Readings in Global Theology – TH/WM 760
Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, Charlotte
Fall 2015
Dr. Alan Myatt

Class meetings – Oct. 4, Oct. 31, Nov. 28, 5-7pm.

Course Description - This course examines a selection of readings in theologies of the Majority World (formerly Third World). The emphasis is on Africa, Asia, Latin America, and Native American thought. Continuities and discontinuities with Evangelical and other western theologies will be discussed. Given that the majority of Christians live outside of the western strongholds of theological tradition, the 21st century task of theology in the global context will be a central concern.

Gordon-Conwell Mission

The statements in italics describe how this course relates to each the learning outcomes GCTS faculty have identified in relation to the articles of the mission statement http://www.gordonconwell.edu/about/Mission-and-Purpose.cfm

Article 1: a) Demonstrate a strong understanding of both the content of the Bible and the overarching redemptive story from Genesis to Revelation. b) Demonstrate appropriate and effective use of the tools of biblical interpretation. The positions discussed will be evaluated in light of orthodox biblical teaching.

Article 2: Demonstrate constructive and critical thinking about Christian ministry in light of biblical, theological, and historical scholarship in accordance with historic Christian orthodoxy. Students will place recent theological developments in the context of recent ministry practices that attempt to respond to the situation of millennial culture.

Article 3: Develop proficiencies in practical ministry that are biblically and theologically grounded, and contextually sensitive. Implications of the post postmodern situation for preaching and missions will be considered.

Article 4: Demonstrate growth in a life of biblical discipleship and intimacy with Christ, expressed in the life of the mind, interpersonal relationships, and interaction with broader society. Models of devotion are being reconsidered with an openness to more practices from ancient traditions, as a response to the postmodern situation. We will examine this new found interest in historic forms of orthodoxy.

Article 5: Demonstrate engagement in the Church and society, using their spiritual gifts and redemptive leadership to promote renewal and reform. The possibilities for a redemptive response to postmodern nihilism and despair will be explored from the vantage point of the various theological proposals to be studied.
Article 6: Articulate a coherent vision of God’s global activity and develop strategies for actively engaging in God’s redemptive work in the world. Different ethnic and cultural perspectives in various theologies and their implications for Christian mission will be addressed.

Relation to Curriculum

TH/WM760 counts towards the elective requirements in Christian Thought for the M.Div. and MA degrees.

Objectives - After completing this course the student should have competence in understanding and discussing the issues, both theoretical and practical, involved in theological responses the global situation of Christianity in the new millennium. In particular, the student will be able to:

1) Understand the basic concepts of selected global theological thought and how such thought responds to the current cultural setting.

2) Place current theological developments in a global and multicultural context.

3) Articulate and discuss critically an Evangelical theological method for the future, in light of global issues and concerns.

Requirements: This course will require at least 135 hours to complete. This total breaks down as follows (rough estimate, you will likely spend more time that this):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading of texts, forum discussions</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term Paper</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class Discussions</td>
<td>6</td>
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1) Read the texts listed for each session before class and submit a reading log documenting number of pages and percentage of total required reading completed. Upload this to Sakai prior to class.

2) Participate in forum discussions of the class material on Sakai. Since internet discussions on blogs and other sites are a prominent medium in post-modern culture, you need to be adept at using it as a learning, teaching and evangelizing tool. You need not wait for someone else to start a thread. These discussions should be on going as you are doing your reading. Feel free to bring up relevant articles or popular media (TV, film, etc.) as well. The hope is to stir up some lively conversation that will explore the themes and deal with questions we may not have time for in class. Students should spend time on this every week.

5) Write a final term paper, analyzing a theme, author, work or other cultural event or phenomenon relevant to contemporary theology, including your response from a biblical perspective and your understanding of the practical implications for ministry. The paper should show evidence of having consulted an expanded bibliography, beyond the required course
reading. Papers should be about 20 pages, and follow either Turabian or APA format (counseling students only). A guideline for grading will be posted on Sakai. This is due on Dec. 20.

**Grading:** Completing the required reading will count for 30% of the final grade. The term paper will count for 60% of the final grade. Forum participation will count for 10%.

Assignments will be given a point value on a 100 point scale. Points are earned from a starting point of zero, not taken off from a starting point of 100. Final grades will be calculated according to the above percentages weighted for each assignment and letter grades will be applied with cutoffs as follows: A 94, A- 90, B+ 87, B 84, B- 80, C+ 77, C 74, C- 70, D+ 67, D 63, D- 60, F below 60.

