

RLST 37 – History of World Christianity

Claremont McKenna College

May 24-June 11, 2010

Draft – Subject to Change

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I. Course Description

This seminar explores the history of world Christianity from Jesus to the present, with particular attention to key problems, conflicts, and debates over Christian doctrine, the Canon of Scripture, orthodoxy vs. heresy, the rise of the papacy, monasticism, scholasticism, mysticism, the crusades, church-state debates, Catholic-Orthodox conflicts, Christian-Muslim conflicts, women, the Protestant and Catholic Reformations, missions and colonialism, Christian liberalism, fundamentalism, Pentecostalism, liberation theology, and struggles over indigenization, autonomy, & colonialism in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. The course will focus particular attention on the impact of Christianity on political, civic, and social change around the world.

II. Teaching Method and Evaluation

Every day we will analyze key conflicts and problems in the history of world Christianity through primary and secondary readings, documentaries, movies, guest speakers, and two optional field trips. Students will write two five-page book reviews and one-page response papers every other day based on the assigned reading prompts.

III. Required Reading

Adrian Hastings, ed., *A World History of Christianity* (Eerdmans Publishers, 1999).

Robert E. Van Voorst, *Readings in Christianity*, 2nd ed. (Wadsworth Publishing, 2001).

Hugh T. Kerr, *Readings in Christian Thought* (Abingdon Press, 1990).

Harvey Cox, *Fire from Heaven: Rise of Pentecostal Spirituality & Reshaping of Religion in the 21st Century* (2003).

Philip Jenkins, *The Next Christendom: The Coming of Global Christianity* (Oxford, 2002).

Book Review Options

Peter Brown, *Augustine of Hippo* (University of California Press, 2000).

Rodney Stark, *Cities of God: Real Story of How Christianity Became an Urban Movement & Conquered Rome* (2007).

Thomas F. Madden, *The New History of the Crusades* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2006).

James Kittelson, *Luther: The Reformer* (Augsburg Publishers, 1986).

Lewis W. Spitz, *The Protestant Reformation, 1517-1559* (Harper & Row, 1984).

Philip Jenkins, *Lost History of Christianity... Church in the Middle East, Africa, and Asia--How It Died* (Harper, 2009).

Ralph R. Covell, *Confucius, The Buddha, and Christ: A History of the Gospel in Chinese* (Wiley & Stock, 2004).

David Aikman, *Jesus in Beijing: How Christianity is Transforming China* (Regnery, 2003).

Wi Jo Kang, *Christ and Cesar in Modern Korea: A History of Christianity and Politics* (State Univ. of NY, 1997).

Leonard Fernando and G. Gispert-Sauch, *Christianity in India: Two Thousand Years of Faith* (Penguin, 2004).

Robert Ricard, *The Spiritual Conquest of Mexico* (University of California Press, 1982).

Brian H. Smith, *Religious Politics in Latin America: Pentecostal vs. Catholic* (Notre Dame, 1998).

Leonardo Boff and Clodovis Boff, *Introducing Liberation Theology* (Orbis, 1990).

Paul Marshall, *Their Blood Cries Out* (Word Publishers, 1997).

Letty Russell, Kwok Pui-lan, Ada María Isasi-Díaz, Katie Geneva Canon, *Inheriting Our Mothers' Gardens:*

Feminist Theology in Third World Perspectives (Westminster Press, 1988).

IV. Videos and Documentaries

Saints and Sinners: A History of the Popes, 6 Part Series (Acorn Media Publishing, 1997).

V. History of Christianity Web Sites:

<http://www.ccel.org>: This is the “Christian Classics Ethereal Library;” it has an extensive collection of primary source material.

<http://www.mb-soft.com/believe/>: Short articles to clarify just about anything you might wonder about in church history or theology.

<http://www.iclnet.org/pub/resources/christian-history.html>: Provides links to documents from early church history available on the Internet.

<http://www.globalchristianity.org/resources.htm>: Statistics on global Christianity and World Religions.

<http://www.csbsju.edu/library/internet/theochht.html>: Internet theology resources; this page provides links to a number of early, medieval, and reformation primary sources; also a few from the Eastern Church.

<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/sbook.html>: The Medieval Sourcebook. Excellent primary sources

<http://www.gty.org/~phil/hall.htm>: The Hall of Church History, from a Reformed perspective.

<http://www.ocf.org/OrthodoxPage/> & http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eastern_Orthodoxy: Good sites for understanding Eastern Orthodoxy, with links to primary source material.

VI. Course Requirements

1. Discussion Papers (60%). Every other day your group (A or B) is to hand in a one-page typed response essay to the question prompts based on the assigned readings for that week. Discussion papers are due at the *beginning* of each class meeting. Papers can be handed in ahead of time. They will be graded on a scale of 1-100 points based on the quality of your answers, correct grammar and punctuation, and your ability to analyze the material and succinctly answer the questions.

2. Discussion (15%). Every day we will discuss the assigned primary and secondary reading. Your discussion will be graded on a scale of 1-100 based on the quality and quantity (at least 4 times per class meeting) of your comments. Missed classes cannot be made up without a doctor’s note or some other approved reason.

3. Book Reviews (25%). You are to hand in two 4-page book reviews that answers a series of questions provided by Dr. Espinosa on the first day of class. Grading Scale: 1-100 points. Due: May 31 & June 7 by 12 PM

Final Class Lunch Meal and Presentations. At our last class meeting, we’ll have lunch together and then afterwards you will give a 5-minute presentation (1.5 pages typed, double-spaced) that analyzes the thesis and 3 key insights from both books with a particular focus on how Christianity brought about political, civic, and/or social change.

