

ANABAPTIST HERITAGE

2005-2006 (first semester)
Eastern Mennonite High School
Mr. Elwood Yoder, teacher

Course Description: The focus of Anabaptist Heritage is the story of God's people in the church. Christ's church began at Pentecost (30 A.D.) and continues to this day in many different denominations. We will study the story of the church up to and including the Reformation. From the Reformation (A.D. 1517) to the present we will focus primarily on the story of the Anabaptists and their descendants, the Mennonites, but not to the exclusion of learning about other denominations.

Course Objectives: Through your studies in this course you will:

1. Learn the story of the Christian Church from Pentecost to the Reformation;
2. Gain an understanding of the Reformation from which Anabaptism emerged;
3. Understand the unique emphases of the 16th century Anabaptists;
4. Become acquainted with key persons in Anabaptist-Mennonite life and thought;
5. Analyze the effects martyrdom, migrations, and affluence have had on the Mennonite Church;
6. Understand and be able to articulate the central beliefs of Mennonites as compared with other denominational beliefs;
7. Evaluate the growing worldwide spread of the Mennonite Church;
8. Learn about the growth in numbers of the Amish and conservative Mennonite groups; and,
9. Be encouraged to grow in your spiritual life and increase your appreciation for the Scriptures.

Resources:

The New International Version of the Bible (or another translation of student's choice)
Through Fire and Water, Loewen, Nolt, Duerksen, and Yoder, 1996
Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective, 1995
Margaret's Print Shop, 2005
www.edline.net

Procedures:

1. Keep a looseleaf type three-ring notebook for all handouts and notes.
2. Participate in class discussions.
3. Complete readings as assigned, including Margaret's Print Shop.
4. Read Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective, as outline in course calendar.
5. Prepare an inductive Bible study of each memory passage.
6. Unannounced pop quizzes may be given at any time over reading assignments and a test will be given at the end of each unit.

Course Outline

Memory Passages

Unit 1 - Pentecost to the early 1500s
Through Fire and Water, chapters 1-3

Matthew 16:13-19

Unit 2- Anabaptism emerges in sixteenth century Europe
Through Fire and Water, chapters 4-6

1 Corinthians 3:9-19a

Unit 3 - Swiss and South German Mennonites
Through Fire and Water, chapters 7-9

2 Corinthians 5:17-20

Unit 4 - The Russian Mennonite story
Through Fire and Water, chapters 10-12

1 Peter 2:9-12

Unit 5 - Anabaptism grows around the world
Through Fire and Water, chapters 13-15

Galatians 3:26-29 or
Matthew 28:16-20

Anabaptist Heritage
Semester Reading Requirements

To broaden awareness about what has happened and is happening in the Mennonite Church today, you will need to complete readings beyond the textbook. These reading assignments need to be completed on your own time. If you are not a part of the Mennonite faith heritage, reading is encouraged in other denominational books and periodicals.

To maintain a "C" grade the following shall be completed:

- A. 2 periodical articles (one each quarter)
 - 1 from The Mennonite or Mennonite Weekly Review
 - 1 from another source
- B. 30 minutes from Martyrs Mirror
- C. 30 minutes from the Mennonite Encyclopedia
- D. 300 pages of reading from biographies, novels, or other approved books or 9 hours of reading time (Confession may count for 100 pages)

To maintain a "B" grade the following shall be completed:

- A. 4 periodical articles (two each quarter)
 - 2 from The Mennonite or Mennonite Weekly Review
 - 2 from other sources
- B. 45 minutes from Martyrs Mirror
- C. 45 minutes from the Mennonite Encyclopedia
- D. 400 pages of reading from biographies, novels, or other approved books or 12 hours of reading time (Confession may count for 100 pages)
- E. Write memory passages on unit test

To maintain an "A" grade the following shall be completed:

- A. 6 periodical articles (three each quarter)
 - 3 from The Mennonite or Mennonite Weekly Review
 - 3 from other sources
- B. 60 minutes from Martyr's Mirror
- C. 60 minutes from the Mennonite Encyclopedia
- D. 500 pages of reading from biographies, novels, or other approved books or 15 hours of reading time (Confession may count for 100 pages)
- E. Write memory passages on unit test

Article reports are worth 60 points--(10 points per article).