**Late work:** All late work will be penalized by a deduction of one point for each day of lateness, unless arrangements are made ahead of time. Extenuating circumstances will be considered in case of dire emergency. Work turned in after December 19 will normally require that an extension has been approved by the seminar. If you anticipate a problem contact the professor.

Required texts:


**CLASS SCHEDULE**

*Please note that missed classes will require a significant amount of make-up work in the form of extra reading and writing that will require more than the two hours of missed class time. Make-up work for unexcused absences will not be allowed.*

**Oct 4 – African Theologies**

Noelliste & Chung Introduction, chpt 1, 7, 9,

Parratt 288

Kapolyo 144

Michael 276

**Oct 31 – Asian Theologies**

Noelliste & Chung chpt 2, 4, 10, 1

Chan 217

Kim 310

Satyavrata 146

**Nov 28 – Latin American and First Nations Theologies**

Noelliste & Chung 3, 5, 6, 8,

Boff 99

Padilla 232

Muskus 296

Twiss 272
Syllabus Addendum

Academic Standards
Cheating and plagiarism are considered serious breaches of personal and academic integrity. Cheating involves, but is not necessarily limited to, the use of unauthorized sources of information during an examination or the submission of the same (or substantially same) work for credit in two or more courses without the knowledge and consent of the instructors. Plagiarism involves the use of another person’s distinctive ideas or words, whether published or unpublished, and representing them as one’s own instead of giving proper credit to the source. Plagiarism can also involve over dependence on other source material for the scope and substance of one’s writing. Such breaches in academic standards often result in a failing grade as well as other corrective measures. For more information, please consult the Student Handbook.

ADA Policy
The seminary complies with the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act. A student with a qualifying and authenticated disability who is in need of accommodations should petition the seminary in accordance with the stated guidelines in the Student Handbook.

Cancellation of Class
In the event the seminary has to cancel a class meeting (impending storm, professor illness, etc.), the Registration Office will send out an email (via the GCTS email account) notification to all students registered in the respective course. If the cancellation occurs the day of the scheduled meeting, the Registration Office will also attempt to contact students via their primary phone contact on record. The professor will contact the students (via GCTS account) regarding make-up. If a weekend class is cancelled, the class will be made up during the scheduled Make-Up weekend (see the academic calendar for the designated dates). For more info, consult your Student Handbook.

Extension Policy
Arrangements for submission of late work at a date on or before the end date for the semester as noted on the seminary’s Academic Calendar are made between the student and professor. Formal petition to the Registration Office is not required in this case. This includes arrangements for the rescheduling of final exams.

However, course work (reading and written) to be submitted after the publicized end date for the semester must be approved by the Registration Office. An extension form, available online, must be submitted to the Registration Office prior to the stated date. Requests received after this date will either be denied or incur additional penalty. For a full discussion of this policy, please consult the Student Handbook.

Grades
Faculty have six weeks from the course work due date to submit a final grade. Grades are posted on-line within twenty-four hours of receipt from the professor. Students are expected to check their CAMS student portal in order to access posted grades (unless instructed otherwise). Those
individuals who need an official grade report issued to a third party should put their request in writing to the Registration Office.

**Returned Work**
Submitted hard-copy course work will be returned to the students if they provide a self-addressed and postage-paid envelope with their final work. Work submitted without the appropriate envelope will be destroyed after the grade has been assessed and issued.

**Virtual Writing Center**

Free assistance in writing papers is available to students through the Virtual Writing Center at Gordon Conwell. The Virtual Writing Center is staffed by Gordon Conwell graduates, or writing tutors with specialized knowledge in writing and/or ESL. Generally, this service is available to students who have completed or are currently enrolled in one of the following three classes:

- CT500 (Introduction to Theological Research)
- CO501 (Introduction to Counseling Research)
- IS502 (Theological Research and Writing)

If you enrolled in GCTS before Fall 2008, you were not required to take one of the three pre-requisites above, and you may request access to the Virtual Writing Center. Also, ESL writing tutors are available to ESL students even if they are not currently enrolled in a degree program. If you do not meet one of these qualifications, but feel you would benefit from using the Virtual Writing Center, contact us and we will evaluate your status. Email writingcenter@gordonconwell.edu for more information.