I. Course Description

This course is designed to enable the student to understand the life and ministry of A.J. Gordon, nineteenth-century evangelical leader and shared founder of Gordon College and Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary as we celebrate the 175th anniversary of his birth. Students will become familiar with Gordon’s life, theology, publications and preaching as set in the ferment of late nineteenth-century evangelicalism.

II. Course Relationship to the Curriculum

This course focuses both on history and homiletics. Lectures and discussion merge together a historical and theological understanding of the life, work and preaching of A.J. Gordon. Students bring to the class a background in historical studies and homiletics, which will aid them in interpreting Gordon’s life, writings and preaching.

III. Course Objective

As a result of this course students should be able to gain an in depth perspective on A.J. Gordon, the shared founder of the college and seminary. In order to accomplish this, the student will: (A) Read a biography on A.J. Gordon. (B) Read the writings of A.J. Gordon and discuss them in weekly seminars. (C) Write reflection papers on each of the assigned Gordon books. (D) Give an in-class presentation that connects the theme of “Uncommon Courage—Everyday Faith” as it relates to their interest, contemporary setting and/or focus. (E) Seminary students may choose in place of the presentation (or college students for extra credit) to write a research paper (25 page maximum) on an aspect of A.J.
Gordon’s life or of Gordon’s legacy as it relates to the college or seminary or present-day evangelicalism.

IV. Course Textbooks

Required:

Books


Articles [Provided by the Professor]

A.J. Gordon, “The Ministry of Women,”

______________. “Shall a Woman Prophesy?”

______________. “Prophesying Women,”

Recommended:


V. Course Requirements and Grading

1. Attendance at lectures and exercises. Students are expected to be on time for class. Late work will not be accepted.

2. Read Gibson, *A.J. Gordon: American Premillennialist*. Rather than reading the book in one sitting, be prepared to discuss the various segments of the book in
3. Read Gordon books, Congregational Worship, How Christ Came to Church, In Christ, The Holy Spirit in Missions, Ministry of Healing, The Ministry of the Spirit, Ecce Venit and three articles on women in ministry. These books and article set will be discussed in class as noted in the calendar below. For the book report, please respond to the following questions: a. Do you think the book has a central idea? What do you think it is? b. Discuss the theological issues that emerge in the book and engage with the strengths and weaknesses of what Gordon is advocating. c. What have you learned from reading the book (articles) about Uncommon Courage—Everyday Faith. (12 pt. font, typed, single-spaced, using 1 inch margins). Please put name and box # on the back of the last page, not on the front page/s. Each two-page report is due on the date books are discussed in class.

4. Students will make a ten-minute presentation that connects the theme of “Uncommon Courage—Everyday Faith” as it relates to their interest, contemporary setting and/or focus.

Seminary students are to write a research paper (25 page maximum) on an aspect of A.J. Gordon’s life or of Gordon’s legacy as it relates to the college or seminary or present-day evangelicalism. Please put name and box # on the back of the last page, not on the front page/s. The paper is due on Friday, 16 December 2011.

VI. Course Administration

A. Attendance Policy

Attendance is required for the class. Absence will result in a grade reduction. If a difficulty arises, please see the professor. Please make every effort to be at class on time.

B. Due Dates and Late Penalties

See the calendar in the catalog. Late work will not be accepted.

C. Assistance

Please come to see me with your questions. An office hours sign-up sheet is located outside my office.

VII. Course Calendar

Tues., 13 September: Introduction to each other and to the course
A.J. Gordon: Pastor and Preacher

Tues., 20 September: How Christ Came to Church
Read: Gibson, chapter 1.
Tues., 27 September: *In Christ*
Read: Gibson, chapters 2 & 3.

Tues., 4 October: *The Ministry of Healing*

**READING WEEK 10-14 October**

Tues., 18 October: *Ecce Venit*

Tues. 25 October: *The Ministry of the Spirit*
Read: Gibson, chapter 9.

Tues., 1 November: *The Holy Spirit in Missions*
Read: Gibson, chapter 4 & 7.

**READING WEEK 7-11 November**

Tues., 15 November: *Congregational Worship*
Read: Gibson, chapter 8.

Tues., 22 November: Preaching Women (handouts from professor)
Read: Gibson, chapter 5, 6, 10 and conclusion.

Tues., 29 November: Presentations

Tues., 6 December: Presentations/Wrap-up

**VIII. Grading**

The percentage categories on the back sheet of the syllabus equal 100.

The class presentation will be assessed on the clarity of presentation, integration of the ideas from the reading and classroom discussion, creativity, and remaining within the time limit.

As for all written assignments, I am looking for good use of grammar, interaction with the material/ideas, spelling, etc. *The Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary Student Handbook* spells out the rigorous call for excellence in all grading assignments, which will be followed in the course.

*The Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary Student Handbook* states:

Grade A is given for meeting with conspicuous excellence the demands which can fairly be made in relation to the requirements of the course. These demands would normally include unusual accuracy in fact, completeness in detail, perfection in form of work, independence of method, grasp of the subject as a whole and constructive imagination.
Grade B is given for exceeding the minimum satisfactory attainment and for meeting certain aspects of the course with excellence.

Grade C is given for attaining satisfactory familiarity with the course and for demonstrating at least some ability to use this knowledge in a satisfactory manner.

Grade D is a passing mark but indicates unsatisfactory control over the material.

Grade F declares that the course has been failed.
How many class sessions did you attend? ___________ (check if) all, or ___________ (give number).

Have you read Gibson’s *A.J. Gordon*? ___________ (yes/no) (10%)

Reports:
- Gordon’s *How Christ Came to Church* ___________ (8%)
- Gordon’s *In Christ* ___________ (8%)
- Gordon’s *The Ministry of Healing* ___________ (8%)
- Gordon’s *Ecce Venit* ___________ (8%)
- Gordon’s *The Ministry of the Spirit* ___________ (8%)
- Gordon’s *The Holy Spirit in Missions* ___________ (8%)
- Gordon’s *Congregational Worship* ___________ (8%)
- Gordon articles on preaching women ___________ (8%)

Participation ___________ (11%)

Presentation/Paper ___________ (15%)

(Late work will not be accepted.)

Course Grade ___________
Selected Bibliography


