

CATHOLIC THEOLOGICAL UNION
C3000: World Christianity in Intercultural & Interreligious Perspectives
Spring 2020

Monday 1:00 - 3:45 pm Room 335

Instructor: Joanne Doi MM PhD

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

In this course students will be introduced to Christianity as the truly global phenomenon it has always been. Students will explore how historical and cultural context shapes religious experience, in general, and how it shapes ways of being Christian, in particular. Special attention will be given to diversity within the Catholic tradition, the diversity of other Christian confessions (i.e. ecumenism), and the ways in which Christian communities have developed and continue to evolve in interaction and relationship with communities of other religious faiths.

REQUIRED AND RECOMMENDED TEXTS:

Required Books:

1. Norris, Frederick W. *Christianity: A Short Global History* (Oxford: Oneworld Publications, 2002)
2. Kim, Simon C. *A World Church in Our Backyard: How the Spirit Moved Church and Society* (Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 2016)
3. Marie Dennis, ed. *Choosing Peace: The Catholic Church Returns to Gospel Nonviolence* (Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2018)
4. Selections on D2L (see course calendar)

Recommended texts:

1. Arbuckle, Gerald A. *Culture, Inculturation and Theologians: A Postmodern Critique* (Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 2010)
2. Christopher M. Bellitto, *Ten Ways The Church Has Changed: What history can teach us about uncertain times.* (Boston: Pauline Books & Media, 2006)
3. Jonathan Y. Tan & Anh Q. Tran, SJ, eds. *World Christianity: Perspectives and Insights* (Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2016)

Other required and recommended readings listed in Course Calendar posted on D2L

LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Be equipped with a framework for a dynamic understanding of culture and religion as the context for ministry [MDiv 2; MAPS 2; MA 1,2]
2. Develop an appreciation for the authenticity of different religious experiences [MDiv 1; MAPS 1; MA 3]
3. Learn skills for intercultural and inter-religious dialogue as part of the mission and ministry. [MDiv 2, 3; MAPS 2; MA 1, 2]
4. Achieve a grasp of the nature, breadth and pluriformity of the World Christianity, from a polycentric and contextual perspective [Level 1: Knowledge; MDiv 2, MAPS 1, MA 1, 2]

5. Achieve a general knowledge of the historical framework of Christian history [Level 2: Comprehension; MDiv 2, MAPS 1, MA 1, 2]
6. Ability to interpret and critique the Christian Tradition, from a global perspective, as a resource for ministry and theology [Level 4: Analysis, and Level 5: Synthesis; MDiv 1, 2; MAPS 1, 2; MA 1, 2]

EXPECTATIONS **Bias-Free Language** – See CTU Academic Policies on D2L.
Internet Etiquette and Ethics – See CTU Academic Policies on D2L.
Regular class **attendance** is expected. Please **silence** your cell phones.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSESSMENT

1. **Attendance and active participation** (20 points) [Course Outcomes 1-6]

Students are expected to attend and be on time for all class sessions. It will be presumed that students have read the assigned readings for the week before coming to class. Students must be prepared to engage in conversations surrounding the readings. Policy for missing classes: It is the responsibility of each student who misses a class for whatever reason to inform the course instructor by email or phone. Students are to submit a make-up summary paper by the following class session. This will take the form of a 500 word (or 2 pages double spaced) summary of the main points of the readings for the class missed.

