

History 31905

Christianity in the Global Age

Instructor: Prof. Deborah Fleetham
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Office: UNIV 126
Office Hours: M, W 2:30-3:30 (or by appt)

Classroom: WALC 2127

Course Description

While often identified with Europe and North America, Christianity is a world religion. During the twentieth century Latin America, Asia, and Africa overtook the West as the dynamic centers of global Christianity. In this course we will examine how that shift occurred, and its consequences for the social, cultural, economic, legal, and religious dynamics of Christianity in Global South and Global East in the 20th and 21st centuries.

Course Requirements

- **Essays** (3 @ 20% each) – Three essays (due February 19, March 13, April 22). Essay questions will be handed out at least a week in advance and will be based on assigned course material.
- **Reading and Discussion** (15%) – Discussion will be a regular part of the class. Designated days, labeled **DISCUSSION** on the course schedule, will be devoted to class discussion of assigned readings. You are expected to bring the text with you to class. *Dates: January 29; February 7, 12, 24; March 2, 9; April 3, 8, 13*

This grade has three parts.

- **Reading Questions:** The purpose of readings questions is to guide your reading of the text and prepare you for discussion. Assignments will be posted on Blackboard at least a week before the discussion date. Questions must be completed and submitted to Blackboard **by 11:00 am on the day of the discussion.**
 - **Participation:** Your participation in class discussion.
 - **Attendance:** The purpose of the reading questions is preparation for the discussion itself; skipping the discussion defeats the purpose. *You will not receive credit for the Reading Questions if you do not attend the class discussion period.* Any exceptions to this policy require advance approval and are at my discretion.
- **Contemporary Issue Project** (25%) You will choose a contemporary issue dealing with some aspect of Christianity in the global world. Over the course of the semester, you will be asked to post articles links on Blackboard, summarize them, discuss them in class. A final paper will synthesize the articles and analyze how this topic fits into broader historical developments. You must also prepare a short, informal presentation to be given during the final exam period.

Textbooks

- Todd Hartch, *The Rebirth of Latin American Christianity* (Oxford, 2014) ISBN: 978-0199843138
- Jennifer Lin, *Shanghai Faithful* (Rowman & Litchfield, 2017) ISBN: 978-1538121276
- Wanjiru Gitau, *Megachurch Christianity Reconsidered* (IVP Academic, 2018). ISBN: 978-0830851034

Academic Honesty

Academic dishonesty (cheating, plagiarism, hiring another to do your work, copying and other activities defined by the OSRR) is unacceptable and will not be tolerated in this course. Incidents of academic misconduct in this course will be addressed by the course instructor and referred to the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities (OSRR) for review at the university level. Any violation of course policies as it relates to academic integrity will result minimally in a failing or zero grade for that particular assignment, and at the instructor's discretion may result in a failing grade for the course. In addition, all incidents of academic misconduct will be forwarded to OSRR, where university penalties, including removal from the university, may be considered. *See also academic honesty links in Purdue Resources tab on Blackboard.*

Announcements

Any changes to the syllabus (e.g. lecture theme, reduction of reading assignments,

Classes labeled **Contemporary Issues Discussion** on the schedule below will be devoted to discussing your articles in class. Articles and summaries will be due on these dates. Refer to Contemporary Issue Guidelines handouts for more detail.

Course Schedule

Week 1 (January 13-17):

January 13: Introduction
January 15: Why Study Christianity as a Global Religion?
January 17: Missionaries and Their Discontents

Week 2 (January 20-24):

January 20: NO CLASS – MLK Holiday
January 22: The Global Catholic Church
January 24: **Contemporary Issues Discussion** (First article due)
**Refer to Contemporary Issues Project Guidelines I for instructions*

Week 3: (January 27-31)

January 27: Latin America in 19th and early 20th Centuries
January 29: **DISCUSSION:** Protestants and Catholics in Latin America
Hartch, *Rebirth*, Chapters 1 and 2
Reading Questions due at 11 am on Blackboard
January 31: **Contemporary Issues Discussion**

Week 4: (February 3-7)

February 3: What is Pentecostalism?
February 5: Pentecostalism around the Globe
February 7: **DISCUSSION:** Pentecostals and Charismatics in Latin America
Hartch, *Rebirth*, Chapters 5 and 6
Reading Questions due at 11 am on Blackboard

Week 5: (February 10-14)

February 10: Catholic Renewal and the Vernacular Church
February 12: **DISCUSSION:** Latin American Catholic Renewal and Activism
Hartch, *Rebirth*, Chapters 3-4, 7-8
Reading Questions due at 11 am on Blackboard
February 14: **Contemporary Issues Discussion**

Week 6: (February 17-21)

February 17: East Asia
February 19: South Asia
ESSAY #1 DUE
February 21: Pacific Islands

Week 7: (February 24-28)

February 24: **DISCUSSION:** China to 1918
Lin, *Shanghai Faithful* (pp. 1-80)
Reading Questions due at 11 am on Blackboard
February 26: Women and Families
February 28: **Contemporary Issues Discussion (Topic Due)**

class cancellation, due dates etc.) will be announced in class and on Blackboard. Students are responsible for checking Blackboard announcements and email.

