INTERRELIGIOUS UNDERSTANDING
Mormon/Evangelical Dialogue
PHIL 295R - Fall, 2013

INSTRUCTORS: Blair Van Dyke & Brian Birch
OFFICE LOCATION: BA211c
OFFICE HOURS: by appointment
Blair Van Dyke – blairvandyke@msn.com; (801) 764-3093
Brian Birch – brian.birch@uvu.edu; (801) 863-8361

OFFICE LOCATION: BA211c
OFFICE HOURS: by appointment
Blair Van Dyke – blairvandyke@msn.com; (801) 764-3093
Brian Birch – brian.birch@uvu.edu; (801) 863-8361

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course explores the relationship between Mormonism and Evangelical Christianity with particular attention to the contemporary dynamics of this relationship. Key texts from both traditions will be examined in light of their comparative dimensions and cultural influence. Guest scholars will be invited to engage students from a variety of perspectives.

Course Objectives

➢ To explore the history of Mormonism and the broader American Christian community
➢ To critically examine the relationship between Latter-day Saints and Evangelical Christianity
➢ To reflect upon the dynamics of interreligious dialogue

TEXTS
3. Individual readings, see http://www.uvu.edu/religiousstudies/mormonevangelical/mormonevangelicalmain.html

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

1. Regular class attendance is vital to success in this course and will factor into final grades.
2. Students are expected to come to class prepared to discuss the assigned reading. The success of this class depends upon significant student contribution.
3. Students are expected to maintain high standards of academic honesty as outlined in the student handbook. Policies regarding cheating and plagiarism are outlined in the Student Rights and Responsibilities section of the Utah Valley University catalog.
4. In addition to the above requirements, grades for this course depend upon the following elements:
   a. Participation | Your participation grade will be based upon the following:
      1. Preparation, regular attendance, and contribution to class discussion.
      2. Reading Quizzes - Short reading quizzes may be administered periodically throughout the semester.
b. **Term Paper** | Students are required to submit a term paper of no less than 1500 words and no more than 2000 words. The paper is designed to give students an opportunity to explore a specific issue related to the curriculum of the class. A handout will be made available with more specific instructions regarding this assignment.

### Readings

#### Historical Background

Richardson Mouw, *Talking with Mormons*, Wm. B. Eerdmans  
Richard Ostling, "A Most Improbable Dialogue" *Christianity Today*  
John Charles Duffy, "The Significance of Recent Mormon/Evangelical Dialogues"  
Robert Millet, "The Mormon/Evangelical Dialogue: Retrospect and Prospects"  
Craig Blomberg, "Mormon/Evangelical Dialogue," in *The New Mormon Challenge*

#### Are Mormons Christians?

John Richard Neuhaus, "Is Mormonism Christian" *First Things*  
Bruce Porter & Gerald McDermott, "Is Mormonism Christian" *First Things*  
Kent Jackson, "Are Mormons Christians" *Novo Religio*  
Michael Otterson, "Are Mormons Christians" Washington Post  
Craig Blomberg, "Is Mormonism Christian" *The New Mormon Challenge*  
"The Contested Concept of Christian Identity," video link  
Brian Birch, "A Peculiar People: Mormonism at the Margins of Christian Theology"

#### Grace

Brian Birch, "Are Mormons Pelagians?" 2010 Society for Mormon Philosophy and Theology  
Sterling McMurrin, "The Concept of Man" in *Theological Foundations of the Mormon Religion*

#### God & the Trinity

Stephen Davis, "The Mormon Trinity and Other Trinities," *Element: The Journal of the Society for Mormon Philosophy and Theology*  
Robert Millet, "Jesus, God, and Us" in *Claiming Christ*  
Joseph Smith, "The King Follett Sermon"  
Craig Blomberg, "Is Evangelical Mormonism a Viable Concept for the Near Future" in *Mormonism at the Crossroads of Philosophy and Theology*
Religious Freedom, Politics, & Social Issues

Washington Post, "Billy Graham Faces Backlash over Mormon 'Cult' Removal"
Mitt Romney, Faith in America (video)
Richard Land on Mitt Romney (video)
John Mark Reynolds, "Why Evangelicals Must Stand up to Anti-Mormon Bigotry"
Albert Mohler, "Mohler on Mormonism"
Amy Sullivan, "Mitt Romney's Evangelical Problem" Washington Monthly
Jeffrey R. Holland, "Faith, Family, and Religious Freedom" J. Reuben Clark Law Society address
Dallin H. Oaks, "Religious Freedom" BYU Idaho Address