Boston University  
Spring 2013  

STH TH 847 Comparative Christianity:  
The Rise of Global Christianity, 1910–2010  
Wednesday: 6:00–9:00 PM  
Room: STH 318  

Instructors: Todd M. Johnson, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary,  
with guest lecturers from the major Christian tradition & colleagues from the BTI  
Teaching Assistant: Gina Bellofatto (gbello@bu.edu)  
Byington Scholar: Sujin Park  

I. Course Description  
The course is an overview of the changing status of global Christianity over the past one hundred years. It covers the whole world with lectures comparing the global context of 1910 and 2010, including each of the major Christian traditions. In addition, the course divides the world up into the 21 United Nations regions (Eastern Africa, Western Africa, Southern Africa, etc.) and each region is described in the Atlas of Global Christianity (required text) in four pages including an opening essay, maps, graphs, tables, and charts. The world is viewed through languages and peoples, a new area of scholarly analysis of Christianity and its resources. Finally, the past 100 years is viewed through the lens of Christian mission by analyzing data on missionaries, Bible translation, TV/radio broadcasting, and other forms of evangelization.  

II. Learning Objectives  
1. Students will comprehend the expansion of the world Christian movement, especially in the past 100 years.  
2. Students will analyze the role of globalization in the spreading of the gospel.  
3. Students will examine both similarities and differences in the expressions of Christianity found in the various parts of the world.  

III. Grading  
1. Personal reflections on the books in the required readings (Kim & Kim and Wuthnow only). Students should keep a running journal of the summaries (Due on February 27 and April 24.) 20%  
2. Two page reflection paper on the Boston College conference. (Due on April 10.) 10%  
3. Paper (c. 20 pp. double-spaced with footnotes/endnotes and bibliography as appropriate): This paper should look at a subject in the history of world Christianity in the past 100 years. (Paper topic approved by February 6. Paper due no later than May 1.) 70%  

Active participation in all aspects of the course and required readings is presumed.  

IV. Special Conference  
Class participants are expected to attend as much as possible of the following event on March 21–22: “Mission and Ecumenism since Vatican II”. There will be no class on Mar 20. If unable to fulfill, an alternative assignment can be arranged with the course instructor. (A two-page paper will be asked from each student with a summary of reflections on the conference.)
V. Required Texts


VI. Websites and Related Organizations

- Class website – On Blackboard. Most required readings, apart from course texts, will be made available online
- Center for the Study of Global Christianity: [www.globalchristianity.org](http://www.globalchristianity.org)
- Atlas of Global Christianity: [www.altasofglobalchristianity.org](http://www.altasofglobalchristianity.org)
- World Christian Database: [www.worldchristiandatabase.org](http://www.worldchristiandatabase.org)

VII. Schedule of Classes

1) 16 Jan  
   **Introduction to the Course**
   - Course syllabus
   - Major themes of the course
   - Introduction to the *Atlas of Global Christianity*

2) 23 Jan  
   **World Religions and Global Christianity**
   - Religions overview
   - Methodology of international religious demography
   **Second Lecture**
   - Atlas in history
   - Atlas historical findings
   
   **Required Reading:**
   - *Atlas*, Part I (pp. 2–45)
   - Wuthnow, Introduction, Chapter 1, & Chapter 2 (pp. 1–61)

3) 30 Jan  
   **Global Christianity**
   - Atlas overview
   - Statistical center of gravity
   - Major and minor traditions
   **Second Lecture**
   - Migration
   
   **Required Reading:**
   - *Atlas*, Part II Global Christianity & Future of Global Christianity (pp. 48–71; 104–107)
   - Kim & Kim, Chapter 1 (pp. 1–17)
   - Wuthnow, Chapter 3, Chapter 4, & Chapter 7 (pp. 62–139; 235–250)
4) 6 Feb  
Protestants  
(Guest lecturer: Rodney Petersen, Boston Theological Institute)  
• History of Protestantism  
**Regional Lecture**  
• Christianity in Africa  

Required Reading:  
• *Atlas*, Part II Protestants (pp. 99–91); Part III Africa, Northern Africa, Western Africa (pp. 110–113, 122–125, 130–133)

5) 13 Feb  
Ethnodoxology  
(Guest lecturer: Robin Harris, International Council of Ethnodoxologists)  
**Regional Lecture**  
• Christianity in Africa  

Required Reading:  
• Kim & Kim, Chapter 3 (pp. 63–99)

6) 20 Feb  
No Class: Monday schedule

7) 27 Feb  
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints  
(Guest lecturer: Kristine Haglund, editor of *Dialogue: A Journal of Mormon Thought*)  
• History of Latter-day Saints  
**Regional Lecture**  
• Christianity in Asia  