2. **Experience of the ‘Other’ Assignment** (30 points) [Course Outcomes 1-3]

Students are required to do a field site visit to a place of worship of a religion other than Christianity. Normally, students are expected to do the visit with other students if possible. Because experience constitutes a critical form of learning, this visit is to be considered not so much as a social but as an important educational opportunity. It should preferably take place on a day of communal worship or other such activities where there will be much to experience and observe as well as people to converse with. Some homework needs to be done before the visit, such as search the internet and making initial contact with the leaders of the place of worship, etc. The student should also do a study of the basic beliefs and practices of the religion before the visit so as to be able to make informed observations and ask meaningful questions. It is important to try to “experience” the religion, even if only for a couple of hours. The visit will culminate in a written descriptive **field report** that includes: a) at least two pages of where you went, what you did, whom you met, and what you talked about, and b) at least two pages of what you learned. Pay attention to meaningful symbols / gestures / ritual / conversations. Make some explicit references to course readings and lectures. Field report should be 1000-1200 words in length (4-5 pages double-spaced). The field site visit should be done **by February 3** and the **FIELD REPORT IS DUE FEB 10, 2020**. (submit on D2L)

3. **For students in professional / ministerial degree programs: Final Written Assignment** (50 points) [Course Outcomes 1-6] *“Modern World Christianity has been a global phenomenon long before the twentieth century. Although Western forms of thinking have dominated the world Christian experience these past five hundred years, they have not been the only way Christians have expressed their faith. Recovering the memory of those diversities and understanding their implications for theory, method, and practice today is*

one of the fundamental tasks that the study of World Christianity has to undertake.” Irvin, “What is World Christianity?” p. 12.

- The final paper should reflect on the above statement and respond to the following questions (note that these questions are merely guides and not meant to be exhaustive): In your cultural context, focus on one key way faith been expressed - stories, symbols, rituals, sharing communion and community, solidarity, acts of compassion and hope, inter-generational wisdom, etc. Has it happened in the “underside of history” and if so, what are the historical reasons? What practices will assist in the recovery of memory of such faith understandings? (reconciliation, healing, new narratives, decolonizing consciousness, etc.) How can you midwife this new emergence guided by the Holy Spirit? Include references to course readings. Length should be 8-10 pages double-spaced. Final Paper **Due APRIL 6, 2020** (submit on D2L)
4. **Final Paper for MA in Theology students** (50 points) [Course Outcomes 1-6] Please see instructor by May 9 to clarify the topic and format of this final paper assignment, (10-12 pages double-spaced) **Due APRIL 6, 2020** (submit on D2L)

All written assignments must follow the style and guidelines of the CTU Handbook for Writing.

GRADES: given according to the following criteria:

- A** Creative participation in class sessions, field and discussions. Excellent written work (showing the ability to write well, relate theory to practice in ministry, to use the material critically and creatively, and to incorporate issues raised in class).
- B** Active participation in class sessions, field and discussions. Very good paper or project (showing the ability to use appropriate material & to relate issues raised in class).
- C** Acceptable participation in class sessions, field and discussions. Acceptable paper or project (fulfilling minimal requirements).
- D** Failure to complete one-fourth of the requirements.
- F** Failure to complete one-half or more of the requirements.

COURSE CALENDAR

Session 1 (Jan 6) : Course Introduction:

Introductions of instructor and students by Name Dynamic & Land – ecological considerations shaping culture & religion. For rainforest metaphor of the diversity and interrelationship of World Christianity, see Catherine Caufield, *In the Rainforest*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1984, 1991. (selection on D2L)

Pilgrimage film.

Field site visit conversation.

Session 2 (Jan 13) : Understanding Religion and Religious Experience

Required reading:

- Rudolf Otto, *The Idea of the Holy* (London: Oxford University Press, 1957), 1-24
- Mircea Eliade, *The Sacred and the Profane: The Nature of Religion* (New York: Harcourt, Brace and Company, 1959), 8-29, 36-47, 62-65.

Recommended reading:

- Lawrence Cunningham and John Kelsey, *The Sacred Quest: An Invitation to the Study of Religion*, (Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, 2002), Ch. 1: Toward a Definition of Religion, 11-26.
- Neil Shubin, *The Universe Within: The Deep History of the Human Body*, (NY: RandomHouse, 2013) selections (D2L). Science, the cosmos and the experience of awe.

