

300:03

Religion and American Culture

This course explores religion as a central component of American culture from the period of the American Revolution to the present. Thematically the class centers on the relationship between religion and identities—national, regional, ethnic, class-based—and on the role of religion in the production and reception of secular cultural forms. Topics will include religion and social values, slavery and race, political discourse, reform, gender, and the emergence of new religions. Special attention will be given to the popular and mass cultural dimensions of American religious experience, the evangelical tradition, the links between religion and consumer culture, and the persistence of religious belief in American culture into the early twenty-first century.