

CH 501: Survey of Global Christian History

Spring, 2019

Wednesdays, 8:30- 11:20 a.m.; G-150

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Course Overview:

During the next several weeks we will embark on an expansive, at times overwhelming, but hopefully fascinating journey through nearly two millennia of church history. This course will give particular attention to the global configuration of the Christian experience, looking at Christianities in different times and places. The vital theological issues that comprise the classical discipline of Historical Theology, as well as the details of daily Christian piety and practice that are receiving increasing amounts of attention from historians, are the matters that will occupy most of our attention.

As is the case with most history courses, it is impossible to treat the subject comprehensively in a single term, so we are compelled to identify particular topics for study and reflection. I have identified these topic areas in the weekly schedule for the course. One of the goals of this class is, therefore, to familiarize you as a student with the issues involved in these areas and to engage you in theological and critical evaluations. In addition you will have the opportunity to encounter real people – men and women, clergy and laity – and to observe how they struggled with their faith in their world. The use of source materials in particular, along with the secondary literature, will provide this connection with the past. Finally, it is my hope that you will think both personally and practically about the material we discuss, and incorporate the rich resources of previous generations into your own faith journey and ministry.

Objectives:

1. Introduce students to important themes, issues and individuals in the history of Christianity.
2. Establish contexts for critical theological themes in the history of Christianity.
3. Represent global dimensions of Christian experience with an emphasis on distinctive traditions and practices.

Required texts:

Diarmaid MacCulloch, *Christianity: The First Three Thousand Years* (Penguin, repr. 2011); 9780143118695

John W Coakley and Andrea Sterk, *Readings in World Christian History* (Orbis, 2004); 9781570755200

Paul Harvey, *Through the Storm, Through the Night: A History of African American Christianity* (Rowan and Littlefield, 2011); 9780742564749

Supplemental text:

Klause Koschorke, Frieder Ludwig, and Maria Delgado, *A History of Christianity in Asia, Africa, and Latin America: A Documentary Sourcebook* (Eerdmans, 2007); 9780802828897

Other Recommended texts:

Carol Flinders, *Enduring Grace: Living Portraits of Seven Women Mystics* (Harper, 1993); 9780060626457

Ondina González and Justo González, *Christianity in Latin America: A History* (Cambridge, 2007); 9780521681926

Mary T Malone, *Women and Christianity: The First 1000 Years* (Orbis, 2001); 9781570753664

Thomas Oden, *How Africa Shaped the Christian Mind: Rediscovering the African Seedbed of Western Christianity* (IVP Books, 2010); 9780830837052

Peter Phan, ed., *Christianity [Christianities] in Asia: Blackwell Guides to Global Christianity* (Wiley-Blackwell, 2011); 9781405160902

Class Requirements and Expectations:

Your commitment to this course is vital to a successful experience. As always, your attendance in class and participation in the full array of learning experiences is an essential part of the course. If for some reason you will miss class or are having difficulty completing assignments, please contact me. When we meet in class, opportunities for both your participation and leadership will be frequent. To insure that our discussion operates at the best possible level, make certain to complete the necessary reading before class. This is especially important for the days we will discuss the particular texts in class. A portion of your grade (10%) will be determined from your attendance and participation (including discussion outlines).

Specific Course Assignments:

1. **Source Analysis Papers.** During the term you will write TWO source analysis papers. Essentially, you are responsible for choosing a person and text from a list of identified primary

texts, immersing yourself in this literature, and then writing a brief summary of the work and your response. Make certain that you grapple with the individual, their world and their agenda, before attempting to bring these thoughts and ideas into our time and place. As much as possible, try to connect the issues of your particular text to other issues we have discussed in the course. And of course, make certain to indicate your personal conclusions in terms of your own spiritual journey, your ministry, and the world you confront daily. Each paper should be approximately seven pages, double-spaced. I will post the first selections of texts and authors during the first week of class, and you will want to begin to think immediately about your chosen text. You will select one text related to two sections of the course; and make certain to include a different region of the world for each paper. (40% of grade)

