

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

1. Todd M. Johnson and Kenneth R. Ross (eds), *Atlas of Global Christianity* (Edinburgh University Press, 2009). Available on reserve at Boston University School of Theology Library and Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary library.
2. Sebastian Kim and Kirsteen Kim, *Christianity as a World Religion* (Continuum International Publishing Group, 2008).
3. Robert Wuthnow, *Boundless Faith* (University of California Press, 2009).

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
- Atlas of Global Christianity: www.altasofglobalchristianity.org
- World Christian Database: 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:
 • *Atlas*, Part III Eastern Africa, Middle Africa, Southern Africa (pp. 114–121, 126–129)
 • 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 Buttici, 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

Adair, James R., *Introducing Christianity* (New York: Routledge, 2008).

Anderson, Gerald H. (ed.), *Biographical Dictionary of Christian Mission* (Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1998).

Barrett, David B. (ed.), *World Christian Encyclopedia* (Nairobi: Oxford University Press, 1982).

Barrett, David B., George T. Kurian and Todd M. Johnson (eds), *World Christian Encyclopedia*, 2nd edn, 2 vols (New York: Oxford University Press, 2001).

Barrett, David B. and Todd M. Johnson (eds), *World Christian Trends* (Pasadena, CA: William Carey Library, 2001).

Bednarowski, Mary Farrell (ed.), *Twentieth-century Global Christianity* (A People's History of Christianity, Vol. 7) (Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2008).

Bonk, Jonathan (ed.), *Encyclopedia of Missions and Missionaries* (Abingdon: Routledge, 2007).

Bosch, David J., *Transforming Mission: Paradigm Shifts in Theology of Mission* (Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 1991).

Bühlmann, Walbert, *The Coming of the Third Church: An Analysis of the Present and Future of the Church*, translated by Ralph Woodhall and A. N. Other (Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 1977).

Davies, Noel A. and Martin Conway (eds), *World Christianity in the 20th Century* (London: SCM Press, 2008).

Gallagher, Robert L. and Paul Hertig (eds), *Landmark Essays in Mission and World Christianity* (Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2009).

Gilley, Sheridan and Brian Stanley (eds), *The Cambridge History of Christianity: World Christianities c.1815–c.1914* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2006).

Hanciles, Jehu J., *Beyond Christendom: Globalization, African Migration, and the Transformation of the West* (Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2008).

Hastings, Adrian (ed.), *A World History of Christianity* (Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1999).

Herring, George, *Introduction to the History of Christianity* (New York: New York University Press, 2006).

- Hylson-Smith, Kenneth, *To the Ends of the Earth: The Globalization of Christianity* (London: Paternoster, 2007).
- Irvin, Dale T. and Scott W. Sunquist, *History of the World Christian Movement, Vol. 1: Earliest History to 1453* (Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2001).
- Jenkins, Philip, *The Next Christendom: The Coming of Global Christianity* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2002).
- Jenkins, Philip, *The New Faces of Christianity: Believing the Bible in the Global South* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2006).
- Johnson, Todd M. (ed.), *World Christian Database*, www.worldchristiandatabase.org (Leiden: Brill, 2007).
- 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).
- Juergensmeyer, Mark (ed.), *Global Religions: An Introduction* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2003).
- Kalu, Obgu U. and Alaine Low (eds), *Interpreting Contemporary Christianity: Global Processes and Local Identities* (Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2008).
- Kim, Sebastian and Kirsteen Kim, *Christianity as a World Religion* (London: Continuum, 2008).
- Koschorke, Klaus, Frider Ludwig and Mariano Delgado, *A History of Christianity in Asia, Africa, and Latin America, 1450–1990* (Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans, 2007).
- Latourette, Kenneth S., *A History of Christianity, 2 vols* (New York: Harper and Row, 1953).
- Marty, Martin, *The Christian World: A Global History* (New York: The Random House Publishing Group, 2007).
- McLeod, Hugh (ed.), *The Cambridge History of Christianity: World Christianities c. 1914–c. 2000* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2006).
- Moffett, Samuel Hugh, *A History of Christianity in Asia, 2 vols* (New York: Harper-Collins, 1991).
- Muller, Karl, Theo Sundermeier, Stephen B. Bevans and Richard H. Bliese (eds), *Dictionary of Mission* (Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 1997).
- Mullin, Robert Bruce, *A Short World History of Christianity* (Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2008).
- Neill, Stephen C., *A History of Christian Missions* (The Pelican History of the Church, Vol. 6) (New York: Penguin Books, 1964).
- 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).
- Robert, Dana, *Christian Mission: How Christianity Became a World Religion* (Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell, 2009).
- Sanneh, Lamin, *Whose Religion is Christianity? The Gospel Beyond the West* (Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2003).
- Sanneh, Lamin, *Disciples of All Nations: Pillars of World Christianity* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2008).
- Sanneh, Lamin and Joel A. Carpenter (eds), *The Changing Face of Christianity: Africa, the West, and the World* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2005).
- Smith, David, *Mission after Christendom* (London: Darton, Longman and Todd Ltd, 2003).
- Stanley, Brian, *The World Missionary Conference, Edinburgh 1910* (Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2009).
- Taylor, William D. (ed.), *Global Missiology for the 21st Century* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2000).
- Tennent, Timothy C., *Theology in the Context of World Christianity* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2007).
- Thomas, Norman E., *Classic Texts in Mission and World Christianity* (Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 1995).
- Van Beek, Huibert, *A Handbook of Churches and Councils* (Geneva: World Council of Churches, 2006).
- Verstraelen, F. J., A. Camps, L. A. Hoedemaker and M. R. Spindler (eds), *Missiology: An Ecumenical Introduction: Texts and Contexts of Global Christianity* (Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1995).
- Walls, Andrew F., *The Cross-Cultural Process in Christian History* (Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2002).
- Walls, Andrew F., *The Missionary Movement in Christian History: Studies in the Transmission of the Faith* (Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 1996).

Wijzen, Frans and Robert Schreiter (eds), *Global Christianity: Contested Claims* (Amsterdam: Rodopi, 2007).

Winter, Ralph D. and Steven C. Hawthorne (eds), *Perspectives on the World Christian Movement* (Pasadena, CA: William Carey Library, 2009).

Woodhead, Linda, *An Introduction to Christianity* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2004).

Yates, Timothy, *Christian Mission in the Twentieth Century* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1994).

IX. Procedural matters

The STH Academic Code of Conduct may be found on the STH website at: 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](tel:617-353-3658). Request for accommodations are then sent by that office to the Academic Dean who forwards them to the Instructor.