Jonathan Edwards
Hamilton Campus

CH/TH614 (Jonathan Edwards)  Fall Semester 2010
Dr. Garth M. Rosell, Instructor  Tuesdays, 1:15-4:15 p.m.

Considered by many to be America's most brilliant theologian, Jonathan Edwards (1703-1758) was also a philosopher, a college president, a pastor, a revival preacher, a missionary to the Native Americans, a noted author (whose writings are known and read around the globe), the husband of a remarkable woman and the father of eleven children.

Drawing primarily upon Edwards' own writings, this course will seek to explore the fascinating life and ministry of one of America's most influential figures. Each session will focus on at least one major aspect of Edwards' life and work and each session will examine at least one of Edwards' major writings.

Required Textbooks:

Course requirements: Students who are taking the course for credit are required to attend classes regularly; to complete at least 2500 pages of reading; to write a 20-25 page research paper on one major aspect of Edwards' life and work (for example, Edwards' biblical exegesis, his work as a missionary, his interest in science, his pastoral ministry, etc.); to write an 8-10 page analysis of one of Edwards' major writings (for example, *Freedom of the Will, Original Sin, Humble Attempt*, etc.); to write a list of twenty-five "resolutions" (similar to the 75 "resolutions" Edwards used to guide his life) and, depending on the number of students in the course, to make one or two 10-15 minute oral presentations in class. There will be no examinations.

Research Paper: Each student in the class will be asked to write a 20-25 page research
paper on one major aspect of Edwards' life and work. Completed papers should be typed and in correct form (for example, double-spaced, using twelve-point font, footnoted where appropriate, with bibliography, etc.). Those who have not had as much experience in writing research papers may want to consult a reliable style manual like Kate L. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 6th edition (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1996). Students may also find it helpful to consult William Kelleher Storey, *Writing History: A Guide for Students* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2003). These papers will be due by the time of the final class meeting on Tuesday, December 7th.

**Grading of the papers:** Your research papers will be evaluated on the basis of three primary criteria: (1) the depth of the research in both primary and secondary materials; (2) the quality of the analysis/argument you present; and (3) the clarity, accuracy and beauty of the writing. Attention to these matters will not only help you on this paper assignment but it will also aid you in developing the kinds of skills you will be using in those various ministries to which God has called each one of you.

**Cheating and plagiarism:** Please exercise special care in the use of sources. Institutional guidelines can be found in your *Student Handbook* under "Violations of Academic Integrity." As followers of Christ, we need to maintain the very highest standards of professional conduct.

**Analysis Paper:** Each student in the class will be asked to select and analyze one of Edwards' major writings: describing the book's key arguments, pointing out its major strengths and weaknesses and indicating the key lessons it might have for contemporary readers. These 8-10 page papers, double-spaced and in correct form, are due by the time of the final class meeting on Tuesday, December 7th.

**Twenty-five Resolutions:** A listing of "resolutions" (similar to those that Edwards used to guide his life). Due by the time of the class meeting on Tuesday, October 5th.

**Reading:** Each student in the class will be asked to submit an annotated reading report of the 2500 pages of required reading they have completed for the class. These reading reports will be due by the time of the final class meeting on Tuesday, December 7th.

**Grading of the reading** will be as follows: 100%=A; 95-99%=A-; 90-94%=B+; 85-89%=B; 80-84%=B-; 75-79%=C+; 70-74%=C; 65-69%=C-; 60-64%=D+; 55-59%=D; 50-54%=D-; Below 50%=F. No credit is given for skimming.

**Puritan Prayers:** Each class session will be opened with a prayer from Arthur Bennett, ed., *The Valley of Vision: A Collection of Puritan Prayers and Devotions* (Edinburgh: The Banner of Truth Trust, 2009).
**Personal consultations:** The instructor will normally be available both before and after each class session. Office hours are posted outside of my office door. I can be reached by phone at my seminary office (978-646-4139) or by e-mail <grosell@gcts.edu>

**Late work and extensions:** Late work (unless it has been permitted by the Registration Office through an official written extension form) will be penalized one full letter grade for each week (or any portion of a week) that the work is late. Normally, the Registration Office only grants an extension in cases of serious illness and/or a death in the immediate family. Since most students have very busy schedules, **it would not be fair for any instructor to grant one individual student a benefit that was not extended to all.** In practical terms, this means that you will need to plan your semester carefully so as to complete all required work in a timely manner. **Do not ask the instructor for an extension.**

**Course Grading:** Your final grade for the course will be computed as follows:

- Research Paper: 35%
- Analysis Paper: 25%
- Reading Report (2500 pages): 30%
- Class Participation (presentations and "Resolutions"): 10%

**Grading scale:** The seminary has adopted an official numerical equivalence for the letter grades that students are assigned. Published annually, these are as follows: A+=4.0; A=4.0; A-=3.7; B+=3.3; B=3.0; B-=2.7; C+=2.3; C=2.0; C-=1.7; D+=1.3; D=1.0; D-=0.7; F=0.0. "A" means "conspicuous excellence;" "B" means "exceeding the minimum;" "C" means "satisfactory" work; "D" means "passing" but "unsatisfactory;" and "F" means "course has been failed."