2. Discussions. I have identified readings to use as the basis for discussions, which will take place both on-line and in class. Each of you will connect with a group of 3-4 for the class, and on the designated days will discuss the material together. Prior to each session, I will ask you to complete a brief written response that you will post to the Populi site. (10% of grade, in combination with class participation)

3. Individual or Group Project. Each of you will have the opportunity to work with a few other class members (2-3) or individually on a particular topic related to the Global Christian experience and its history. I will post the designated topics just prior to our first class. As you prepare, I will provide some suggested resources for you or your group to use in preparing your presentation. Your presentation should be roughly 30 to 45 minutes, depending on the size of your group. This material may be prepared in an on-line format or as an in-class presentation. Creativity and content will both factor into this assignment; the more engaging, the better. On the day you present your work, post (on the Populi site) a list of appropriate materials and resources you used in assembling your presentation. (20% of class grade)

4. Final Project/ Research Paper. You may SELECT either a final project or paper to conclude this course.

For the Final Project: I will distribute a range of scenarios, questions, and conundrums that will require you to bring together the various issues and insights of this course (shortly after the first term break). This synthetic exercise will provide you the opportunity to review what we have covered during the course and to apply it to particular personal and professional situations. You will be able to choose liberally from a list of situations. This is designed as an attempt to review the content of this course, so how well you complete this depends on how well you represent the issues covered in your reading, class presentations, discussions, and lectures. The completed project should be 13-15 pages. This is due by **May 23** (30% of class grade)

For the Research Paper: You will have the opportunity to develop your own area of expertise in the history of Global Christianity by selecting a comprehensive question to address, and composing a responsible study of your topic. I will distribute a list of suggested topics after the first mid-term break, but I encourage you to think about your own interests and to develop a proposal that would be comprehensive in nature. Your acquaintance with relevant materials

(including primary sources) and your ability to present effective arguments will serve as primary considerations in this assignment. The paper should be roughly 15 pages in length, excluding bibliography and reference notes. This is due by **May 23** (30% of class grade)

Further on Writing... Learning to write clear and effective prose is a skill worthy of any ministry. You have a choice of formats relative to matters of style and scholarly citation— that of the social sciences (APA) or Chicago Manual of Style— so you must select one of these and be consistent. If I encounter too many grammar or spelling mistakes, I will return the paper to you.

Please Note: I expect all of your work to be completed on time, but if there is a problem, and your work will be late, talk to me BEFORE rather than after the fact. In most instances a reasonable penalty will be assessed to late work. Remember, all written work is due by **May 23**.

Please see Student Handbook for sections providing policy details on the following:

ADA – MTSO seeks to remove barriers to inclusion in its learning communities. Students who feel they may need an accommodation based on the impact of a documented disability should contact the instructor privately to discuss their specific needs at the beginning of the semester. Please contact the Director of Student Services to coordinate reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities. Any accommodation must be agreed upon prior to the due date of the affected course requirement.

Class attendance – Regular attendance is expected in all classes. During unavoidable absences, students are responsible for missed work. An excessive number of absences may result in grade reduction or course failure, despite successful completion of all assigned work. In most cases, a student will not be allowed credit for a course if he or she is absent for 25% of the class sessions. As it relates to blended courses, students may not be allowed credit if they are absent for 25% of class meetings or if 25% of online course work is not completed. Use of Skype or similar technology is not a substitute for attendance in class.

Electronic Devices – Turn mobile devices off or “vibrate only” during class. Browsing the Internet or engaging in email or social network conversations during class is discouraged. Instructors have the right to impose grading penalties for disruptions due to electronic devices.

Human Subjects Research – Research by MTSO faculty, students, or affiliated personnel that collects non-public information from and/or about living individuals or contemporary organizations/groups for purposes of publication or public presentation (including class assignments) must be approved by the Human Subjects Research Committee. MTSO faculty, students, or affiliated personnel should err on the side of caution and apply for committee approval of any activity that may fit this description.

Inclusive Language – In accordance with MTSO’s policy on inclusive language, all students are expected to use gender inclusive or gender neutral language in their writing and in the classroom discussions when referring to human beings.

