

Cults and New Religious Movements in America

America has provided fertile ground for new and alternative religions to sprout and grow. Some prosper and eventually become accepted as part of the normal religious landscape, some wither away and are forgotten, and some detonate, creating public scandal and in the worst cases, national tragedy. This course will examine New Religious Movements, popularly known as "cults", within the US context. We will examine these religious movements both from insider perspectives and outsider perceptions. We will analyze the history, practices, and beliefs of these organizations to better understand them and deconstruct misconceptions. This course covers the 18th and 19th centuries. [View the course promo video](#)



Your Instructor: Kate Davis, PhD



Kate Davis, PhD, is an intersectional scholar and oral historian. Her work crosses between the fields of Religious Studies, Digital Humanities, and Gender Studies with a focus on North American religions. She holds a PhD in Religious Studies from Claremont Graduate University and is currently a visiting professor in Humanities and Theology at Alvernia University in Pennsylvania. Her first book, an ethnographic study of Mormon and Evangelical influencers, will be published next year.

Tuesdays, October 6 through November 10

Noon PT | 1pm MT | 2pm CT | 3pm ET

Each live session is 90 minutes

- Tuesday, October 6
- Tuesday, October 13
- Tuesday, October 20
- Tuesday, October 27
- Tuesday, November 3
- Tuesday, November 10

To register, please contact your local Osher Institute.