35-2:25 (with a brief break). Please come prepared to discuss materials assigned for each week. In addition to doing the assigned readings, you should also consider at least one item from the suggested readings each week, to aid your ability to talk about the assigned materials.
**Policy on Attendance**
It is common practice to evaluate participation in discussion and contribution to a seminar. Likewise, it is also customary that habitual non-attendance be considered unacceptable performance. Such non-attendance entails a failure to contribute that is simply un-collegial. Moreover, since it is impossible to make up a missed seminar, a member who does not attend regularly cannot really be said to have taken the course. **Therefore, any member who is absent from more than 3 meetings of the seminar will not receive course credit.** In other words, all members of the seminar must be present (and active!) for (minimally!) three quarters of all meetings of the seminar. Period.

**Schedule**
Week 1 (9 January) – Introduction to the Seminar. What is a seminar? Why do comparison? Modes of representing religion, academic and extra-academic.

Week 2 (16 January) – The ‘European condition’ at the cusp of the middle ages to early modernity. READ: first half of Cohn, *Pursuit*.

Week 3 (23 January) – The contours of dominant Christianity in the Holy Roman Empire circa 1500 C.E. READ: second half of Cohn, *Pursuit*.

Week 4 (30 January) – Elements of “radical” Christianity in the Holy Roman Empire circa 1500 C.E. READ: first half of Blisset, *Q*

Week 5 (6 February) – Moments of crisis: The Revolution of 1525 and the Anabaptist Kingdom of 1534. READ: second half of Blisset, *Q*

Week 6 (13 February) – Student Presentations

**WINTER BREAK**

Week 7 (27 February) – Student Presentations

Week 8 (6 March) – The ‘Northwest condition’ on the cusp of colonialism to imperialism. READ: first half of Brown, *Riel*.

Week 9 (13 March) – Contours of dominant religion in the Northwest circa 1850. READ: second half of Brown, *Riel*.

Week 10 (20 March) – Elements of “radical” Christianity in the Northwest circa 1850. READ: first half of Flanagan, *Prophet*.

Week 12 (3 April) – Concluding seminar: precise topic and reading to be determined by the seminar.

**Suggested Further Readings**

**Generally on Christian “radicalism” etc.:**


**On “radical reformation” and “revolution” in Germany**


**On religion (especially prophetic) and “resistance” in the Northwest**


Nicole St-Onge, Carolyn Podruchny and Brenda Macdougall, eds., *Contours of a People: Metis Family, Mobility, and History* (Norman OK: University of Oklahoma Press, 2012).


**On Varieties of Historiography**

Jennifer S. H. Brown, “Ethnohistorians: Strange Bedfellows, Kindred Spirits,” *Ethnohistory* 38 (1991), 113-123. [Text of a presidential address…there is a history, especially in Religious Studies, of considering such documents as “data”]


Robert W. Scribner, *For the Sake of Simple Folk* [esp. the introduction on non-textual and/or hybrid narrative representations/histories in early modern Germany]

Bruce Trigger, “Ethnohistory: Problems and Prospects,” *Ethnohistory* 29 (1982), 1-19. [ethnohistory as an alternative to both established nationalist modes of historiography AND to conventional ethnography]

Richard C. Trexler, *Religion in Social Context in Europe and America, 1200-1700* (Tempe AZ: Arizona Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies) [historiography that defies both conventional geographical or temporal specializations]
REGULATIONS COMMON TO ALL HUMANITIES COURSES

COPIES OF WRITTEN WORK SUBMITTED
Always retain for yourself a copy of all essays, term papers, written assignments or take-home tests submitted in your courses.

PLAGIARISM
The University Senate defines plagiarism as “presenting, whether intentional or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.” This can include:

- reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else’s published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one’s own without proper citation or reference to the original source;
- submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another’s data or research findings;
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another’s works and/or failing to use quotation marks;
- handing in "substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs."

Plagiarism is a serious offence which cannot be resolved directly with the course’s instructor. The Associate Deans of the Faculty conduct a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They can include a final grade of “F” for the course

GRADING SYSTEM
Letter grades assigned in this course will have the following percentage equivalents:

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<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tr>
<td>A+</td>
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<td>A</td>
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<td>A-</td>
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<td>B+</td>
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<td>B</td>
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<td>C+</td>
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Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean.

WITHDRAWAL WITHOUT ACADEMIC PENALTY
The last date to withdraw from FALL TERM courses is DEC. 9, 2016. The last day to withdraw from FALL/WINTER (Full Term) and WINTER term courses is APRIL 7, 2017.

REQUESTS FOR ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION
You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term because of disability, pregnancy or religious obligations. Please review the course outline promptly and write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. You can visit the Equity Services website to view the policies and to obtain more detailed information on academic accommodation at: carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/

Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course must register with the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) for a formal evaluation of disability-related needs. Documented disabilities could include but not limited to mobility/physical impairments, specific Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/psychological disabilities, sensory disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), and chronic medical conditions. Registered PMC students are required to contact the PMC, 613-520-6608, every term to ensure that your Instructor receives your Letter of Accommodation, no later than two weeks before the first assignment is due or the first in-class test/midterm requiring accommodations. If you only require accommodations for your formally scheduled exam(s) in this course, please submit your request for accommodations to PMC by Nov. 11, 2016 for the Fall term and March 10, 2017 for the Winter term. For more details visit the Equity Services website: carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/

PETITIONS TO DEFER
If you miss a final examination and/or fail to submit a FINAL assignment by the due date because of circumstances beyond your control, you may apply a deferral of examination/assignment. If you are applying for a deferral due to illness you will be required to see a physician in order to confirm illness and obtain a medical certificate dated no later than one working day after the examination or assignment deadline. This supporting documentation must specify the date of onset of the illness, the degree of incapacitation, and the expected date of recovery. If you are applying for a deferral due to illness you will be required to see a physician in order to confirm illness and obtain a medical certificate dated no later than one working day after the examination or assignment deadline. This supporting documentation must specify the date of onset of the illness, the degree of incapacitation, and the expected date of recovery.

Deferrals of a final assignment or take home, in courses without a final examination, must be supported by confirmation of the student's illness, the degree of incapacitation, and the expected date of recovery. If you are applying for a deferral due to illness, please contact the Registrar’s Office directly for information on other forms of documentation that we accept. If you are applying for a deferral due to illness, please contact the Registrar’s Office directly for information on other forms of documentation that we accept.

Deferrals of a final assignment or take home, in courses without a final examination, must be supported by confirmation of the assignment due date, for example a copy of the course outline specifying the due date and any documented extensions from the course instructor.

Deferral applications for examination or assignments must be submitted within 3 working days of the original final exam.

ADDRESSES: (Area Code 613)
College of the Humanities 520-2809 300 Paterson
Greek and Roman Studies Office 520-2809 300 Paterson
Religion Office 520-2100 2A39 Paterson
Registrar’s Office 520-3500 300 Tory
Student Academic & Career Development Services 520-7850 302 Tory
Paul Menton Centre 520-6608/TTY 520-3937 501 Uni-Centre
Writing Tutorial Service 520-6632 4th Floor Library
Learning Support Service 520-2600 Ext 1125 4th Floor Library