Attendance

Attendance in this course is required. Attending class is essential for understanding the material and developing analytical skills. Because illnesses and extracurricular obligations do occur, absences will not count against your course grade (one point per absence) until the fifth absence. You do not need to inform me of an absence unless:

- You will miss a Discussion or Course Discussion class.
- You will be absent for an extended period.

Obtaining missed material is the responsibility of the student.

Computer Use Policy

Use of computers/tablets/cell phones for notetaking or other activities is *prohibited* in this class (except for a documented disability as detailed Letter of Accommodation from the DRC).

Why? Recent research (*links on Blackboard*) suggests that computer notetaking is a distraction and that it *decreases* learning and comprehension.

EXCEPTIONS: E-Readers/tablets/phones are permissible to access readings for discussion although paper copies are preferred and recommended.

Contingency Disclosure

In the event of a major campus emergency (such as a natural disaster, epidemic, campus shutdown etc.) the requirements, deadlines, and grading policies/percentages as detailed in this syllabus are subject to changes that may be required by an officially revised semester calendar. Any such changes in this course will be posted, once the course resumes, on the course site on Blackboard or can be obtained by contacting the instructor.

Course Resources (Blackboard)

Week 8: (March 2-6)

- March 2: **DISCUSSION:** China 1920s to 40s
Lin, *Shanghai Faithful* (pp. 91-162)
Reading Questions due at 11 am on Blackboard
- March 4: Jesus and the Bible in Asia
- March 6: China Under Mao
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Week 9: (March 9- 13)

- March 9: **DISCUSSION:** 19th Century China
Lin, *Shanghai Faithful* (pp. 165-250)
Reading Questions due at 11 am on Blackboard
- March 11: Chia 1970 to 2000s
- March 13: Chinese Christian Art
ESSAY #2 DUE
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SPRING BREAK

Week 10: (March 23-27)

- March 23: Colonial Africa
- March 25: Post-Colonial Africa
- March 27: [Contemporary Issues Discussion](#)
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Week 11: (March 30-April 3)

- March 30: West Africa
- April 1: East Africa
- April 3: **DISCUSSION:** Gitau, *Megachurch* 1-88
Reading Questions due at 11 am on Blackboard
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Week 12: (April 6-10)

- April 6: Migration and Diasporas in the Global South
- April 8: **DISCUSSION:** Gitau, *Megachurch*, 89-181
Reading Questions due at 11 am on Blackboard
- April 10: Migrations and Diasporas in the West
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Week 13: (April 13-17)

- April 13: **DISCUSSION:** Latin American Migration, Indigenous Christians
Hartch, *Rebirth* Chapters 9-10
Reading Questions due at 11 on Blackboard
- April 15: Indonesia and America (Guest: Dr. Pamela Sari)
- April 17: [Contemporary Issues Discussion](#)
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Week 14: (April 20-24)

- April 20: China since 2000 (Guest: Dr. Christopher White)
- April 22: Religious Persecution
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- Lecture Outlines: (to assist notetaking; not a substitution to lecture attendance)
- Bibliography: A short list of historical surveys related to course topics for those who would like more information and analysis.

Late Assignment Policy

All assignments may be turned in before the assigned deadline. Late assignments will **NOT** be accepted, except for in cases of *documented* emergencies (death, hospitalization, etc.), as determined by the instructor. Please alert me to any problems as far in advance as possible. Leaving assignments to the last minute and encountering unexpected problems does **not** constitute an emergency. *Late assignments will be treated as uncompleted and receive no points.*

Purdue Resources and Policies

The university requests that we provide reminders of university resources and policies regarding *academic integrity, diversity and inclusion, emergency procedures, freedom of expression, mental health resources, grief absences, and accessibility and accommodation*. In order to provide ease of access and the most up-to-date information, I have created a folder on Blackboard (*Purdue Resources* tab, *left-hand column*) with descriptions, web links, and contact information for these resources. Please feel free to contact the Office of the Dean of Students, your advisor, or me with particular questions or concerns.

Course Objectives

By the end of this course, you should be able to:

- Understand and analyze key issues of global Christianity in 20th and 21st centuries
- Critically read historical sources.

ESSAY #3 DUE

April 24: Religious Pluralism

Week 15: (April 27-May 1)

April 27: Reverse Mission

April 29: Globalization and Christianity

May 1: [Contemporary Issues Discussion](#) (Scholarly Article)

Exam (Date/Time/Location TBA): Contemporary Issues Projects due

- Synthesize information and arguments from both types of sources
- Engage in independent historical analysis.
- Write analytical essays in fluid English prose with thesis statements, clear organization, and appeals to concrete evidence.
- Research a contemporary topic using a variety of international sources and write a report analyzing the issue in the context of longer historical developments.

Grading Scale

94-100 = A

90-93 = A-

87-89 = B+

83-86 = B

80-82 = B-

77-79 = C+

73-76 = C

70-73 = C-

67-69 = D+

63-66 = D

60-62 = D-

0-59 = F