

Classic Fundamentalism  
Western Reformed Seminary (<http://wrs.edu>)  
John A. Battle, Th.D.  
Spring 2015

# COURSE INFORMATION

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## Purpose of the course

From the Catalog: "This class will study the historical and theological background and the early history of Christian fundamentalism in America. Topics include the liberal-fundamentalist controversy, with an emphasis on the developing conflict in the Presbyterian Church USA; the early fundamentalist scholars and writers; the mixing of Reformed and dispensational streams of fundamentalism; and the subsequent divergence of fundamentalism and evangelicalism."

## Attendance and participation

In addition to lectures, this elective course will include classroom presentations and discussions. Your attendance and participation in the discussions will be a factor in your final grade.

There will be a test over the lecture material presented during the first class sessions. Study questions will be provided.

## Required reading

- J. Gresham Machen, *Christianity and Liberalism* (1923; often reprinted, and available online at [http://www.reformed.org/books/chr\\_and\\_lib](http://www.reformed.org/books/chr_and_lib))
  - If you have read Machen recently, you may substitute Francis L. Patton, *Fundamental Christianity* (1928; available online at <http://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=mdp.39015062272995;view=1up;seq=5>)
- George M. Marsden, *Understanding Fundamentalism and Evangelicalism* (1991)
  - If you have read Marsden recently, you may substitute Ernest R. Sandeen, *The Roots of Fundamentalism: British and American Millenarianism, 1800-1930* (1970)
- Articles:
  - Harry Emerson Fosdick, "Shall the Fundamentalists Win?" (sermon delivered in the First Presbyterian Church in New York, May 1922) (available online: <http://baptiststudiesonline.com/wp-content/uploads/2007/01/shall-the-fundamentalists-win.pdf>)
    - Write a two-page critique of this sermon

- John A. Battle, "A Brief History of the Social Gospel," *WRS Journal* 6:1 (February 1999) 5-11 (online at [http://wrs.edu/Materials\\_for\\_Web\\_Site/Journals/6-1%20Feb-1999/Battle%20-%20Social%20Gospel.pdf](http://wrs.edu/Materials_for_Web_Site/Journals/6-1%20Feb-1999/Battle%20-%20Social%20Gospel.pdf))
- John A. Battle, "Presbyterianism in America: The 20<sup>th</sup> Century," *WRS Journal* 13:2 (August 2006) 26-43 (online at [http://wrs.edu/Materials\\_for\\_Web\\_Site/Journals/13-2\\_Aug-2006/Battle-Presbyterianism\\_America\\_20th\\_Century.pdf](http://wrs.edu/Materials_for_Web_Site/Journals/13-2_Aug-2006/Battle-Presbyterianism_America_20th_Century.pdf))

## Reports on *The Fundamentals*

Select three different articles by three different authors in *The Fundamentals* (1910-1915; published together in 1917; often reprinted). You will give a 20-minute presentation on each article in the class, using a printed or PowerPoint outline. Briefly describe the author, and summarize the content of the article, pointing out any especially interesting or important items. Link the contents of the article to the general historical background of the developing liberal-fundamentalist controversy. Lead a class discussion for about 10-15 minutes about this author's approach to the topic and any modern applications (it's a good idea to have about three or four thoughtful questions on hand if needed).

In addition to copies in the library, *The Fundamentals* is available online at <http://www.ntslibrary.com/PDF%20Books%20II/>

## Grading

- Reading of Machen (or Patton) 15%
- Reading of Marsden (or Sandeen) 15%
- Reading articles and critique of Fosdick 5%
- Test on lectures 10%
- Reports on *The Fundamentals* 45%
- Attendance and participation 10%

## Class schedule

Jan.	21		25	(Discipleship & Evangelism)
	28		Apr. 1	(Spring vacation)
Feb.	4		8	
	11		15	
	18		22	
	25		29	(G. W. Presbytery – Edmonton)
Mar.	4		May 6	
	11		13	(Finals)
	18	(JAB in CA; Midterms)		