Course: The Christian and Modern Thought  
Instructor: Giacomo Cassese  
Quarter: Summer, 2005

Description of the Course

A study of the intellectual issues confronting Christian faith, including the relationship of Christian doctrine to secular philosophies and contemporary issues of theology and apologetics.

Method

Seminar’s methodology will be in place. In addition, the instructor will make presentations in class to introduce and facilitate the critical examination of these topics. Participants will further study the material through group discussions and the directions of the instructor. One long written paper, class presentation and text book reading will be required so that participants may demonstrate their understanding and constructive appropriation of the material examined.

Course Objective

By the time the student finish this course he or she is expected to be able to:

A) Explain the main aspects, sources, and background of modern thought.  
B) Identify the central characteristics of the theology of this period.  
C) Develop the connection between the theological tradition and modern philosophy

Requirements

(1) Regular attendance and participation (please let me know when you are going to be absent).  
(2) A written reading-review of all the required reading (2 pages each).  
(3) One class presentation.  
(4) A 12-15 page paper (written in accordance to Turabian form guide).
(5) Personal spiritual journey.

**Recommended Books**


**Course Grading Criteria**

A. Attendance and participation .................................................. 20%
B. Written reading reviews ....................................................... 20%
C. Class participation ............................................................... 20%
D. Research paper ................................................................. 40%

100%

**Chronological Calendar**

Session I: Introduction
Session II: Currents in Modern Thought I
Session III: Currents in Modern Though II
Session IV: Bases for Christian Apologetic today
Session V: Modern Thought and religion today
Session VI: Dogma and Philosophy in the Church
Session VII: Theology for our time I
Session VIII: Theology for our time II
Session IX: Crisis of reason in Modernity
Session X: Conclusion
An examination of the history, teaching and practices of traditional religions of Africa, the Caribbean, Native America and other non Western religions, including Hinduism, Jainism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Taoism, Judaism and Islam. This year we will emphasize the study of Islam.

II. PLAN OF THE COURSE

The course will deal with the following areas: an introduction to World Religions and the History of Religions; African, Caribbean and Native American religions, Hinduism, Jainism, Confucianism, Buddhism, Taoism, Judaism and Islam.
III. INSTRUCTIONAL OBJECTIVES

1. To introduce the student to the study of world religions.
2. To prepare the student for a pluralistic approach to the study of religion.
3. To provide the student with basic information about historical studies on the subject.
4. To engage in a dialogue with scholars from different religious backgrounds.
5. To understand the origin, development and basic principles of the major religions.
6. To relate the information to theological and historical studies.

IV. TEXTBOOK


V. BIBLIOGRAPHY


Leon Rosten, Religions in America, Simon & Schuster, New York 75.

(3)


Resources in Spanish

Josep Manayer, *Cuando el Islam llama a la puerta: para una aproximación cultural a los musulmanes en Occidente*, Editorial
CLIE, Tarrassa, 1999.
Yacob Newman & Gabriel Siván, Judaismo, Departamento de Religión y Cultura, Israel 1983.
Marcos Antonio Ramos, Historia de las Religiones, Madrid, Playor, 1987

Nuevo Diccionario de Religiones.

VI. REQUIREMENTS

Read and write no more of 5 pages of reaction to the textbook and to a book chosen from the bibliography. Prepare a 10 page research paper according to the standards of the school. The subject will be submitted to the instructor for his approval. There will be a ten minute presentation to the class. Faithful participation in class and the use of library resources are also required.
VII. GRADING CRITERIA

Attendance and participation 20%
Research paper 40%
Textbook reaction 20%
Book review 20%

VIII. ATTENDANCE

Class meets as specified with one 10 minute break. Students are expected to be in attendance for the duration of the class. If you are going to be absent, you must notify the instructor in advance—in class the week or weeks before your absence or by phone. Since class participation is dependent on attendance, your grade might be adversely affected by your non-attendance.

IX. FORMAT OF THE COURSE

Lectures will be presented by the instructor and several scholars on different religious traditions. Several lectures will be presented on the subject of the doctrines and history of Islam.