Half of Book report pages are due October 26 (50 points possible) and second half of book report pages due January 13 (50 points possible)

Martyrs Mirror reading report is due October 19 (50 points possible)

Mennonite Encyclopedia reports are due January 10 (50 points possible)

Magazines in the EMHS Media Center to read for Anabaptist Heritage class:

Christian Living, Christianity Today, The Other Side, Sojourners, The Mennonite, Mennonite Weekly Review (<http://www.mennoweekly.org/>), With, Connections, World, A Common Place, and Washington Memo (also available at <http://www.mcc.org/washmemo/index.html>).

EMU Library: Mennonite Quarterly Review, Conrad Grebel Review, Journal of Mennonite Studies (1 article from any of these magazines may count for 2 regular article reports)
See "Mennonite Connections on the Web" at <http://www-personal.umich.edu/~bpl/menno.html>
See the Mennonites on-line at <http://mennonite.net/>

Anabaptist Heritage Reading Report Formats

The Mennonite Encyclopedia

On a sheet of note paper keep a list that indicates the title of each entry read, and the amount of time spent reading it. If several entries are read in one sitting, time for that sitting can be indicated rather than individual times for each entry. No summary or opinion needed.

Martyrs Mirror

On a separate sheet of paper keep a list that indicates title and pages read as well as total reading time. After you finish all readings, write a response (at least 2 paragraphs) in which you reflect on what you read. Describe impressions you have about dying for your faith or the type of faith these martyrs had.

Periodicals

For each article read from a magazine, list:

the name of the magazine (underlined)

the publication date of the magazine

the title of the article

the author's name

In one paragraph summarize the main points the author is making. In a second paragraph write a response (do you agree/disagree, have further questions, or have an additional statement to make?).

Books

Write a summary and reaction for each book or part of book read. Approximately 200-400 words for each book. Include title of book (always underlined), author, copyright date, publisher, total pages in book, and total pages you read.

Inductive Bible Studies

For each unit memory passage:

- 1) read what's there carefully, including comments in your study Bible
- 2) try not to bring a lot of assumptions to the text
- 3) allow the Scripture to speak to you
- 4) use Bible study helps
 - a good study Bible
 - another translation or paraphrase
 - a Bible Dictionary
 - a Bible Encyclopedia
 - a commentary
 - on-line resources such as <http://bible.crosswalk.com/index.cgi>
- 5) compare translations and a paraphrase
- 6) type the verse and then write a verse by verse summary (1-2 pages) of what you believe each verse means
- 7) identify the resources you use and your Bible translation

Anabaptist Heritage Honors Option

Purpose: For students to go beyond the basic requirements of the course in order to increase awareness, knowledge, analytical thinking skills, creative thinking, and involvement in the church.

Requirements:

1. All honors students must earn a minimum average of 92% for both quarters.
2. The honors student will need to complete the "A" level of supplemental readings.
3. The honors student will choose one of the following options:

A. Write a term paper using the following guidelines:

Choose a topic in theology or a history topic approved by the instructor. This research may focus on significant contributions of a key person, a pivotal event, or a central belief in Anabaptist-Mennonite history and thought. This option may be used by a student who is not a Mennonite and who would like to research some aspect of his/her own denominational history.

Papers shall be typed (double-spaced) with appropriate citations, 7-10 pages in length (1500 minimum words in body of paper), a title page, and bibliography of sources used. Papers shall earn an 92% or higher to be considered for honors credit. These papers must be written for Anabaptist Heritage and may not "double" for another class.

During the last full week of the semester, students will give a summary report to the class of 5-15 minutes each.

