Advance of the Church in the Non-Western World

(The 1st Edition)

Fall 2013; M 9:00-12:00 am

Instructors: Dr. Kevin Xiyi Yao
Office Hours (Yao): ROM GL 114;
(Always best to make appointment)

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Byington Scholar: Bin Xia

Course Description

Advance of the Church in the Non-Western World is one of the most significant developments in modern mission history. The rise of Christianity in global South and East has been impacting the theology and ministry of the Church profoundly around the world. This course seeks to re-interpret mission history from the perspective world Christianity, and demonstrate the rapid globalization of the Church since the 19th Century and current state of the Church around the globe, and analyze the dynamics and characteristics of the churches in Africa, Asia, and South America, and reflect on the trend’s implications for our ministries.

Learning Objectives

1. Students will have opportunity to examine the scholarly discourse on world Christianity, and read some major theorists’ works in that field, and grasp the perspective and methodology of study of world Christianity. The conventional Euro-centric historiography will be challenged. And the Christian history as a process of cross-cultural transmission of the message will be highlighted, and the possibility of a new, global approach to Christian history will be explored.

2. Students will re-examine the Christian missions in the ancient and medieval times from the perspective of world Christianity, and re-discover the cross-cultural nature and tri-continental dimensions of the Christian story from the First to 15th Centuries.
3. Students will trace the trajectory of the global spread of Christianity in late 18th and 19th Centuries, and understand its social and religious contexts, and grasp its dynamics and consequences.

4. Students will have chances to examine the monumental shifting southward of the center of gravity of Christianity, and discover the rise, experience, and characteristics of the Christian communities in global South and East in the 20th Century. The achievements and challenges of Non-Western Churches will be highlighted.

5. Students will examine and grasp the impact the globalization of Christianity has upon the Church in the West, and reflect upon its implications at ecclesiastical and personal levels, and explore our ways to respond.

6. Students will become familiar with the major literatures in the field, such as the works by Andrew Walls, Dana Robert, Lamin Sanneh, Stephen Neil, and Philip Jenkins.

Requirements

1. **Book Report 1**: Each student is required to write a report on Gonzalez, *The Changing Shape of Church History*. The length of the report: five to six pages, double-spaced. The contents: the summary of the book contents, the impact the book has upon you, and other personal reflections and comments on the book. You can be critical. **Due Date: 22 Oct. (20%)**

2. **Book Report 2**: Each student is required to write a report on either Jenkins, *The Next Christendom* or Sanneh, *Disciples of all Nations*. The length of the report: five to six pages, double-spaced. The contents: the summary of the book contents, the impact the book has upon you, and other personal reflections and comments on the book. You can be critical. **Due Date: 21 Nov (20%)**

3. **One Term Paper**: Each student is required to choose a topic concerning certain historical periods or regions and write a term paper about it. The topics need to be pertinent to the contents of this course, and interesting to you and relevant to your future ministry. Your topic should be approved by the instructor. The length: 20-25 pp, double-spaced, including footnotes and bibliography as needed. **Term Paper Topic Due Date: 3 Oct; Paper Due Date: 12 Dec. (50%)**

4. **Class Presentation and Participation**: In the Week 13 & 14 of the semester each student is required to present the results of their research for the term paper to the whole class, and responsible for 25 minutes in one class session, including
presentation and Q & A time. Each student can design the format of his or her presentation, and employ any audio-video means or multi-media to articulate his or her points. And active participation in class discussion is highly valued and encouraged. A field trip may be arranged. (10%)

Assignment and Grading Summary

Assignments should be turned in (hard copy) in class on the due dates.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignments</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Book Reports</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>21 Oct 18 Nov</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term Paper Topic Due</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>13 Dec 30 Sept</td>
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<tr>
<td>Presentations and Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Week 13 &amp; 14</td>
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Required Textbooks


Other Texts Included in Readings


Topics and Required Readings

Week 1, 9 Sept: Introduction: Syllabus Review; Methodologies and Approaches of this Course;

Readings: TBA

Week 2 16 Sept: Re-interpreting Christian History from Global Perspective

Readings: TBA
Week 3, **23 Sept.** Ancient and Medieval Church: Cross-Cultural and Tri-continental Outreach

Readings: TBA

Week 4, **30 Sept:** Global Resurge: The 18th and 19th Centuries

Readings: TBA

**Term paper topic due.**

Week 5, **7 Oct:** The Emergence of World Christianity in the 20th Century

Readings: TBA

Week 6, **14 Oct:** Reading Week

Readings: TBA

Week 7, **21 Oct:** Growth and Revivals in Africa

Readings: TBA

**The first book report due.**

Week 8, **28 Oct:** The Rise of Pentecostalism and Protestantism in South America

Readings: TBA

Week 9, **4 Nov:** East / Southeast Asia/ the Pacific: Diversity and Pluralism

Readings: TBA

Week 10, **11 Nov:** Reading Week

Readings: TBA
Week 11, **18 Nov**: South / West Asia: Witness in Hindu and Islamic Contexts

Readings: TBA

**The second book report due.**

Week 12, **25 Nov**: What all these mean to us in American and other contexts?

Readings: TBA

Week 13, **2 Dec**: Presentations

Week 14, **9 Dec**: Final Exam Week

Presentations

**13 Dec: Term paper due.**

**Guest speakers may be featured in this course.**

All topics are subject to change without notice.

Selected Bibliography


---- -, ed. Interpreting Contemporary Christianity, Global Processes and Local Identities (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2008).

Kim, Sebastian and Kirsteen Kim, Christianity as a World Religion (London: Continuum, 2008).