X. LECTURES AND READING

Unit 1. Introduction to course
Review of course requirements
Key concepts and personalities
Unit 2. Review of the literature
   Approaches to the study of World Religions
   A look at antiquity
   Required reading: 3-67

Unit 3. Hinduism and Jainism
   Textbook: 230-289

Unit 4. Taoism
   Textbook: 71-100

Unit 5. Buddhism
   Textbook: 101-137

Unit 6. Buddhism
   Textbook: 141-225

Unit 7. Confucianism
   Textbook: 293-355

Unit 8. Judaism
   Textbook: 427-483

Unit 9. Islam
   Textbook: 484-532

Unit 10. African and Caribbean religions, Native religions.

Unit 11. Presentation of papers and evaluation of the course.
ES310

THE SOCIOLOGY OF RELIGION

This graduate-level course examines the interplay between the social sciences and religion in a post-critical and context-specific way. Reviewing and yet moving beyond the academy’s ‘canonical’ Weber, Durkheim and Marxian models, this offering gives equal consideration to pre-modern and non-western approaches to the area, such as those found on the Orthodox, Pentecostal and Latino/a ‘margins’ of Christian religions. Similarly, it gives equal emphasis to the theological dimensions of society and the social dimensions of theology. Special attention is given to issues of identity, nationalism, ‘civilization clash’ and ‘ecclesiogenesis’ in the Holy Lands and in Latin America.

Required Texts:

Lewis, The Multiple Identities of the Middle East
Piscator& Rudolph, Transnational Religion and Fading Nation States

Secondary Texts (in student’s primary language)
Boff, Trinidad e Sociedad
    Eclesiogenese: As Communidades de Base Fazem a Igreja
Course of Study:

- Weeks 1-3: Introduction to methodology, area of study, conventional and alternative approaches, selection of meetings and project topic.
- Weeks 4-7: Multidimensional reading and discussion of primary and secondary texts, including critical review of required response papers.
- Weeks 8-10: Collaborative exploration, production and seminar presentation of project/paper.

Requirements:

In addition to the completion of all readings and to mandatory attendance of all meetings, students will be required to prepare three 2-3 page, publication-level response papers/critical reviews of required texts, and one 20-page, publication-level final project/paper to be approved by instructor.

Grading:

- 30%: participatory attendance reflecting engagement with texts/ideas
- 30%: response papers, their discussion and shaping of project direction
- 40%: project/paper production and presentation

Style, Language & Academic Integrity:

Papers are expected to follow the University of Chicago Manual/Turabian standard. Idiom of final text negotiable, but must be approved by instructor. All references and quotations must be cited – any presentation of another’s work as one’s own violates the academic integrity of this seminary context and will have serious consequences. Regardless of (written) course requirement idiom, inclusive language (for human subjects) is expected (A.P.A. style).
A primary human science, sociology seeks to define, identify and measure the causes of social action. As a sub-discipline, the sociology of religion focuses on exploring the causes, implications and effects of specifically religious social action. In this course, we will begin with a graduate-level grounding in the broader discipline of sociology, paying special attention to theorists’ insights into the social nature and function of religious thought, expression and spirituality. Proceeding from the general to the specific, we will then sociologically examine the religio-cultural world of the Middle East, the cradle of all Abrahamic traditions. Finally, students will engage in a context-specific research project, producing a publication quality study, bringing sociological insight to a religious/cultural ministry context or issue of their choice.

**Primary Texts**


**Secondary Texts**


Tanner, Kathryn, *Theories of Culture: A New Agenda for Theology* (Minneapolis: Fortress, 1997).
Course of Study (Dates tentative/structural – T.B.A.)

12 and 19 March: Introduction to course, objectives. Overview of sociology as a human science, with special attention to linkages to and distinctions from the natural sciences; epistemology and post-critical method; (theological) anthropology; etiology. Biblical, early Christian and other pre-modern, non-Western understandings of society and social action. Paradigmatic shifts. Limits of Western modernity and the human sciences. Huntington’s religion-civilization framework; inter-societal ‘clash’; ‘torn’ identity groups.

26 March: Collins, Rise of the Social Sciences; Conflict Traditions: Marx and Weber.

2 April: Collins, Rational/Utilitarian Tradition; Durkheimian Traditions.

9 April: Collins, Microinteractionist Tradition.

16 and 23 April: Lewis, the Sociology of Religion in Middle East Context.

30 April and May Meetings: Contextual, Cultural and Theological Sociology of Religion. Research, collaboration, writing of final project/paper, presentation of project.

