

HM 4.1 – Puritan Perspectives on Ministry

a.k.a. Quotes from Dead Guys with Cool Hair

a.k.a. Bits and Pieces from the Seventeenth Century that DF finds interesting

Course documents, Semester Two, 2006-07

Possible class schedule:

1	1 st Feb	Introduction – Puritans
2	8 th Feb	Westminster Assembly and Standards (including church government)
3	15 th Feb	Westminster Assembly and Standards (theological review)
4	22 nd Feb	<i>College Quiet Day</i>
5	1 st March	Puritan preaching (including Reformed Scholasticism)
6	8 th March	Rutherford (including the civil magistrate)
7	15 th March	Puritan spirituality
8	22 nd March	(Forerunners of liberalism); The Great Ejection
9	19 th April	Howe (nonconformity, occasional conformity)
10	26 th April	Edwards (including New England)
11	3 rd May	Owen – seminars <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Christologia: The Glorious Mystery of the Person of Christ</i>• <i>Of Communion with God the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost</i>• <i>Pneumatologia: Book IV – Sanctification</i>• <i>The Grace and Duty of Being Spiritually-Minded</i>
12	10 th May	Richard Baxter (P. Kerry and A. Grey); Puritans and assurance (A. Sach)
13	17 th May	Puritan counselling; miscellany, review

Readings:

1. Thomas Taylor's *Threefold Alphabet*
2. Richard Steele – "Duties of Husbands and Wives"
3. Thomas Manton on Heb 11.1
4. William Whitaker – "How are we complete in Christ?"
5. Ames' Marrow, I.XXXV, II.I, II.XVIII
6. Muller on Reformed Orthodoxy
7. Barth's foreword to Heppe's *Reformed Dogmatics*
8. Baxter – Reasons for Plainness and Seriousness
9. from Thomas Edwards' *Gangraena*
10. Richard Baxter, *Christian Directory*, Contents
11. Calamy – Reasons for 1662 Nonconformity
12. Documents relating to the 1662 Settlement of the Church of England
13. Joel Beeke – Puritan Meditation
14. Second Book of Discipline and Q28 from Rutherford's *Lex, rex*
15. Mather – from *Magnalia Christi Americana*
16. Jonathan Edwards – *Personal Narrative; Resolutions; Apostrophe; 3 letters*
17. Baxter – from *Christian Directory; Saints' Everlasting Rest; Sound Conversion*
18. Tim Keller on Puritan counselling
19. William Bridge - "A lifting up ... affliction"
20. Lovelace on *American Pietism of Cotton Mather*

Westminster Standards:

WCF,
WLC,
WSC,
FPCG,
DPW

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Module Description – 2006/07

Code:	HM4.1	Title:	Puritan Perspectives on Ministry
Level:	3 – BA(Hons) level	Study Area:	Theology & Church History and Church & World
Credits:	20	ECTS:	10
		Lecturer(s):	David Field

Aims & Objectives:

The module aims to

- give students an introduction to an important period with church history and a highly influential set of understandings of Christian life and ministry;
 - inculcate personal appreciation of and aspirations towards the “godly and learned” ministry of the English Puritans;
 - develop further the students ability to integrate themes and practices of personal spirituality, careful systematics and effective gospel ministry;
 - provide perspectives on current ministry issues including matters of ecclesiology, the role of gospel minister and the cure of souls.
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Threshold Learning Outcomes:

The successful student will be able to demonstrate

- good background knowledge of the key events, ideas and figures of seventeenth century English Puritanism;
- significant understanding of the lasting impact of Puritanism upon the shape and mind of the English church;
- some reflective and critical engagement with the key issue of how and how far the main features of the Puritan theology and practice of ministry were shaped by the seventeenth century context;
- ability to evaluate the theological groundedness of Puritan priorities in and practice of Christian ministry;
- developed ability to read primary texts from another period in the life of Church with both critical engagement and reflective appreciation.

Brief Module Content:

Historical background. Introduction to the life and thought of leading seventeenth century puritan divines. Study of the Westminster Assembly, the Restoration settlement, forerunners of liberalism and Puritan perspectives on aspects of Christian life and ministry such as civil government, preaching, spirituality, the cure of souls, church government, and worship.

Assessment Package:	60% Essay(s) (max 4500 words)
	40% Unseen exam. (3 hours)

Method of Delivery:

Lectures, student-led seminars, class discussion of primary readings.