Attitude and Methodology for Approaching the “Other”

Required reading:

- Stephen Bevans and Roger Schroeder, “Entering Someone Else’s Garden: Intercultural Mission/Ministry,” in *Prophetic Dialogue: Reflections on Christian Mission Today* (Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2011), pp. 72-87.

Recommended reading:

- Judith A. Berling, *Understanding Other Religious Worlds: A Guide of Interreligious Education* (Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2004), 34-48; 64-80.

Session 3 (Jan 20) : Understanding Culture and Religion

Required reading:

- Gerald Arbuckle, *Culture, Inculturation, & Theologians*, Ch. 2, 4, 5, pp. 19-36, pp. 49-80.
- Michel Andraos, “The Church and the Indigenous Peoples of the Americas: In-Between Colonization and Reconciliation,” *NTR* Vol. 29, No. 1, September 2016.
- Michel Andraos, “Pope Francis and the Indigenous Peoples: Why a Visit to Chiapas?” *The Ecumenist* Vol. 53, No. 4, Fall 2016.
- Robin Wall Kimmerer, *Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants*, (Minneapolis: Milkweed Editions, 2013) selections.(D2L)

Recommended reading:

- Clifford Geertz, “Religion as a Cultural System,” *Anthropological Approaches to the Study of Religion*, 1-46.
- Eric Law, *The Wolf Shall Dwell with the Lamb: Spirituality of Leadership in a Multicultural Community* (St. Louis: Chalice Press, 1993), 1-27.

No class January 27 for Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Session 4 (Feb. 3): Off-campus Field Site Visit Credit

- **REMINDER: FIELD SITE VISIT SHOULD BE COMPLETED BY TODAY**

Session 5 (Feb 10) : Reflection on the Religious/Cultural Experience of the “Other;”

Introduction to World Christianity

Required reading:

- Dale T. Irvin, “What is World Christianity?” in *World Christianity: Perspectives and Insights*, Jonathan Y. Tan and Anh Q. Tran, S.J., eds. (Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2016), 3-26.
- Frederick Norris, *Christianity: A Short Global History* (Oxford: Oneworld Publications, 2002), Introduction and Ch. 1, pp. 1-34.
- **FIELD REPORT DUE**

Session 6 (Feb 24) : Beginnings of Christianity to 313 / Imperial Church, New Challenges, New Beginnings: 313-1100

Required reading:

- Norris, *Christianity: A Short Global History*, ch. 2-3
- Simon C. Kim, *A World Church in Our Backyard: How the Spirit Moved Church and Society* (Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 2016), Foreword, Preface, Introduction, Chs. 1, pp.ix-15.

Session 7 (March 2) : New Horizons and Reformations: 1100-1600

Required reading:

- Norris, *Christianity: A Short Global History*, ch. 4-5
- Kim, *A World Church in Our Backyard*, Chs. 2-3

Session 8 (March 9) : Global Religious & Secular Encounters and Colonialism & Mission Expansion: 1600-1900

Required reading:

- Norris, *Christianity: A Short Global History*, ch. 6-7
- Kim, *A World Church in Our Backyard*, Chs. 4-5

Session 9 (March 16) : World Christianity of the Twentieth Century: 1900-2000

Required reading:

- Norris, *Christianity: A Short Global History*, ch. 8
- Kim, *A World Church in Our Backyard*, Chs. 6-7-8, Conclusion.