Requirements & Grading

1) Class attendance and active participation. (15% of total grade)
2) One five-page, book review style, critical response paper to each of the (two) required texts. (15% of total grade)
3) One twenty-page, publication-quality paper, presenting hypotheses, research and conclusions around context-specific sociological study. This paper will include a 250-word abstract, a bibliography of no less than thirty sources, and must follow the standard Turabian/Manual of Style format (guidelines available in library). Due at final/presentation meeting. (70% of total grade)

Academic Integrity

While conscious of the socio-cultural dimensions of citation, the clear policy of the Florida Center of Theological Studies is that all quotations and/or references be fully and appropriately attributed and cited. The presentation of any other writer’s work as one’s own is unacceptable in any circumstance and will have significant consequences, including the rewriting of any paper without proper attribution and citation.
Course Description:

An examination of the current trends in worship music as they stem from the traditional and weave through the contemporary models to the creative mixture of old and new: Blended Worship.

The course will explore methods of selecting hymns to complement other elements of liturgy especially surrounding the use of the common lectionary. Included will be a workshop on the mechanics of writing hymns from original texts or adapted texts from the lectionary (an increasingly popular trend among clergy).

Liturgical movement, dramatic readings, sung scriptures, the use of instruments as worship enhancements will be examined.

The course seeks to enable practical application of musical resources to be collaborative with the entire worship experience.

TEXTBOOKS

Planning Blended Worship Robert Webber
Treasures Old And New: Images in the Lectionary Gail Ramshaw

Readings from sources as provided
SCHEDULE

Session 1-2
3/9 and 3/16
Some Modern Trends in Church Music
The Care And Feeding Of Church Musicians
Techniques For Introducing New Musical Concepts To Your Congregation
The Congregation As Choir
Preview To The Use Of Liturgical Movement and Theater
Arts in Worship
Preview to the Technology of Music

Session 3
3/23
THE POWER OF MUSIC: A look into the many ways music impacts our lives- psychologically, ecstatically, socially- and a discussion of intentionality in the selection of music to inspire our worship experience.

SINGING THE SCRIPTURES: A look at various forms of singing Psalm texts utilizing a cantor with congregational response.
A Sung Reading : The Genesis text for The Great Vigil
A Sung Reading: The Exodus text for The Great Vigil
Sung Scriptures utilizing handbells as accompaniment

A Journey into the Wonders of The Hymnbook; Exploring the indeces of the hymnal to understand how to read metrical text notations and how to interchange texts and hymntunes.
Session 4  
3/30  
Consulting Ramshaw and other lectionary resources, select (or create) two hymns compatible with the lectionary readings for the next two Sundays.  
Read Webber (Introduction and Chapter 1). Do the worship profiles on pp 31ff.  
 Some visual presentations of worship services using choral readings, sung scriptures and theater arts for your analysis and discussion.  
A look at specific music for Palm/Passion Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, The Great Vigil and Easter.  
There will be no class April 6 through April 20.

Session 5  
4/27  
This session will be devoted to a workshop on hymnwriting. Contemplate texts you may want to set to music in the form of a hymn. An original text on a specific topic of interest or a paraphrase of upcoming lectionary texts for which you find no suitable existing hymn might be enticing material. We will take you through the mechanics necessary to convert your prose to poetry form and finding compatible hymntunes with matching meter. You may want to create an original melody.

Session 6  
5/4  
Some techniques for using liturgical movement (dance) as a worship element.  
Utilizing your congregational talent to dramatize a choral reading or present a cantata that is acted out as well as sung.  
A hands on experience with rhythm instruments and other special instruments to enhance portions of liturgy.
Session 7
5/11
Read Webber Chapters 2-3. Assess specific music that can be utilized for the categories discussed.
Create a liturgical movement experience based on a text you will use in an upcoming worship service. These will be demonstrated in class.

Session 8
5/18
A Tour of the Organ: Let’s get acquainted with the king of instruments and be able to communicate organ talk with organists and choir directors.
A session with handbells: learning basic ringing skills and exploring ways to use handbells with various types of liturgy.

Session 9
5/25
Prepare a worship service utilizing as many of the elements of music explored thus far in the course as are appropriate to the style of service you choose. Give particular attention to the concept of Blended Worship. We will participate in the service you have created and evaluate.