Topics must be approved by September 17
Tentative title and outline due October 15
Tentative thesis with updated outline due November 12
Update and general overview of work-to-date due December 8
Papers shall be submitted by January 4

B. Church Leadership

Students will be involved with a church leader in their local congregation for at least 30 hours during the semester (committee assignments, planning meetings, leading youth events, outreach programs, etc). Student will work with and learn from a leader in their church. This option works best for those already actively involved in church leadership in their home congregation. Keep a careful record of time spent in church activities, write up a written report at the end, and give oral presentation to the class.

• Honors credit grades are valued as follows: A=5.0 B=4.0

• With the successful completion of the honors requirements, EMU, Goshen, and Hesston College will grant 3 semester hours of elective credit to students who matriculate at those schools. Student should notify Records Office of college upon enrollment.

- Honors Papers may be submitted to the head of the Bible department to be entered in the Kennel/Charles Anabaptist Endowment Research Paper Essay Contest.

Topic ideas for the Anabaptist Heritage Honors paper

- How does the New Testament define the church?
- How is a "free church" different than a state church?
- How does Luther's view of the church differ from the Anabaptist view on the church?
- What do the Hutterites believe and how do they organize their communities?
- Is the Anabaptist view of the ban biblical?
- What was the 19th century Russian Mennonite view of the church?
- What was the role of the pastor in Anabaptist thought and practice?
- What are the main beliefs in the 1632 Dordrecht Confession of Faith?
- Is the Dutch Mennonite view of the church after 1700 biblical?
- What did the Anabaptists believe about the suffering church?
- How has the charismatic movement shaped the Mennonite church in the 20th century?
- What is the governance pattern and structure of the newly integrated Mennonite Church USA?
- Were the strong bishops (MC) of the mid-20th century effective? Biblical?
- What did Anabaptists believe about women in ministry? What do Mennonites today believe?
- How do the Amish define the nature of the church? Why are they growing so rapidly today?
- Why did Jakob Ammann (ca. 1644 - 1733) break with Hans Reist and other Mennonites in the 1690s and found the Amish denomination?
- Which churches are growing among Mennonites today and why?
- How did Mennonite Churches operate and function during the 19th century in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia?
- How did Mennonites in the Shenandoah Valley respond during the American Civil War (1861-1865)?
- How have the Indonesian Mennonites been able to grow and spread in spite of persecution?
- How have Mennonites helped to develop health care facilities in India?
- Should we call Constantine (274-337) a Christian Emperor?
- Why did the Swiss Anabaptists break from Ulrich Zwingli (1484-1529)?
- Why was the Anabaptist Balthasar Hubmaier (1480-1528) burned at the stake?
- Why have some called Hans Denck (ca. 15090-1527) a "spiritualist" Anabaptist?
- How did Pilgram Marpeck's (ca. 1495-1556) view of the church differ from other Anabaptists?
- What are Menno Simon's (1492-1559) main views on the church in Complete Writings?
- How did Michael Sattler (1490-1527) help organize the Swiss Brethren?
- What did Dirk Philips (1504-1568) believe about the nature of the church?
- What were the life contributions of Elizabeth Horsch Bender (1895-1988)?
- What has Harold Bender's (1897-1962) impact been on the Mennonite Church in the late 20th century?
- How did Johann Cornies (1789-1848) come to have so much influence on Russian Mennonites during the 19th century?
- What is John Funk's (1835-1930) legacy in the area of Mennonite publishing?
- How was Roger Williams (ca. 1603-1683) a pioneer in the separation of church and state?
- How has Myron Augsburg (1931-) carried out his evangelistic campaigns?

Why was Polycarp (ca. 69-156) burned for his faith?

How were William Penn's (1644-1718) ideals established in Pennsylvania?

Why did Martin Luther (1483-1546) oppose the Peasant's War?

Why was Nestor Makhno (1889-1934) the terrorist Mennonites in Russia feared worst?

What are John Howard Yoder's (1927-1997) main beliefs as outlined in *The Politics of Jesus*?

What influence has George Brunk I (1871-1926) had on Mennonites in Virginia?