Required Reading:  
• *Atlas*, Part II Marginal Christians (pp. 80–83); Part III Asia, South-central Asia, Western Asia (pp. 134–137, 142–145, 150–153)

8) 6 Mar  
Independents  
(Guest lecturer: Xiyi Yao, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary)  
• History of Chinese churches  
**Regional Lecture**  
• Christianity in Asia  

Required Reading:  
• *Atlas*, Part II Independents (pp. 76–79); Part III Eastern Asia, South-eastern Asia (pp. 138–141, 146–149)  
• Kim & Kim, Chapter 6 (pp. 172–209)

9) 13 March  
No Class: Spring Recess
10) 20 Mar  No Class, but Costas Consultation is March 21–22 at Boston College.

11) 27 Mar  Martyrdom

Regional Lectures
- Christianity in Europe

Required Reading:
- *Atlas*, Part III Europe, Eastern Europe, Northern Europe, Southern Europe, Western Europe (pp. 154–173); Oceania (pp. 194–207)

12) 3 Apr  Orthodox

(Guest lecturer: Luke Veronis, Holy Cross)
- History of Orthodoxy

Regional lecture
- Christianity in Oceania

Required Reading:
- * Atlas*, Part II Orthodox (pp. 84–87); Part V Christian finance, Bible translation and distribution, Print and audiovisual media (pp. 294–307)
- Kim & Kim, Chapter 2 (pp. 23-62)

13) 10 Apr  Pentecostals/Charismatics

(Guest lecturer: Annalisa Butticci, Harvard Divinity School)
- History of Pentecostal/Charismatic movements

Second Lecture
- Evangelicalism (Gina)

Required Reading:
- *Atlas*, Part II Evangelicals & Pentecostals (pp. 96–103); Part III Latin America, Caribbean, Central America, South America (pp. 174–189)
- Wuthnow, Chapter 5 (pp. 140–187)

14) 17 Apr  Roman Catholics

(Guest lecturer: Meg Guider, Boston College)
- History of Catholicism

Costas Consultation Debrief Session & Second Lecture
- History of Christianity in Latin America

Required Reading:
- *Atlas*, Part II Roman Catholics (pp. 92–95); Part IV (pp. 210–255)
- Kim & Kim, Chapter 5 (pp. 140–171)

15) 24 Apr  Religious freedom

(Guest lecturer: Brian Grim, Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life)
- Religious diversity
- Religious freedom
Second Lecture

- Christianity in Northern America

Required Reading:
- *Atlas*, Part I Religious freedom (pp. 36–45); Part III Northern America (pp. 84–87; 190–193)
- Kim & Kim, Chapter 4 (pp. 100–139)
- Wuthnow, Chapter 6 & Appendix (pp. 188–234; 251–258)

16) 1 May  

Anglicanism  
(Guest lecturer: Ian Douglas, Bishop of Connecticut)

- History of Anglicanism

Christian mission  
(Guest lecturer: Dana Robert, Boston University School of Theology)

- History of Christian mission

Required Reading:
- *Atlas*, Part II Anglicans (pp. 72–75); Part V Missionaries sent and received (pp. 258–289); Evangelisation (pp. 308–321), Great Commission Christians (pp. 290–293)
- Kim & Kim, Chapter 7 (pp. 210–230)

VIII. Select Bibliography of World Christianity

Jongeneel, Jan A. B., Philosophy, Science, and Theology of Mission in the 19th and 20th Centuries: A Missiological Encyclopedia (Frankfurt am Main: Peter Lang Publishing Group, 2002).
Kim, Sebastian and Kirsteen Kim, Christianity as a World Religion (London: Continuum, 2008).
Noll, Mark A., The New Shape of World Christianity (Downers Grove, IL, InterVarsity Press, 2009).
Ott, Craig and Harold A. Netland (eds), Globalizing Theology: Belief and Practice in an Era of World Christianity (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2006).
Tennent, Timothy C., Theology in the Context of World Christianity (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2007).

**IX. Procedural matters**
The STH Academic Code of Conduct may be found on the STH website at: [www.bu.edu/sth/academic/academic-conduct](http://www.bu.edu/sth/academic/academic-conduct). All students are required to familiarize themselves with this code, its definitions of misconduct, and its sanctions. Students should especially familiarize themselves with the section on plagiarism. All written work is expected to conform to the academic standards of Boston University.

Students with Disabilities—Any students who believe they have a disability should meet with BU Disability Services as soon as possible at the beginning of the semester to initiate disability verification and discuss accommodations that may be necessary to ensure your successful completion of course requirements. That office is at 19 Deerfield Street and can be contacted at 617-353-3658. Request for accommodations are then sent by that office to the Academic Dean who forwards them to the Instructor.