This course is designed to introduce students to the rich heritage of American Puritanism through lectures, classroom discussions, research papers, classroom presentations, the reading of materials both by and about the Puritans and through one or two visits to important Puritan sites here in New England.


Requirements: Those who are taking the course for credit will be expected to attend class regularly; to read at least 2000 pages (including the assigned texts); to write two 12-15 page research papers; to make two or three oral presentations in class; and to visit (and write brief 2-3 page reflection papers) two or three historic sites connected with New England Puritanism. No examinations will be given.

Research papers: Students are required to write two 12-15 page research papers. The first (due at the time of the class meeting on Thursday, March 27th) will focus on a key individual within the Puritan movement. The second (due by Friday, May 2nd, at 4:00 p.m.) will focus on an important theme, issue or topic within American Puritanism. Assignments will be made during the first class session on Thursday, January 30th, 2014.

Oral Presentations: Students will also be asked to make two or three 10-15 minute oral presentations at appropriate times within the course. At the time of the presentation, the presenter should bring a one to three page handout (with sufficient copies for distribution to the entire class) summarizing the presentation and providing a brief bibliography of the major sources that they have used in their research. Assignments will be made during the first class meeting on Thursday, January 30th.

On-site visits: Given New England's rich Puritan heritage, students are
required to visit at least three of the many Puritan sites throughout this region using one of our textbooks, "Exploring New England's Spiritual Heritage" as a guide. Brief 2-3 page reflection papers should be submitted following each of the visits. To provide time for these three "on-site" visits, no formal class sessions will be held on either April 17, 24 or May 1. The final work for the course (unless otherwise noted) will be due no later than Friday, May 2nd (the last day of classes) at 4:00 p.m.


Class Sessions:
Thursday, January 30, 2014: Introduction to the American Puritan Tradition
Assignments for the research papers and the classroom presentations will be made during this first class session.

Lecture: "Understanding the Puritan Tradition" (Rosell)


Thursday, February 6th: The Separatist Puritans (Plimoth, 1620)

New England’s first Puritan settlement was established at Plimoth in 1620. This branch of English Puritanism was "separatist" -- that is, they had clearly broken with the Church of England and were seeking to establish a new kind of church and society here in the new world.


Thursday, February 13: The Non-Separatist Puritans (Massachusetts Bay Colony, 1630)

New England’s larger settlement, established north of Plimoth at a place they named Boston, was "non-separatist" -- that is, they had not broken with the Church of England. Rather, by establishing a "city on a hill," to borrow the famous phrase from John Winthrop, many of these
early Puritans hoped to reform the Church of England by their godly example.


February 17-21, 2014: Reading Week (no classes)

Thursday, February 27th: 'For the Glory of God and the Common Good': The Puritan Understanding of Vocation and Work

Lecture: "The Puritan Understanding of Work and Vocation" (Rosell)


Mini-Lecture: "Making Sense of the Salem Witch Trials" (Rosell)

Thursday, March 6th: 'Visible Saints': The Puritan Understanding of the Church

Required reading: Ryken, pp. 91-134; Rosell, 29-54.


Thursday, March 13th: "The Practice of Piety": The Puritan Understanding of Spirituality and Devotion to God
(Research papers on the "person" you have been studying are due today)

Required reading: Ryken, pp. 137-154; Rosell, pp. 55-78.

Lecture: "Devotion to God: The Uncommon Devotion of Anne Bradstreet and Sarah Edwards" (Rosell)


Some concluding thoughts on Puritan Spirituality: Rosell

March 17-21, 2014: Reading Week (no class)

Thursday, March 27th: "Spiritual Awakening": The Puritans and Religious Revivals
Today the class will travel to "Old South" Presbyterian (PCUSA) in historic Newburyport to talk about the coming of the Great Awakening and the ministry of the great Anglican preacher, George Whitefield. We will also have opportunity to visit Whitefield's grave, to visit some of the sites where actually preached and to see the house in which he died.


Thursday, April 3rd: "The Intellectual Life of Colonial New England": The Puritan Understanding of Education

**Required reading:** Ryken, pp. 157-171; Rosell, pp. 117-175.

**Lecture:** "The Rise of Higher Education in America" (Rosell)


Thursday, April 10th: "The Family as a Little Church": The Puritan Understanding of Marriage and Family

**Required reading:** Ryken, pp. 75-88, 39-54; 173-185.


**Discussion:** "What Can the Puritans Teach Contemporaries about Family Life and Values?"

Thursday, April 17, 24 and May 1: On-site visits to various Puritan locations detailed in our "Exploring New England's Spiritual Heritage" textbook (Plimoth Plantation, Salem, Boston, Northfield, Northampton, Ipswich or Newburyport).

All remaining work for the course will be due no later than 4:00 p.m. on Friday, May 2nd.

**Grading for the course:**
- Research Papers (20% each) 40%
- Class Presentations 20%
- Reading Report (2000 pages) 20%
- Reports (On-Site Visits) 20%