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' writings.

Required Textbooks:


Course requirements: Students who are taking the course for credit are required to attend class regularly, to complete at least 2500 pages of reading (including the required textbooks); to write a 15-20 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 a 5-7 page analysis paper on one of the following writings by Edwards: either (a) *Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God*; (b) *A Faithful Narrative of the Surprising Work of God*; or (c) *The End for Which God Created the World*; to write a list of twenty-five "resolutions" (similar to the 70 "resolutions" Edwards used to guide his life) and to take a final examination at the end of the course.

Research Paper: Each student in the class will be asked to write a 15-20 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*, 8th edition (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2013). 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 no later than Friday, December 12th, at 4:00 p.m.

**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 write a 5-7 page analysis of one of the three key writings by Edwards listed above: describing its major arguments, pointing out its major strengths and weaknesses and indicating the key lessons it might have for contemporary readers. These papers will be due no later than Friday, December 12th, at 4:00 p.m.

**Twenty-five Resolutions:** A listing of "resolutions" (similar to those that Edwards used to guide his life). These resolutions will be due by the time of the class meeting on Thursday, October 9th, during which they will be part of our class discussion.

**Reading:** Each student in the class will be asked to submit a brief reading report listing the percentage of the 2500 pages of required reading that they have completed for the class. This will be due on Friday, December 12th, at 4:00 p.m..

**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 lecture 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).

**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: 25%
- Analysis Paper: 15%
- Reading Report (2500 pages): 30%
- Twenty-five Resolutions: 5%
- Final Examination: 25%

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>
</tr>
</thead>
<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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3 to 2.69</td>
<td>C+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.0 to 2.29</td>
<td>C</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.7 to 1.99</td>
<td>C-</td>
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<td>1.3 to 1.69</td>
<td>D+</td>
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<td>1.0 to 1.29</td>
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<tr>
<td>0.7 to 0.99</td>
<td>D-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.0 to 0.69</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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." Students might also wish to visit the websites for the Jonathan Edwards Institute (founded by Pedro Govantes, one of our seminary graduates) and/or The Institute for the Study of American Evangelicals located at the Billy Graham Center on the campus of Wheaton College in Illinois.

The two major repositories of Edwards materials are the Franklin Trask Library at Andover-Newton Theological Seminary in Newton Centre, Massachusetts and the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library at Yale University. The latter houses nearly 1,200 manuscript sermons, most of the surviving Edwards manuscripts and the theological notebooks known as the "Miscellanies."

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 11: Introduction to Jonathan Edwards: Life, Times and Literature
This lecture provides both an introduction to the course and its requirements and a basic orientation to available resources for the study of Jonathan Edwards. Special attention is given to Edwards' "Diary," his "Personal Narrative" and his seventy "Resolutions." Sign-up sheets for class presentations will be circulated.

Session I: Life, Times and Literature

Required reading:

Suggested reading:
- George M. Marsden, *A Short Life of Jonathan Edwards* (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2008);
- Perry Miller, *Jonathan Edwards* (New York: Dell Publishing, 1949);
- 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);
Session II: Jonathan Edwards Puritan Heritage


Suggested reading: Alan Simpson, Puritanism in Old and New England (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1966);
Leland Ryken, Visible Saints: The Puritans as they Really Were (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1986);
John Coffey and Paul C. H. Lim, eds., The Cambridge Companion to Puritanism (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2008);
Geoffrey F. Nuttall, Visible Saints (Oxford: Blackwell, 1957);
Edmund S. Morgan, Visible Saints (Ithaca & London: Cornell University Press, 1965);
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);
Robert P. Martin, A Guide to the Puritans (Edinburgh: The Banner of Truth Trust, 1997);
Francis J. Bremer and Tom Webster, ed., Puritans and Puritanism in Europe and America: A Comprehensive Encyclopedia (Santa Barbara, CA: ABC Clio, 2006);
Christian History & Biography magazines, "The American Puritans" (issue 41); "Jonathan Edwards" (issue 77); "Richard Baxter" (issue 89); "George Whitefield" (issue 38); and "Jonathan Edwards and the Great Awakening" (Vol. IV, No. 4).

September 17: Edwards' Early Years, Conversion and Pietist Heritage

Session I: Jonathan Edwards Early Life and Conversion


J.E. Smith; H.S. Stout; and K.P. Minkema, eds., *A Jonathan Edwards Reader* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1995);

John Piper, *A Godward Life: Savoring the Supremacy of God in All of Life* (Sisters, OR: Multnomah Press, 1997);


**Session II: Jonathan Edwards Pietist Heritage**

**Suggested Reading:** Philip Jacob Spener, *Pia Desideria* (Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1964);

Richard F. Lovelace, *The American Pietism of Cotton Mather* (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1979);

F. Ernst Stoeffler, *Continental Pietism and Early American Christianity* (Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock, 2007);


Peter C. Erb, *Pietists: Selected Writings* (New York: Paulist Press, 1983);

John R. Weinlick, *Count Zinzendorf* (Bethlehem, PA: The Moravian Church in America, 2001);

