

LIDLAW COLLEGE

Te Wananga Amorangi

607.615 Christianity and World Religions Course Assessment and Delivery Outline

Campus: Distance Learning

Semester 2, 2015
NQF Level: 6, 15 credits

CONTENT OVERVIEW:

1. Introduction to world religions
2. Formal and folk religions
3. Primal religions
4. The theology of religions
5. Islam
6. Hinduism
7. Buddhism
8. Other Asian religions
9. New Age/Alternative spiritualities

ASSESSMENT TASKS AND DUE DATES:

1. Online Discussions

<i>Learning Outcomes:</i>	2, 4
<i>Due Dates:</i>	11.59PM Sunday at the end of Semester weeks 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 11
<i>Percentage Weighting:</i>	20%

In each of weeks 2, 3, 4, 5, and 8, identify the key issues raised in one of the following articles / chapters, briefly discuss at least one issue, and prepare a brief critical response on at least one aspect. In the final posting in week 11 summarise how your thinking has been challenged or supported by any or all of the readings and other lesson material.

Each response should be 300 words, submitted by the end of each specified week. Then make at least one further post of at least 50 words in which you interact with what other members of the class have written.

Week 2: Andrew Kirk, 'Encounter with Religions of the World,' in *What is Mission?* (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2000), 118-142.

Week 3: Charles van Engen, 'The Uniqueness of Christ in Mission Theology,' ch.10 in *Mission on the Way: Issues in Mission Theology* (Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1996), 169-187.

Week 4: Ida Glaser, 'The Bible as a Mirror,' in *The Bible and other Faiths* (Leicester: IVP, 2005), 202-220.

Week 5: Gregory A. Boyd & Paul R. Eddy, 'The Destiny of the Unevangelized Debate,' ch.12, *Across the Spectrum: Understanding Issues in Evangelical Theology* (Grand Rapids, Baker Academic, 2002), 178-192.

Week 8: Ajith Fernando, 'Truth in Other Religions', ch. 5 in *Sharing the Truth in Love: How*

to Relate to People of Other Faiths (Grand Rapids: Discovery House Publishers, 2001), 69-84.

2. Biographical Essay

<i>Learning Outcomes:</i>	1, 2, 3, 4
<i>Due Date:</i>	11.59PM Sunday end of Semester Week 10
<i>Percentage Weighting:</i>	45%
<i>Word Count:</i>	2000

You are to write an essay which explores a particular missionary's work in their mission context. Choose a missionary who has worked amongst adherents of a non-Christian religion. In your essay you should:

- Describe their understanding of that religion (beliefs, practices).
- Describe their approach to ministry among the adherents of that religion.
- Analyze the effectiveness of the missionary's interaction, discussing what may be learned for Christian witness.

3. Exam

<i>Learning Outcomes:</i>	1, 2, 3, 4
<i>Percentage Weighting:</i>	35%
<i>Length:</i>	2 ½ hours

Three questions to be answered in two and a half hours. The exact time and date of the exam will be posted on Moodle.

CRITERIA FOR ASSESSMENT

1. Online Discussions

- (First five discussions) Identifies the key issues raised in the articles and discusses at least one issue
- (First five discussions) Reflects critically on at least one aspect in the articles
- (Final discussion) Provides a thoughtful reflection on how the student's thinking has been challenged or supported by the readings and lesson material
- Constructive engagement with others
- Structure and presentation
- Timeliness

2. Biographical Essay

- Clearly identifies a missionary/s, the religious context and period of ministry in that setting, and outlines the history of the encounter of Christian faith with the chosen religion.
- Demonstrates an understanding of the central beliefs and significant practices of the chosen religion in the particular setting in which the missionary/s worked.
- Describes the missionary's work and the nature of their relationship with the people.
- Explains the term "theology of religion" and describes the missionary's theology of religion in their context.
- Evaluates the missionary's effectiveness in relating to the chosen people group and discusses how this may inform encounter with other religions.
- Communication and presentation: Clarity, format, spelling and grammar; annotation and bibliography.

3. Exam

- Answer directed to the question
- Coverage of main points
- Depth of treatment
- Thoughtful judgment
- Coherence and presentation

LEARNING HOURS:

607.615 is a 15 credit course consisting of 150 learning hours. The expected learning hours are as follows:

Interaction with course materials and extra readings	75 hrs
Online Discussions	20 hrs
Biographical Essay	35 hrs
Exam preparation	20 hrs
Total	150 hours

Although this guideline regarding learning hours is not intended to be applied rigidly, it should help ensure a balanced workload.

TEXTBOOK:

D. Halverson, (gen ed). *The Illustrated Guide to World Religions*. Bloomington, MIN: Bethany House, 2003.

[**Please note** this text is currently out of print, however Laidlaw has obtained a license to provide copies of all sections required for this course. These sections are available from Distance Learning for \$18.]

Recommended texts:

R. Pierce Beaver et al (eds). *A Lion Handbook: The World's Religions*. Oxford: Lion Publishing, 1994 or 2005.

or

Irving Hexham. *Concise Dictionary of Religion*. Downers Grove: IVP, 1993.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Anderson, Gerald H. et al (eds.) *Mission Legacies: Biographical Studies of Leaders of the Modern Missionary Movement*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis, 1994.

Bishop, Peter D. *Words in World Religions*. London: SCM Press, 1979.

Brown, D.A. *A Guide to Religions*. London: SPCK, 1975.

Hexham, I. (ed.) *Concise Dictionary of Religion*. Downers Grove: IVP, 1993.

Hinnells, John R, ed. *A New Handbook of Living Religions*. London: Penguin, 1997².

Mircea, Eliade. *The Encyclopedia of Religion*, Vols 1-16. NY.: MacMillan, 1987.

Parrinder, Geoffrey. *Man and his Gods: Encyclopedia of the world's religions*. London: Hamlyn, 1971.

Partridge, Christopher, ed. *Dictionary of Contemporary Religion in the Western World*. Downers Grove,IL: InterVarsity Press, 2002.

Smart, Ninian. *The World's Religions*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1992.

Stackhouse, John G., ed. *No Other Gods Before Me? Evangelicals and the Challenge of World Religions*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2001.

Stuckrad, Kocku von. *The Brill Dictionary of Religion*. Leiden: Brill, 2004.

A much more detailed bibliography is contained in the course materials, and should be consulted for wider reading and reference works for assessment tasks.