Incompletes – To receive a course grade of Incomplete, students must submit the petition form from the Registrar with all signatures to the Dean’s Office before the last day of regularly scheduled classes. See Student Handbook for intensive term deadlines. Any petition submitted without a due date for outstanding work will be denied. If work is not complete by the due date the Registrar will record the grade of F for the course.

Pass/Fail – The decision to exercise this option must be made before the end of the second week of the course by completing the appropriate form available through the Registrar. To receive a grade of "pass" the student must do at least the equivalent of C minus work in the course.

Plagiarism – Plagiarism is a serious matter of academic, professional, and personal integrity. All students at the Masters level are expected to understand the requirement to provide attribution when the work of others is used. Students are also expected to be familiar with and understand the school's policy on Academic Misconduct found in the Student Handbook. If students have questions about attribution, citation, and how to avoid plagiarism they should consult the course instructor, the school's writing instructor, or library staff. When in doubt it is better to provide attribution even if one is uncertain about the proper citation form. Plagiarism is a form of academic misconduct that results in disciplinary actions per the Student Handbook that may range from failing an assignment or course to expulsion.

Updated 8/13/14

Class Schedule: Topics and Readings

Ancient Christian Experience

- Class Week 1, Feb. 6: Christianity within the Empire: The Mediterranean World
MacCulloch, Intro (1-15); Chap. 1 (19-46)
- Class Week 2, Feb. 13: Martyrs and their cults in the Early Church
MacCulloch, Chap. 4 (112-54); Coakley, 23-43, *CLASS DISCUSSION*, "Early Christian Martyrs"
- Class Week 3, Feb. 20: Christianity and its Culture: Gnostics and Egypt's Christians
MacCulloch, Chap. 5 (155-88); Coakley, 53-76
- Class Week 4, Feb. 27: The Quest for Unity and the First Ecumenical Councils
MacCulloch, Chaps. 6 (189-228); Coakley, 87-102
- Class Week 5, March 6: Christians outside of Christendom: Asian and African Christianities
MacCulloch, Chap. 7, 8 (231-285); Coakley, 165-83, 231-51

Term Reading Week (March 11-15). No Class, March 13

The Emergence of Christendom

- Class Week 6, March 20: The Orthodox Christian "Empire"
MacCulloch, Chaps. 13, 14, 15 (427-547); Coakley, 289-302

First Source Analysis Paper Due March 22

- Class Week 7, March 27: The Formation of Latin Christianity and the Power of Rome
MacCulloch, Chap. 9, 10 (289-362); Coakley, 195-213, 258-80; *CLASS DISCUSSION*, "Augustine and the Western Church"

- Class Week 8, April 3: The Fracturing of Ecumenical Christianity: Schism, Crusade, and Conversion
MacCulloch, Chaps. 11, 12 (363-423); Coakley, 324-36, 339-62, 388-95
- Class Week 9, April 10: The Reformations in Western Christianity
MacCulloch, Chaps. 16, 17 (551-654); Coakley, 410-17

Holy Week Break (April 15-19). No Class, April 17

- Class Week 10, April 24: The New World and the Beginnings of Global Christianity
MacCulloch, Chap. 18, 19 (655-715); Koschorke, 277-94; CLASS DISCUSSION: "Christian Mission and Latin America"

Modern Global Christianities

- Class Week 11, May 1: Colonial Christianity in the Americas
MacCulloch, Chap. 20 (716- 765); Harvey, 1-48
- Class Week 12, May 8: Enlightenment and Pietism: Europe
MacCulloch, Chaps. 21, 22 (769-865); Harvey, 49-68, 139-62;
John Wesley reading

Second Source Analysis Paper Due May 10

- Class Week 13, May 15: Global Mission in the Shadow of Imperialism: Asia
MacCulloch, Chap. 23, 24 (866-966); Harvey, 69-108; Koschorke, 58-65
- Class Week 14, May 22: The Emerging Global South and New Christianities: Africa
MacCulloch, Chap. 25 (967-1016); Harvey 109-37, 166-82; Koschorke, 238-55, 267-74
CLASS DISCUSSION, "Post Colonial Christianity in Africa"

Final Projects/ Papers Due: May 23