Dale W. Brown, *Understanding Pietism* (Nappanee, IN: Evangel Publishing House, 1996);

Katherine M. Faull, *Moravian Women's Memoirs* (Syracuse, NY: Syracuse University Press, 1997);


Timothy George, *Theology of the Reformers* (Nashville: Broadman Press, 1988);

Alister E. McGrath, *A Life of John Calvin* (Oxford: Blackwell, 1990);

Roland H. Bainton, *Here I Stand: A Life of Martin Luther* (Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 2009);

Carter Lindberg, *The European Reformations* (Oxford: Blackwell, 1996);

September 25: Edwards on Creation, Scripture and Preaching

Session I: God's Two Books: Creation and Scripture

**Required Reading:** George M. Marsden, *Jonathan Edwards: A Life*, pp. 59-81;


**Session II: Jonathan Edwards as a Preacher**


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);
Jonathan Edwards "Blank Bible" and "Notes on Scripture" (Volumes 24 and 15 in *The Works of Jonathan Edwards*);

**October 2: Jonathan Edwards as Pastor and Evangelist**

**Session I: Jonathan Edwards as a Pastor**

**Required Reading:** Marsden, *Jonathan Edwards*, pp. 114-149.

Horton Davies, *The Worship of the American Puritans* (Morgan, PA: Soli Deo Gloria Publications, 1999);

**Session II: Jonathan Edwards as an Evangelist**


**Recommended Reading:** Joseph Tracy, *The Great Awakening* (Edinburgh: The Banner of Truth Trust, 1842); Alan Heimert and Perry Miller, eds., *The Great Awakening: Documents Illustrating the Crisis and its Consequences* (Indianapolis and New York: Bobbs-Merrill Co., 1967);
October 9: Jonathan Edwards, George Whitefield and the Great Awakening
("Twenty Five Resolutions" are due today)

Session I: Edwards and Whitefield

**Required Reading:** Marsden, *Jonathan Edwards*, pp. 239-252

**Recommended Reading:** Elisabeth D. Dodds, *Marriage to a Difficult Man: The 'Uncommon Union' of Jonathan and Sarah Edwards* (Philadelphia: The Westminster Press, 1971);

*George Whitefield's Journals and George Whitefield's Letters* (Edinburgh: The Banner of Truth Trust, 1992 and 1976);


Session II: Edwards' Principles of Spiritual Renewal

**Recommended reading:** "The Distinguishing Marks of a Work of the Spirit of God" (*Works of Edwards*, Vol. 4, pp. 213-288);

"Some Thoughts Concerning the present Revival of Religion in New England" (*Works of Edwards*, Vol. 4, pp. 290-530);


Reading Week I (October 13-17): No class but students are expected to use the time for reading and research

October 23: Edwards Understanding of the Church

Session I: Jonathan Edwards Ecclesiology


Session II: The Making of the Yale Edition of Edwards Works


October 30: Reflections on Edwards Theology: A Special Lecture and Discussion

led by Jim Thomforde, a graduate of Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, Director of the Christian Union at Cornell University and a doctoral student at the University of Edinburgh (Scotland)


Conrad Cherry, The Theology of Jonathan Edwards: A Reappraisal (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1990);

James P. Byrd, Jonathan Edwards for Armchair Theologians (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2008);

November 6: Edwards Understanding of History and the Rise of Modern Evangelicalism

Session I: Edwards Understanding of History


Session II: The Rise of Modern Evangelicalism

**Recommended reading:** Mark A. Noll, *The Rise of Evangelicalism The Age of Edwards, Whitefield and the Wesleys* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2003);
Ronald C. White, Louis B. Weeks and Garth M. Rosell, American Christianity (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1986)


David F. Wells and John D. Woodbridge, eds., The Evangelicals (Nashville: Abingdon, 1975)

Reading Week II (November 10-14): No class but students are expected to use the time for reading and research

October 20: No Class (American Academy of Religion and Evangelical Theological Society Annual Meetings in San Diego, California)

October 27: No Class (Thanksgiving Vacation)

December 4: Edwards as a Missionary and Theologian

Session I: Jonathan Edwards as a Missionary


**Recommended reading:** Rachel M. Wheeler, To Live Upon Hope: Mohicans and Missionaries in the Eighteenth-Century Northeast (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2008);


Session II: Edwards Enduring Legacy

**Required reading:** Marsden, Jonathan Edwards, pp. 432-505;


"Treatise on Grace" in Jonathan Edwards Writings on the Trinity, Grace

Rachel S. Stahle, The Great Work of Providence: Jonathan Edwards for Life Today (Eugene, OR: Cascade Books, 2010);

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


John Piper and Justin Taylor, eds., A God-Entranced Vision of All Things (Wheaton: Crossway Books, 2004);

December 11: Final Examination
A three-hour, closed book, in-class essay examination will be given today. Students will be asked to write three essays on various aspects of Jonathan Edwards life and work.
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)
Pauw, Amy Plantinga "*The Supreme Harmony of All": The Trinitarian Theology of Jonathan Edwards* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2002)


