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TA:

Course Description: This course will explore major approaches to the relationship between the Christian Faith and other religions in the context of the plurality and diversity of the contemporary world.

Mondays 9-11 am

The course objectives are to:
- introduce the field of theology of religions
- become familiar with the multireligious context of Canada
- develop an appreciation of other religions
- become familiar with the major themes, typologies and methods of theology of religions
- examine, critique and engage important theological models in theology of religions
- explore a Reformed missiological response to the multireligious context and build a credible theology or religions

Learning Outcomes:
The student is able to,
- Identify and describe major approaches to the relationship between the Christian Faith and other religions [RH]
- Identify and describe major typologies and methods in theology of religions [RH]
- describe the relationship between the reformed tradition and themes of mission and inter-religious dialogue [RH]
- Identify and describe the factors in the Canadian context that makes theology of religions important. [CC]
- formulate coherent theological responses to the engagement of secular culture and different religions [CC]
- demonstrate an ability to engage people of other faiths in respectful dialogue [PSF]
- demonstrate an ability to engage people in secular culture in respectful dialogue [PSF]
- demonstrate an ability to give leadership within congregational and denominational communities [CM]

COURSE POLICIES
Policies for courses are contained in the TST Basic Degree Handbook and the Knox Student Handbook. In particular note:
Late Policy: 4 points deducted per week late (2 off by Monday, 2 more by Thursday)
Completion of Course work: all course work (including any late work) must be completed by the end of term, the last day of exams. Only in the case of illness (with a note from a doctor), bereavement or other unusual circumstances will an extension be considered and this must be authorized by the Basic Degree Committee and the Faculty.
Style Guidelines for Papers: see Knox “Style Manual” booklet and A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses and Dissertations, by Kate L. Turabian
Email assignments: Please check with professor re: appropriate mode for submitting papers.
EMAIL SUBMISSION IS ONLY ALLOWED WHERE SPECIAL PERMISSION IS GRANTED BY THE INSTRUCTOR. IT REMAINS THE STUDENT’S RESPONSIBILITY TO ENSURE THAT THE INSTRUCTOR RECEIVES THE SUBMISSION.
Plagiarism Policy: See TST Basic Degree Handbook
Consultation: Please do not hesitate to consult with me about any questions you may have.
Email and Course Blackboard site: Students must have a valid University of Toronto Email that is
functioning for regular communication in this class and must be able to access the course Blackboard website for further information.

Prescribed Text:


Assignments:

1. Seven Reading Reports based on Handbook. Due as per Course Calendar (Total pages for reports 22 double spaced 12pt.) These reports will account for 50% of the course grade. Grading Criteria: Each section will be graded on accurate description of textbook content 6/10, style and clarity 2/10, questions posed 2/10.

2. Paper (5 pages 12pt double spaced with bibliography) Due November 8, 2010: In this paper the student has to give evidence of reading another 300 pages of which at least 200 pages are from the following list of books. The balance of the readings could come from the course bibliography. (This paper represents 10% of the course grade)

- Covell Ralph R. Confucius the Buddha and the Christ. New York: Orbis 1986
- The Bhagavad Gita
- The Koran

3. Paper: Describe your theology of religions with reference to: (Due December 6, 2010)  
   1. Your perspective before the course  
   2. Questions raised during your reading and discussion in the course  
   3. A description of your perspective in relation to the major perspectives outlined in the course and your exploration of other religious views. (10 double spaced pages - The paper will count for 40% of the course grade)


Reading Report 1.: Textbook pages 1-29 Describe the different types of classification used in theology of
religions. (up to 3 pages) Identify at least two questions for further discussion. **Due Sep 20, 2010**

Sep 20.

**Biblical Perspectives (Slides 19-30)**

Reading Report 2. Textbook pages 33-51. Describe briefly the biblical perspectives on religions outlined in the textbook. (up to 3 pages) Identify at least two questions for class discussion. **Due Sep. 27, 2010**

Sep 27.

**Biblical Perspectives (Slides 31-43)**

Reading Report 3. Textbook pages 55-110. Describe historical developments in theology of religions. (up to 3 pages) Identify at least two questions for class discussion. **Due Oct 4, 2010**

Oct 4.

**Patristic to Reformation Perspectives (Slides 44-67)**

Reading Report 4. Textbook pages 111-164. Describe ecclesial approaches to theology of religions. (up to 3 pages) Identify at least two questions for class discussion. **Due Oct 18, 2010**

Oct. 11. **THANKSGIVING NO CLASS**

Oct. 18. **Enlightenment and Modernist Perspectives (Slides 68-90)**

Reading Report 5. Textbook pages 165-223. Describe Ecclesiocentrism (Early Approaches) and Christocentrism in the Roman Catholic Tradition. (up to 3 pages) Identify at least 2 questions for class discussion. **Due Nov 1, 2010**

Oct 25 **READING WEEK NO CLASS**

Reading Report 6. Textbook pages 224-281. Describe Christocentrism from a mainline Protestantism very briefly in terms of Tillich, Pannenberg, Newbigin, and Thomas. And describe briefly the Evangelical Christocentric positions described. (up to 4 pages) Identify at least two questions for further class discussion. **Due Nov 1, 2010**

Nov. 1. **Outline of Ecclesiastical Approaches (Slides 90-115)**

Reading Report 7. Textbook pages 282-355. Describe briefly the theocentric and ecclesiocentric positions discussed in this section. (up to 3 pages). Identify at least 2 questions for class discussion. **Due Nov 8, 2010**

Nov. 8 **Early 20th Century Protestant Ecclesiocentrism & Roman Catholic Christocentrism (Slides 115-136)**

**Paper 2 Due**

Nov. 15 **Mainline Protestant Christocentrism, Evangelical Christocentrism (Slides 137-148)**

Nov 22 **Contemporary Evangelical Christocentrics (Slides 149-159)**

Nov 29 **Theocentrism (Slides 160-172).**

Dec 6 **Ecclesiocentrics (173-179)**

**FINAL PAPER DUE**

Dec. 13 **Class Discussion**

Dec 20 **Examination Week – No examination for this course**
Bibliography:
Covell, Ralph R. *Confucius the Buddha and the Christ*. New York: Orbis 1986
__________, *The Meeting of Religions and the Trinity*. New York: Orbis 2000


What Are They Saying About Christian-Jewish Relations? New York: Paulist, 1980
Sigountos, James, ed. Through No Fault of Their Own? The Fate of Those Who Have Never Heard. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker, 1991-


