

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

HIS/MHT 557: World Christianity II
Meets Mondays 11:00 AM to 1:45 PM

COURSE SYLLABUS

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Spring 2010
417-268-1077
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course examines the cultural contexts and growth of global Christianity from the birth of Evangelicalism in the 18th century to the present. Catholic, Eastern Orthodox and Protestant missionary and theological developments will be analyzed. The growth of Christianity in Africa, Asia, the Americas and Europe will be surveyed with a view to understanding that the 21st century nexus of Christianity will be in the Global South. The influences of the Enlightenment and the transitions from modern to late- or post-modern thinking in the West will be examined. There will be particular attention paid to the emergence of Pentecostalism as a global phenomenon and its relationship with other Christian traditions.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this course with student, through oral participation in class, reading and reflection and written assignments, will demonstrate

- The ability to analyze primary and secondary documents related to the history of World Christianity and place key events, ideas, individuals and movements in their cultural-historical and theological context.
- The knowledge of and significance of the modern missionary movements in all facets of Christendom, especially the Evangelical and Pentecostal movements of the 18th to 21st centuries.
- Appreciation for the diversity of global Christianity and basis to articulate what the 21st century boundaries of “orthodoxy” might be in light of the theological upheavals of the post-Enlightenment ages.
- The current relevance of critical historical events, significant leaders, missional movements and spiritual and theological leaders for 21st century local church life and ministry.

TEXTBOOKS

Richard Foster, *Streams of Living Water: Celebrating the Great Traditions of Christian Faith*. Harper San Francisco: 1998. ISBN: 006062822

Klaus Koschorke, Frieder Ludwig and Mariano Delgado, Eds. *A History of Christianity in Asia, Africa and Latin America, 1450-1990: A Documentary Sourcebook*. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co. 2007. ISBN: 978-0-8028-2889-7

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Thomas D. McGonigle and James F. Quigley, *A History of the Christian Tradition: From the Reformation to the Present*. Mahwah, N.J.: Paulist Press, 1996. ISBN: 0-8091-3648-1

Mark A. Noll, *Turning Points: Decisive Moments in the History of Christianity, Second Edition*. Grand Rapids: Baker 2000. ISBN: 0-8010-6211-X

William C. Placher, *Readings in the History of Christianity, Volume II: From the Reformation to the Present*. Philadelphia: Westminster Press. 1988. ISBN: 0-664-240585

Peter G. Riddell and Peter Cotterell, *Islam in Context: Past, Present and Future*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2003. ISBN: 0-8010-2627-X

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- Consistent attendance is a must. Apart from severe circumstances, students are expected to be in class. Seminary policy will not grant credit if a student is absent more than two weeks without special permission.
- Eight (8) times during the semester, the student will verify that h/she has read the assigned material for class. The Reading Verification Form is attached. Students should come each week with a completed form. The instructor will choose the dates to turn it in.
- There will be four (4) 2-3 page essays due on the dates assigned (see the Course Schedule). These must be carefully written essays that reflect classroom interaction and textbook analysis. The topics are given below. These should be 11-12 point type, regular margins and double-spaced.
- There will be two (2) unit exams on the dates scheduled below. These will consist of objective and essay questions and a study guide for each will be distributed a week ahead of time. These will be 45-minute exams.
- There will be a comprehensive final exam the final day of class. A study guide will be distributed and students will be allowed to bring one page of notes to the final.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

- Attentiveness, respect for the instructor and fellow-students and serious engagement are assumed for Christian seminarians.
- Exam cheating, plagiarism and willful misuse of facilities or property will incur serious penalties, from grade reduction to suspension. See the AGTS Student Handbook for more information
- Practically, if you quote or summarize the thought of another, give proper attribution.
- Laptops are a great tool – please use them for the class in the class and do not surf the web, compose email or do other research.

