Instructor: J. Mark Worth, minister of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Castine
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Course Description: The purpose of this course is to provide a general introduction to the
history of the Universalists and Unitarians of North America, while linking that history to earlier
related Christian heresies and orthodoxies, and to modern Unitarian and Universalist movements
around the globe. As we move into the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, we will look at issues
that proved controversial among the various Unitarian and Universalist groups – including
polity, beliefs, the role of women, race relations, and other moments of change and controversy.
The course will include lectures, discussions, and presentations by students.
The goals of the course are:
1. To foster an awareness of UU history to the practice of lay or ordained ministry. Since, as
Unitarian Universalists, “we don’t have a creed, we have a history,” the student should be
prepared to recognize how UU history affects our theologies, polity, and mission today.
2. To become familiar with the central events, people, and places in Unitarian Universalist
history and thus develop a broad framework of UU history in support of future research, sermon
writing, and teaching.
3. To help prepare Unitarian Universalist ministerial aspirants and candidates for meeting with
the Ministerial Fellowship Committee (MFC) by providing an overview of UU history, and
through individual research, a deeper familiarity with a specific time period, theme, historical
figure or polity issue.

Required reading:
For Faith and Freedom: A Short History of Unitarianism in Europe by Charles A. Howe;
The Larger Faith: A Short History of American Universalism by Charles A. Howe;
The Epic of Unitarianism: Original Writings from the History of Liberal Religion ed. by David
B. Parke;
Universalism in America: A Documentary History of a Liberal Faith ed. by Ernest Cassara;
Unitarian Universalism: A Narrative History by David Bumbaugh

Course requirements:
1. Required reading as indicated in the syllabus.
2. Regular attendance and class participation.
3. A mid-term quiz.
4. A 5-page report on a major theme in UU history or a biography of a UU historical figure, and
a 15-minute class presentation based on that report. Written report to be due on the day of your
presentation. Presentation dates to be chosen at our second meeting.
5. Research, preparation and presentation of a fifteen minute sermon on a UU historical figure or
theme – on a different topic than your previous presentation and report. A written version of the
sermon must be turned in on the day you present your sermon to the class. Alternatively, you
may elect to design an adult religious education workshop or course on any UU history or polity
topic. Dates to be chosen at our second meeting.

CLASS SCHEDULE:
At the present time, we expect to meet at the UU Community Church in Augusta on Fridays at 9:00 a.m. If this does not work for you, please let me know so we can discuss other options.

WEEK ONE Fri. Feb 4
PLEASE BRING A BIBLE TO THIS CLASS
REQUIRED READING:
Howe, *For Faith and Freedom* pp. 1-18
1. Introductions; review syllabus, course goals, readings and assignments.
2. Themes: Was Jesus a unitarian? Was Paul a universalist? Orthodoxy and heresy in Christianity from early times, through the Council of Nicaea, and to the beginnings of the Reformation.

WEEK TWO Fri. Feb. 11 (possible guest Mary Higgins)
REQUIRED READING:
Howe, *For Faith and Freedom*, pp. 19-60
Parke, *The Epic of Unitarianism*, pp. 1 to top of 12
1. Class business: Selection of dates for reports and presentations.
2. Themes: The Radical Reformation; Michael Servetus; religious toleration.

WEEK THREE Fri Feb. 18
REQUIRED READING:
Howe, *For Faith and Freedom*, pp. 61-110
Parke pp. 18 (bottom) to top of 29 (King John Sigismund through Faustus Socinus)
1. Class business; questions; presentations (if any).
2. Themes: The Minor Reformed Church (Polish Brethren), Unitarianism in Transylvania.

WEEK FOUR Fri. Feb. 25
REQUIRED READING:
Howe, *For Faith and Freedom*, pp. 111-165
Parke pp. 29 to top of 33 (John Biddle), bottom of 44 to middle of 50 (Lindsey and Priestly)
1. Class business; questions; presentations.
2. Themes: Unitarianism in Transylvania and in England

WEEK FIVE Fri. March 4
REQUIRED READING:
Bumbaugh *Unitarian Universalism* pp. 141-156
Howe, *The Larger Faith*, pp. 1-46
Cassara, *Universalism in America*, pp. 55 (bottom) to 62 (John Murray), 95-110 (H. Ballou)
1. Class business & questions; presentations.
2. Themes: Beginnings of Universalism in America, especially John Murray and Hosea Ballou

WEEK SIX Fri. March 11
REQUIRED READING:
Bumbaugh pp. 95-to top of 119
Parke pp. 51-54 (Chas. Chauncy), 60-62 (King’s Chapel), 87-96 (W. E. Channing)
1. Class business & questions; presentations.
2. Themes: Calvinists and Unitarians in America; Channing’s “Unitarian Christianity,” the Dedham Decision.

MARCH 14-18 RESEARCH WEEK

WEEK SEVEN Fri. March 25
REQUIRED READING:
Bumbaugh pp. 119-130 and 156-161
Parke pp. 104-117 (Emerson and Parker)
Cassara pp. 24-31 and 193-203
1. Mid-term quiz
2. Themes: The Transcendentalist challenge to Unitarianism; the Restorationist challenge to Universalism

WEEK EIGHT Fri. Apl. 1
REQUIRED READING:
Howe, *The Larger Faith*, pp. 47-76 (ch. 4 and 5)
Bumbaugh pp. 130-136 and 161-169
Cassara pp. 211-214
Parke pp. 118-125
1. Class business & questions; presentations.
2. Themes: Bellows organizes the Unitarians; the Free Religious Association; Universalist growth slows; women in Universalism and Unitarianism;

WEEK NINE Fri. Apl. 8
REQUIRED READING:
Bumbaugh pp. 136-40
Parke pp 129-142
Howe, *The Larger Faith*, pp. 77-94
Cassara pp. 224-229, 246-253, and 257-267
1. Class business & questions; presentations.

WEEK TEN Fri. Apl. 15
REQUIRED READING:
Howe, *The Larger Faith*, pp. 95-126
Bumbaugh pp. 169-184
Cassara pp. 268-278
1. Class business & questions; presentations.
2. Themes: Universalism searches for a new identity; Unitarians and Universalists discuss union.

APRIL 18-22 EASTER RECESS
WEEK ELEVEN Fri. Apr. 29
REQUIRED READINGS:
Bumbaugh pp. 184-200
Howe, The Larger Faith, pp. 127-138
Parke, pp. 146-149
1. Class business & questions; presentations.
2. Themes: Unitarian Universalist consolidation; the Fellowship movement; the Black Empowerment controversy; the Pentagon Papers..

WEEK TWELVE Fri. May 6 (LAST CLASS)
1. Class business & questions; presentations.
2. Themes: The Principles and Purposes; Universalism in the Philippines; Unitarianism in India; Unitarians in Canada; women today; “Universalism 101”; current issues and trends; wrap-up