

# Religion and Secularism in American Culture

Prof. Vincent Lloyd // Syracuse University  
Graduate-level Independent Study Course, Spring 2015

## Reading List

- > January 14: Theories of Religion and American Culture  
Sacvan Bercovitch, *Puritan Origins of the American Self*
  
- > January 21: Theories of Religion and American Culture  
Christopher Lasch, *Culture of Narcissism*, 3-99, 218-250  
Christopher Lasch, *True and Only Heaven*, 40-81, 226-295
  
- > January 28: Orientation to American Studies  
Russ Castronovo and Susan Gillman (eds), *States of Emergency*  
Donald Pease, "The United States of Fantasy"
  
- > February 4: Orientation to American Religious History  
Thomas Tweed (ed.), *Retelling US Religious History*  
Courtney Bender and Pamela Klassen, "Habits of Pluralism"
  
- > February 11: Charismatic Figures I  
Leigh Schmidt, *Heaven's Bride*
  
- > February 18: Charismatic Figures II  
Kathryn Lofton, *Oprah*
  
- > February 25: Critique of Charisma  
Erica Edwards, *Charisma and the Fictions of Black Leadership*
  
- > March 4: Pluralism and Secularism I  
Tracy Fessenden, *Culture and Redemption*
  
- > March 18: Pluralism and Secularism II  
John Lardas Modern, *Secularism in Antebellum America*
  
- > March 25: Pluralism and Secularism III  
Isaac Weiner, *Religion Out Loud*
  
- > April 1: Pluralism and Secularism IV  
Joshua Dubler, *Down in the Chapel*
  
- > April 8: Religion and Law  
Sarah Gordon, *Spirit of the Law*

> April 15: Religion and Capital  
Bethany Moreton, *To Serve God and Wal-Mart*

> April 22: Spirituality and Religion  
Courtney Bender, *New Metaphysicals*