
GER-300/IDS-300

Pennsylvania Germans: The Culture of the Sectarians

This class is conducted in English. (It could also be taught in German if it was offered in the German Studies Program only rather than being offered as an interdisciplinary course).

Course Description & Objectives

Many people who visit Pennsylvania are curious about the Old Order Amish and have many questions about them. Why do they still drive buggies drawn by horses and wear such old-fashioned clothing in the 21st century? Do they reject all modern technology? Through class discussions, lectures, readings and films, students will be introduced to the history, culture, religion, beliefs, customs, language, education, and occupations of three ethnoreligious groups, so-called Old Orders: the Amish, Mennonites and Hutterites. We will not merely observe these people from a distance. Rather, we will attempt to learn reasons for their beliefs and practices. Above all, we will try to understand their typical and unique mind-set. By studying them, students encounter a unique opportunity to learn more about separatist cultures in America and are enabled to arrive at a better understanding of their own cultural concepts, values, and beliefs.

This course includes a field trip to Lancaster, PA and a guest lecture.

Credit Hours: 3

Prerequisite(s): none

Grading Scale

94-100	A	87-89	B+	77-79	C+	60-69	D	0-59	F
90-93	A-	83-86	B	70-76	C				
		80-82	B-						

Instructor: Ines Martin

Fall 2018

TR 12-1:15pm

Room: 157 Burrowes

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Office: 253 Burrowes

Office Hours: MWF 9-11, TR 2-4 & by appointment

Materials

- Kraybill, D. & Bowman C. ***On the Backroad to Heaven: Old Order Hutterites, Mennonites, Amish, and Brethren***. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2001. (ISBN: 0801870895)
- Yoder, J. W. ***Rosanna of the Amish; The Restored Text*** (2008). Scottdale, PA. Herald Press (originally 1940). (ISBN: 0836190181)
- Kraybill, D., Johnson-Weiner, K., & Nolt, S. ***The Amish***. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2013. (ISBN: 1421409143)
→ Additional readings will be available on Canvas

Grade Distribution

20%

Participation

20%

Midterm

15 %

Short Paper

20%

Written Reflections (4)

25%

Final

Requirements

Participation - 20%

Students are expected to come to class on-time and prepared to discuss the day's material. Active participation (including asking questions, working in groups, and making constructive comments during class discussions) is an important part of succeeding in this course. Students may miss no more than 3 classes during the semester without prior approval (e.g. medical emergency). Each absence beyond the third will result in a successive lowering of the students' participation grade.

Evaluation Guidelines for Participation

90-100 % You are well prepared, as demonstrated by your comments made in class; you are interested in and respect others' opinions; you ask and respond to questions; demonstrate knowledge of course materials; foster a vibrant intellectual community. You are genuinely engaged with the class.

80-89 % You are generally prepared, you make an effort to refer to readings and course topics; you are willing to participate in discussions in class.

70-79 % You only reluctantly participate in class activities and you are often unprepared; rarely practice critical thinking; do not demonstrate sufficient knowledge of course materials.

60-69 % You are not willing to participate in class activities and are unable to ask or answer questions; you are generally unprepared; demonstrate little knowledge of course materials.

0-59 % You are absent (physically or mentally), unprepared, or disruptive in class. [Emailing, messaging, or spending time on facebook in class counts as being mentally absent.]

Midterm - 20%

A midterm is scheduled for Thursday, September 27 and will take place during the regularly scheduled class period. The midterm will cover readings and materials discussed in class in the first six weeks of the semester.

Short Paper - 15%

A short paper is due Thursday, October 30. Topics will be announced and details will be discussed in class.

4 Written Reflections - 20%

Students will be required to write four short (approx. 500 words) reflections answering questions about the readings during the semester.

Final - 25%

The final is a cumulative 60 min exam and will take place during finals week at a time and place to be announced.

Schedule

Abbreviations under "Reading": **Amish** = The Amish; **OBH** = On the Backroad to Heaven; **Rosanna** = Rosanna of the Amish

Week	Day	Topic	Reading	Assignment due
1	8/21	Introduction, Getting to know each other, Syllabus		
	8/23	The Radical Reformation and Early Anabaptism	OBH ix- xiv, 1-19	
2	8/28	Anabaptist migrations and persecution: Hutterite origins	Schleitheim Articles of Faith OBH 20-33	
	8/30	Hutterite settlements; Golden Period; Arrival in America	OBH 33-48	
3	9/4	Hutterite social life, church, family, business	Hutterites in a Changing World	Reflection #1
	9/6	Hutterite culture, gender roles, education, and schisms	OBH 48-59	
4	9/11	Film "Born Hutterite", Hutterite defection, discipline, conflict and justice	Hutterite Weggelufene "Runaways", Hofer (1998)	
	9/13	Old Order Mennonite origins, divisions, settlements	OBH 60-73	
5	9/18	Old Order Mennonite views, language, church and doctrine	OBH 73-81 Dordrecht Confession	
	9/20	Old Order Mennonite family, social patterns, education, rituals.	OBH 81-85, The Fabric of Faith and Culture. Kraybill & Hurd (2006)	Reflection #2
6	9/25	Old Order Mennonite occupations, social change, outside relationships	OBH 85-100	
	9/27	Hutterites and Old Order Mennonites		Midterm
7	10/2	Field Trip to Lancaster, PA		

Week	Day	Topic	Reading	Assignment due
	10/4	Old Order Amish: Identity and Origins	Amish: 3-36	
8	10/9	Old Order Amish: Immigration and History America	Amish: 37-55, OBH 100-103	
	10/11	Religious Roots and Sacred Rituals	Amish 97-133	Reflection #3
9	10/16	Film: The Amish: A Preservation People	Amish: 377-384	
	10/18	<i>Rosanna of the Amish</i>	Rosanna	
10	10/23	<i>Rosanna of the Amish</i>	Rosanna	
	10/25	Guest Lecture by XXX		Short Paper
11	10/30	Community Organizations; Gender and Family	Amish 171-211	
	11/1	Film: "Devil's Playground" <i>Rumspringa</i> to Marriage	Amish 212-230	
12	11/6	Population Patterns; Shunning; Social Ties and Community Rhythms	Amish 155-170, 231-249 OBH 104-108, 117-122	
	11/8	Agriculture	Amish 275-290, OBH 122-126	Reflection #4
13	11/13	Business	Amish 291-311, OBH 129-136	
	11/15	Technology	Amish 312-334, OBH 29-136	
14	11/20	Health and Healing	Amish 335-351	
	11/22	Tourism and Media	Amish 385-400	
15	12/4	Common convictions, differences, & similarities	OBH 179-235	
	12/6	Redemptive communities, postmodern journey	OBH 236-289	
Finals Week	DATE, TIME, PLACE TBA			Final exam: cumulative