**Computation of course grade:** Based on the above percentages and numerical equivalences, your grade for this course will be computed on the following scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Final Point Total</th>
<th>Final Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3.85 to 4.0</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.65 to 3.84</td>
<td>A-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.3 to 3.64</td>
<td>B+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.0 to 3.29</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.7 to 2.99</td>
<td>B-</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.3 to 2.69</td>
<td>C+</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.0 to 2.29</td>
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<td>D-</td>
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<tr>
<td>0.0 to 0.69</td>
<td>F</td>
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</tbody>
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In order to achieve a particular grade, the student must fall exactly within the above scale. No rounding-off is allowed.

The Jonathan Edwards Center at Yale University (along with its satellite centers in Poland, Germany, Australia, South Africa and at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School near Chicago) provides a treasure-trove of Edwards-related resources at its website <http://edwards.yale.edu/> Some of the Edwards materials can be downloaded to the "Kindle."

Additional materials can be found in the resources listed below and in the bibliographies of the books we will be using for the class.
CLASS SCHEDULE

September 14: Introduction to Jonathan Edwards' Life, Times and Literature
This class will provide both an introduction to the course and its requirements and a basic orientation to the historical context within which Edwards lived and worked. Special attention will be given to Edwards' letters and personal writings, including his "Resolutions," "Diary," "On Sarah Pierpont," and "Personal Narrative."

Required reading:


Suggested reading:
Douglas A. Sweeney, Jonathan Edwards and the Ministry of the Word (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2009);
Iain H. Murray, Jonathan Edwards: A New Biography (Edinburgh: The Banner of Truth Trust, 1987);
Elizabeth D. Dodds, Marriage to a Difficult Man: The "Uncommon Union" of Jonathan and Sarah Edwards (Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1971);
Perry Miller, Jonathan Edwards (New York: Dell Publishing, 1949);
George M. Marsden, A Short Life of Jonathan Edwards (Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans, 2008);
Sereno Edwards Dwight, The Life of President Edwards (New York: G. & C. & H. Carvill, 1830);
Samuel Hopkins, The Life and Character of the Late Reverend, Learned, and Pious Mr. Jonathan Edwards, President of the College of New Jersey (Boston: S. Kneeland, 1765);
September 21: Edwards Historical Context

During this class we will examine both the Puritan and the Enlightenment roots of Edwards’ life and ministry.


*The Marsden biography will be used throughout the course and students are encouraged to complete a careful reading of the volume as early as possible in the semester.

**Suggested reading:**  John Coffey and Paul C. H. Lim, eds., *The Cambridge Companion to Puritanism* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2008);


  Leland Ryken, *Visible Saints: The Puritans as they Really Were* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1986);


  Kelly M. Kapic and Randall C. Gleason, eds., *The Devoted Life: An Invitation to the Puritan Classics* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2004);

  Christopher Hill, *Puritanism and Revolution* (New York: St. Martin’s Press, 1997);

Perry Miller, *Errand Into the Wilderness* (New York: Harper & Brothers, 1956);


**September 28: Jonathan Edwards as Preacher**


**Recommended Reading:** Douglas A. Sweeney, *Jonathan Edwards and the Ministry of the Word* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2009);


Ralph G. Turnbull, *Jonathan Edwards the Preacher* (Grand Rapids,
Jonathan Edwards

MI: Baker Book House, 1958);
John Carrick, The Preaching of Jonathan Edwards (Edinburgh: The Banner of Truth Trust, 2008);
John Piper, The Supremacy of God in Preaching (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2004);
Robert E. Brown, Jonathan Edwards and the Bible (Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press, 2002);

October 5: Jonathan Edwards as a Pastor
(Student assignment due: The listing of your 25 "Resolutions.")


October 11-15, 2010: READING WEEK (No Class)
October 19: No Class
October 26: Jonathan Edwards and the Great Awakening


**Primary Documents (Focus for Class):** Edwards' "Faithful Narrative" (pp. 128-211); "Distinguishing Marks" (pp. 214-288); and "Some Thoughts Concerning the Revival" (pp. 289-530); all in Jonathan Edwards, *The Great Awakening*.


November 2: "The End for which God Created the World"

**Required Reading:** John Piper, *God's Passion for His Glory* (Wheaton: Crossways Books, 2006), including Jonathan Edwards' "The End for Which God Created the World."


**November 8-12, 2010: READING WEEK (No Class)**

**November 16: Jonathan Edwards as a Missionary**


**November 23: Jonathan Edwards as a Theologian**


**November 30: Jonathan Edwards as a Scientist and Philosopher**


**December 7: The Legacy of Jonathan Edwards**

(All remaining assignments for the course are due by the time of the class meeting today)


Selected Bibliography

Excellent bibliographical resources can be found in our readings for the course and on the website for the Jonathan Edwards Center at Yale University <http://edwards.yale.edu/>


Holifield, E. Brooks Theology in America: Christian Thought from the Age of the Puritans to the Civil War (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2003)


Joody, Josh Jonathan Edwards and the Enlightenment: Knowing the Presence of God (Lanham, MD: University Press of America, 2005)

Pauw, Amy Plantinga "The Supreme Harmony of All": The Trinitarian Theology of Jonathan Edwards (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2002)