Extra Credit Spiritual Autobiography (Optional)

You can earn up to 3 points extra credit, which will be applied to your lowest discussion paper grade. You will be asked to write a 4-6 page spiritual autobiography *or* a spiritual biography of a family member, minister, immigrant, or a friend. Due: Wednesday, June 2 by 12 noon

Extra Credit Field Trips (Optional)

You can earn up to 4 points extra credit for attending two field trips (2 points per trip). These points will be applied to your lowest discussion paper scores. The trips will be announced on the first day of class. To receive extra credit, you need to attend the field trips on the Sundays designated by Dr. Espinosa (May 30th & June 6th) and then write up a one-page reflection paper based on your observations and experience. The field trips are strictly voluntary.

Weekly Reading and Writing Schedule – Tentative – Subject to Change

Papers are due for your group on the day it states your group letter.

Date	Topic	Reading – All groups must read <i>all</i> readings	
May 24	Introduction Greco-Roman Religions & Judaism Life of Jesus & Paul the Apostle	Adrian Hastings, ed., <i>A World History of Christianity</i> Collins & Price, <i>The Story of Christianity</i> Robert Van Voorst, ed., <i>Readings in Christianity</i>	A
May 25	Orthodoxy v. Heresy Debates: Formation of the Bible & Jesus – Human or Divine?	Adrian Hastings, ed., <i>A World History of Christianity</i> Robert Van Voorst, ed., <i>Readings in Christianity</i> Hugh T. Kerr, <i>Readings in Christian Thought</i>	B
May 25	Religio Illicita: Roman Persecution Martyrdom & Monasticism Constantine & Rise of the Papacy Debate: War v. Peace in Early Christianity	Adrian Hastings, ed., <i>A World History of Christianity</i> Robert Van Voorst, ed., <i>Readings in Christianity</i> Hugh T. Kerr, <i>Readings in Christian Thought</i>	A
May 27	Great Schism of the Christian Church Catholicism v. Orthodoxy Christianity v. Islam in the Holy Lands Debate: Crusades & Birth of Terrorism	Adrian Hastings, ed., <i>A World History of Christianity</i> Robert Van Voorst, ed., <i>Readings in Christianity</i> Hugh T. Kerr, <i>Readings in Christian Thought</i>	B
May 28	Scholasticism, Mysticism, & Indulgences Martin Luther & Protestant Reformation Debate: Faith Alone or Faith + Works	Adrian Hastings, ed., <i>A World History of Christianity</i> Robert Van Voorst, ed., <i>Readings in Christianity</i> Hugh T. Kerr, <i>Readings in Christian Thought</i> Meet at my home at 135 Brooks Avenue	A
May 31	John Calvin, Predestination, and Puritans in Colonial America Debate: Election v. Freewill	Adrian Hastings, ed., <i>A World History of Christianity</i> Hugh T. Kerr, <i>Readings in Christian Thought</i> First Book Review Due (Groups A & B)	B
June 1	Christianity on the Defensive: Enlightenment Protestant Liberalism & Darwinism Debate: Faith, Reason, & Science	Adrian Hastings, ed., <i>A World History of Christianity</i> Robert Van Voorst, ed., <i>Readings in Christianity</i> Hugh T. Kerr, <i>Readings in Christian Thought</i>	A
June 2	Foreign Devils: Christianity, Missions, and Imperialism in China	Adrian Hastings, ed., <i>A World History of Christianity</i> Ralph Covell, <i>Confucius, The Buddha, and Christ, sakai</i>	B
June 3	Christianity and Conflict in Japan & Korea	Adrian Hastings, ed., <i>A World History of Christianity</i> Robert Van Voorst, ed., <i>Readings in Christianity</i>	A
June 4	Cross & Crescent: Christianity in Egypt & Nubia & Ethiopia Guest Speaker: Coptic Bishop Serapion	Adrian Hastings, ed., <i>A World History of Christianity</i> Isichei, <i>A History of Christianity in Africa, sakai</i> Meet at my home at 135 Brooks Avenue	B
June 7	Missions & Colonialism: The Struggle for African Indigenous Christianity in Congo, Nigeria, and South Africa	Adrian Hastings, ed., <i>A World History of Christianity</i> Isichei, <i>A History of Christianity in Africa, sakai</i> Second Book Review Due (Groups A & B)	A
June 8	Revolt of the Sexes: Christian Feminism Revolt of the Races: King & Civil Rights	Adrian Hastings, ed., <i>A World History of Christianity</i> Hugh T. Kerr, <i>Readings in Christian Thought</i>	B
June 9	Conversion Religions: Fundamentalism & Evangelicalism & Mormonism	Robert Van Voorst, ed., <i>Readings in Christianity</i> Billy Graham, <i>How to Be Born Again, sakai</i> Marsden, <i>Fundamentalism and American Culture, sakai</i>	A
June 10	God of the Oppressed: Liberation Theology & Pentecostalism in U.S. & Latin America Guest Speaker on Tongues & Divine Healing Dr. Candace Shields, Pentecostal Bishop	Leonardo/Clodovius Boff, <i>Introducing Liberation Theology</i> Larry Christenson, <i>Speaking in Tongues, sakai</i> Harvey Cox, <i>Fire From Heaven</i>	B
June 11	Future of World Christianity Final Class Meal and Presentations A & B	Philip Jenkins, <i>The Next Christendom</i> Meet at my home at 135 Brooks Avenue	