

607.715 Christianity and World Religions
Course Assessment and Delivery Outline

Campus: Distance Learning

Semester 2, 2015
NQF Level: 7, 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:

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: **EITHER:**

- Christopher Wright, 'The Bible and Human Religions,' in *Thinking Clearly about the Uniqueness of Christ* (Grand Rapids: Monarch Books, 2001), 37-67, and endnotes 155-164).

OR

- Harold Netland, 'Toward an Evangelical Theology of Religions,' ch. 10 in *Encountering Religious Pluralism: The Challenge to Christian Faith and Mission* (Downers Grove: IVP, 2001), 308-348.

Biographical Essay

<i>Learning Outcomes:</i>	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
<i>Due Date:</i>	11.59PM Sunday end of Semester Week 10
<i>Percentage Weighting:</i>	45%
<i>Word Count:</i>	2500

You are to write an essay which explores a particular missionary's work in their mission context. Some research will be required to find a missionary who has worked with adherents of a non-Christian religion. If you personally know a missionary who has worked in the context of a non-Christian religion and who has made a serious study of it, you may interview them as part of your study.

In your essay you should:

- Describe the chosen religion at a popular ('folk') level as well as at an official level. (It is not necessary to outline widely known teachings of the religion).
- State what you understand by 'theology of religion' and discuss the theology of religion of the missionary you have chosen, outlining his/her attitudes towards the religion as a system of beliefs and as a community.
- Critically evaluate the effectiveness of the missionary's work and discuss what may be learned for Christian witness.

Exam

<i>Learning Outcomes:</i>	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
<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

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 article
- (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

Biographical Essay

- Clearly identifies a missionary/s, discusses the religious context and period of ministry in

that setting, and shows the significance of the history of the encounter of Christian faith with the chosen religion.

- Discusses the central beliefs and significant practices of the chosen religion in the particular setting in which the missionary/s worked.
- Describes and evaluates the missionary's work and the nature of their relationship with the people.
- Explains the term "theology of religion" and discusses the missionary's theology of religion in their context.
- Identifies the perspective of the missionary regarding continuity & discontinuity between Christian faith and the chosen religion.
- Critically 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.

Exam

- Answer directed to the question
- Understanding and coverage of main points
- Depth of treatment
- Critical Judgment
- Coherence and presentation

LEARNING HOURS:

607.715 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:

Corduan, Winifred. *Neighbouring Faiths: A Christian Introduction to World Religions*. 2nd Ed. Downers Grove, Ill.: IVP, 2012.

Recommended texts:

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

or

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

BIBLIOGRAPHY

General reference works:

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.