Session 10 (March 23) : Into the 21st Century

Required reading:

- Michael F. Steltenkamp, *Nicholas Black Elk: Medicine Man, Missionary, Mystic* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2009), Chs. 10 & 18, pp. 115-127, 220-233.
- Marie Dennis, ed. *Choosing Peace: The Catholic Church Returns to Gospel Nonviolence* (Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2018), Chs. 2 & 3, pp. 37-78.
- View: "Healing Burning Waters in Condoraque, Peru," Office of Human Rights and Environment, July 1, 2017 related to Maryknoll Magazine article by Maria-Pia Negro Chin. <https://youtu.be/ywpPgLBzrHI>
Extractive industry and water contamination in indigenous communities / connect to *Laudato Si* (Care for Our Common Home)

Choose One of the Following:

- Laurenti Magesa, "Truly African, Fully Christian? In Search of a New African Christian Spirituality," in *The Church We Want: African Catholics Look to Vatican II*, Agbonkhanmeghe E. Orobator, ed. (Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2016), pp. 79-92.
- Teresa Okure, "Becoming the Church of the New Testament," in *The Church We Want*, Orobator ed., pp. 93-105.
- Stan Chu Ilo, "The Church of Pope Francis: An Ecclesiology of Accountability, Accompaniment, and Action," in *The Church We Want*, Orobator ed., pp 11-30.

Session 11 (March 30): Nonviolence and JustPeace / Course Conclusion

Required reading:

- Marie Dennis, ed. *Choosing Peace: The Catholic Church Returns to Gospel Nonviolence* (Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2018), Chs. 4, 6, 7, 8, pp. 79-104, 125-200.

Recommended reading:

- Richard Louv, *The Nature Principle: Reconnecting with Life in a Virtual Age*, (North Carolina: Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill, 2013)

**ASSIGNMENT DUE DATES: FEB 10, 2020 - FIELD REPORT
APRIL 6, 2020 - FINAL PAPERS**

CTU MISSION STATEMENT – see Student Handbook 1.2 [located in the Helpful Links section of D2L at <https://d2l.ctu.edu>]

COPYRIGHT POLICY – see CTU Academic Policies on D2L.

STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC INTEGRITY – see CTU Academic Policies on D2L.

Academic integrity demands that a student acknowledge all sources employed in the preparation of written assignments, whether in the use of exact quotations, or in substantial reproduction of ideas. **Failure to do so (plagiarism) will result in a failing grade for the course and may also result in dismissal.**

POLICY ON END-OF-SEMESTER EXTENSIONS & “INCOMPLETE” GRADE

NOTATIONS - All students seeking an extension of the end-of-semester deadline for submitting coursework, must initiate a formal request by first submitting an incomplete request form (available from the Office of the Registrar) to the course instructor(s) for approval and signature, and then by submitting the completed and signed form to the Registrar. Failure to do so will result in a final grade calculated solely on the basis of completed work.

CAMPUS RESOURCES

Library Hours: <http://www.ctu.lib.il.us/> For information, contact: Kristine Veldheer, Library Director, kveldheer@ctu.edu or (773) 371-5460; For Electronic Resources and Instruction Librarian, contact: Deborah Winarski, dwinarski@ctu.edu or (773) 371-5463.

English for Theological Education: contact Christina Zaker, czaker@ctu.edu

Writing Handbook: located in the Helpful Links section of D2L

Writing & Resource Center: located in Room 338 for drop-in help with writing and presentation skills, contact Kathleen Martin, kmartin@ctu.edu, Room 370B.

Request for Accommodation: Students seeking disability-related accommodations are required to register their request for accommodation with the Assistant Dean enabling you to access accommodations and support services to assist your success.

Assistant Dean for Academic Advising and Programs

Christine Henderson chenderson@ctu.edu

Room 369

(773) 371-5450

Students who have registered their request for accommodation with the Assistant Dean are also invited to contact me privately to discuss how I may assist in facilitating the accommodations you will use in this course. This is best done early in the term. Our conversation will remain confidential to the extent possible.

Technology Help: D2L and Educational Technology, Rick Mauney, rmauney@ctu.edu;
Information Technology help desk, support@ctu.edu

Student Services: contact Carmen Salas, Room 347 (773) 371-5536 or studentservices@ctu.edu

Academic Calendar: <http://www.ctu.edu/academics/academic-calendar>

This Syllabus is subject to revision.