Study Hours per Week:	Class contact hours: 4	Other study hours: 8	Total hours: 12
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Indicative Bibliography:

Allison, C.F., *The Rise of Moralism* (Wilton, Connecticut, 1966)
Collinson, Patrick, *From Cranmer to Sancroft* (London, 2006)
Kapic, Kelly M. & Gleason, Randall C., *The Devoted Life* (IVP, 2004)
Keeble, N., *The Literary Culture of Nonconformity* (Leicester, 1987)
Kishlansky, M., *A Monarchy Transformed: Britain 1603-1714* (Penguin, 1996)
Packer, J.I., *A Quest for Godliness* (Wheaton, 1990)
Ryken, L., *Worldly Saints: the Puritans as they Really Were* (Grand Rapids, 1986)
Spurr, J., *The Restoration Church of England* (London, 1991)
Spurr, J., *English Puritanism, 1603-1689* (MacMillan, 1998)
Wallace, D., *Puritans and Predestination* (Chapel Hill, 1982)

Category & Programme Restrictions:

Elective. Note: For BA students, this module can be counted as belonging to EITHER the ‘Theology & Church History’ stream OR the ‘Church & World’ stream (NOT both) Prerequisites: CH 1.1

Version date: 11/11/2005

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Assessment – 2006/07

A) Essay / assignment(s) – max 4500 words – 60%

Write a review essay on one of the following works of John Owen:

- a) *Christologia: The Glorious Mystery of the Person of Christ* in Works I (270pp)
- b) *Of Communion with God the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost* in Works II (270pp)
- c) *Pneumatologia: Book IV – Sanctification* in Works III (200pp)
- d) *The Grace and Duty of Being Spiritually-Minded* in Works VII (240pp)

Use no more than 1500 words to provide background to and/or a summary of the book. Engage with the key argument / objective of the book and discuss theological and pastoral issues associated with that.

Your essay (max 4500 words) is to be submitted by **1300 on Tuesday 17th April 2007**

Three or four of you will work on each of these books and after submitting your essays I will ask you to get together in order to construct a 50-minute seminar presentation for the entire class. This presentation will be given on Thursday 3rd May 2007.

Further guidance will be given in class about the extent to which you may consult with each other while writing the essay, the range of secondary works which I shall expect you to use in your research, and the format for the class presentation on Thursday 3rd May.

B) Three hour unseen end of semester exam - 40%

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**Probably can't do**

##### ***Puritans – issues, docs, bios:***

John Dod's *Decalogue*  
Samuel Bolton on Chastisement  
Cotton Mather's "Father's Resolutions"  
William Ames – bio and theology  
Richard Baxter on Self-love  
John Owen on the Free Offer  
John Owen on Censures  
John Owen on owning the world  
Thomas Goodwin – various  
John Cotton – Abstract of Laws  
Isaac Ambrose  
Thomas Woodcock – Amen

##### ***Articles:***

Sommerville - Sects  
Mason – family and church  
David Como – Cotton/Twisse  
Michael McGiffert - Hammond  
Winship – Backsliders  
Gribben – Defining  
Dolfe – Knox  
Adam – Halfly Reformed

##### ***Issues:***

Regulative Principle  
Sacraments  
Sabbath

## Further Reading

### Primary

#### a) Essential

Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress*  
Westminster Standards  
Some John Owen and Richard Baxter

#### b) As much as you can of

|                    |                |                 |
|--------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| William Ames       | David Clarkson | William Perkins |
| William Bates      | John Flavel    | John Preston    |
| Richard Baxter     | Thomas Gataker | Richard Rogers  |
| Thomas Brooks      | Thomas Goodwin | Henry Scudder   |
| John Bunyan        | William Gouge  | Richard Sibbes  |
| Jeremiah Burroughs | John Howe      | George Swinnock |
| Joseph Caryl       | Thomas Manton  | William Twisse  |
| Stephen Charnock   | John Owen      | Thomas Watson   |

#### c) and these not-exactly-Puritans:

Thomas Boston  
James Durham  
Jonathan Edwards  
George Gillespie  
Matthew Henry  
Samuel Rutherford  
Francis Turretin

d) The “Puritan Bookshelf” and “Reformation Bookshelf” CDs in the library are a phenomenal resource – hundreds and hundreds of 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> C works available. The indices are available at <http://www.swrb.com/Puritan/PBCD-Author-Index.PDF> and <http://www.swrb.com/Puritan/Authors-index-RBCD.PDF>

### Secondary

(i) Indicative bibliography. Take some minutes with all of these pieces and try to read at least two of them properly. Follow leads.

(ii) Journals – the following are well worth browsing for relevant and worthwhile articles:

*Church History*  
*Journal of Ecclesiastical History*  
*Westminster Theological Journal*  
*Calvin Theological Journal*

(iii) There's a whole world of articles which could be sub-titled, “stuff which has interested or been helpful to working pastor X which he wrote up for a conference or a book”. *Reformation Today*, *Banner of Truth*, *Westminster Conference*, *St Antholin's lectures*, *Rigide Calvinisme*, etc etc.

(iv) Interesting websites – have a scout around. Examples:

<http://www.johnowen.org/>  
[http://www.bunyanministries.org/works\\_bunyan.htm](http://www.bunyanministries.org/works_bunyan.htm)  
<http://www.jonathanedwards.com/>  
<http://edwards.yale.edu/>

Puritan websites and nostalgia, heresy-hunting, hobby-horse riding, and pietism.