GRADING

- Attendance and participation: 20 points
- Reading verification: 8@10 points each = 80 points
- Essays: 4@25 points each = 100 points
- Exams: 2 at 50 points each = 100 points

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- Final = 100 points
- Total = 400 points
- Grading is done on a percentage scale per the AGTS guide,
- Letter grades and quality: A “C” denotes barely acceptable, rather plodding work. The student is repeating information with little analysis. A “B” grade is good work – clear writing and some reflection. “A” grades must be earned through excellent reflection and writing that goes beyond the norm and approaches professional material. Pluses and minuses DO count in the GPA and note gradations of quality.

All assigned work must be submitted on time. Exceptions must be personally cleared with the instructor. Incompletes are given only under extreme circumstances. Unexcused late work is penalized one full grade.

COURSE OUTLINE AND ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE

Key to reading: F= Foster; K = Koschorke; M = McGonigle; N = Noll; P = Placher; R = Riddell

1-04: The Great Awakening and the Birth of Evangelicalism

1-11: The Modern (Protestant) Missions Movement F: Ch. 6; M: 1-73; N: Ch. 10; P: 91-98, 111-114

1-18: *MLK Holiday: No Class*

1-25: The French Revolution: Secularism Impacts Religion **Essay # 1: What is the core of Evangelical spirituality and theology? How is it still relevant in the 21st century?** M: 74-99; N: Ch. 11; P: 82-90, 98-106,

2-01: Asian and African Currents in the 19th Century K: 55-84, 184-207; M: 100-111; R: 118-129

2-08: Latin American Missions in the 19th Century K: 346-366 **Essay # 2: How did Christianity both ally itself and distinguish itself from 19th century African and Asian colonialism?**

2-15: 19th C. Radical Evangelicalism in the West F: Ch. 3; P: 114-119 **EXAM #1 (material through 2-08)**

2-22: Study Week – No class

3-01: Roman Catholicism confronts the modern world F: Ch. 5; m: 112-154; P: 143-149

3-08: Protestants Divide: “Liberal” and “Fundamentalist” Trends M: 153-175; P: 120-143 **Essay # 3: Are Christianity and science incompatible? How did Christian thinkers attempt to reconcile them?**

3-15: World Christianity: 1900/1910 N: Ch. 12; P: 149-175; R: 130-148; K: 85-113, 208-243, 367-385

3-22: (Chapel, 11-12:15) **Exam #2 (material through 3-15)**

3-29: Pentecostalism in the 20th century F: Ch. 4; M: 190-204; N: Ch. 13; R: 149-216

4-05: Eastern Orthodox and Catholic Reactions and Revivals K: 114-138, 244-276; 386-418; M: 205-248 **Essay # 4: Comment on the positive impact of Pentecostalism on World Christianity. In addition to evangelization, how have Pentecostal movements impacted other Christian communions?**

4-12: Holocaust and Hope: Islam, Judaism and Christianity M: 176-189, 249-269; P: 176-204

4-19: The Shape of 21st Century Christianity and the **Final Exam**

GUIDELINES FOR WRITING

- Graduate-level study assumes that student writing will be free from major grammatical, spelling and syntax errors. **PROOFREAD!** Have others read your work and make sure it is clear. Great ideas poorly expressed make little impact – writing quality is important.
- Inclusive language is required, except when referencing the Holy Trinity.
- Avoid:
 - Passive voice
 - First person singular and plural unless it is a quote or the context demands such personal language.
 - Long quotations – this becomes a space-filler. Choose the key words and summarize the insights.
- Integrity is essential. If you draw on the ideas of others, give attribution. Fabrication of plagiarism will result in penalties ranging from a lowered grade to serious academic consequences. **DO NOT** use online papers or Wikipedia as sources. The instructor can “smell” the artificiality of such works!
- Shorter sentences are better than long ones.
- Paragraphs need to be clearly constructed and well-focused around one key idea.
- Another way to summarize: State clearly your intent, communicate the ideas and reflect on what you have communicated.

ACADEMIC RESOURCES

Students with special academic needs need to check in with the instructor so that they can be properly accommodated. The requisite forms can be procured in the Academic Dean’s Office.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

The textbooks all contain extensive bibliographies and the instructor will share further resources in class.

Syllabus prepared by Dr. Charlie Self, October 2, 2009.

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Reading Verification Form

Name _____

Date _____

I, _____, certify that I have completed the assigned reading for today's class.