Session 10
6/4
Let’s discuss ways to create a worship team to plan services in advance.
Prepare a statement of your understanding of Blended worship and how music can impact us in the worship experience.
Let’s talk about topics that will allow you be articulate about music in the worship experience and how to present new ideas and concepts to your congregation.
Course Description

"An introduction to the Koine dialect which was commonly used in the Greek-speaking world from the time of Alexander the Great through the fifth century. Koine Greek is the language of the New Testament. This beginner's course will present the forms of the Greek language, including the fundamentals of Greek grammar, sentence structure and syntax, to help the student to familiarize himself or herself with tools for exegesis."

This course is conducted primarily on the internet plus 6 face to face classes and it is expected that the successful student will have completed no less than 66 hours on the internet segment of the class. The face to face classes will be for review and the student will have to prepare on the Internet before the classes.

Course Outcome

At the end of the course the successful student will be able to translate and render into comprehensible English selected passages from the Greek with the assistance of a dictionary and other resources.

Course Textbook

*Basics of Biblical Greek*  William Mounce  ISBN # 0 310 250 87 0


*Greek New Testament*  ISBN # 343 805 1133

These books are readily available from amazon.com

Required Software

Teknia.com  Please download the free font and the keyboard layout from Bill Mounce’s website. You will need this to email your translations.

At teknia.com you will find many resources for studying Greek including the author’s lectures and many other valuable aids.

Recommended website

[www.visualgreek.com](http://www.visualgreek.com)  This site is a valuable tool for the Mounce textbook. It is a visual aid (cartoons) for all of the vocabulary listed in Mounce.
Course Grade
The grade for this class will be based on the student's ability to translate Greek passages from the Greek into correct English based on the 35 chapters of the textbook.

Grading will be based on the following criteria.
- Correct identification of the verb: tense, voice, mood, person, number
- Correct identification of the subject: singular or plural
- Correct identification of the direct object: singular or plural
- Correct identification of adverbs, adjectives, prepositions, pronouns
- Correct identification of participles
- Correct translation from Greek into English

Translation homework

The professor will email Greek passages for translation and grading. It is expected that each student will translate from the Greek to English and email them to the professor for comment and help. It is essential that this component of the course receive daily attention from the student, as each chapter is a progressive build on the previous. The professor is available throughout the day either on email, cell-phone, or AOL buddy. Failure to attend to this segment of the course will most likely result in an unsatisfactory grade.

Schedule of Classes

June 17
Introduction to Nouns
The most important memorization tool for the noun system is found on page 48. Please commit this paradigm to absolute memory: that is, know it forward and backward. The definite articles found on page 48 are simply translated as "the" and there are only 24 of them for the entire noun system.

Introduction to verbs
The most important memorization paradigm is the chart found on page 186.

June 24
Chapters 6 through 9
Chapters 15 through 25

July 8
Chapters 10 through 14
Review of the verb system and introduction to participles: Chapters 26 through 30

July 15
Participles  Chapters 26 through 30

July 22
Nonindicative Moods
Chapters 31 through 35

July 29
Last class

s.
I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

A study of the English Reformation and the history of English church theology from 1529 to 1662. We will discuss personalities, theologies, documents, reactions, internal and external influences, the creation of an Anglican theology, British contributions to theology. The Anglican style of Reformation will be discussed in detail and the struggle between Presbyterians, Independency and Episcopacy will receive special attention. We will relate the English reformation to the reformations in Scotland and Ireland.

II. TEXTBOOK

III. BIBLIOGRAPHY


IV. OBJECTIVES

a. To familiarize the student with one of the most important events in the history of the Christian Church and Western Civilization.

b. To provide him or her with information about the basic history of the subject and its impact inside and outside Britain.

c. To contrast styles of reformation

d. To help the student concentrate in an aspect of the Reformation that influenced not only American Church History but also American History as a whole.

e. To help the student understand denominations and theological trends in contemporary Anglicanism.
f. To evaluate the possible influences of Anglicanism in other important denominations and religious movements.

g. To relate the subject to contemporary developments in the American Episcopal Church and the Anglican communion.

V. REQUIREMENTS

Your final grade for this course will be determined by several factors. You will prepare a five page typed book review of the textbook. The student will also prepare a term paper using an extensive bibliography, including books mentioned in the syllabus. Those books are all of them available in our library. Details regarding the nature of this paper will be explained by the professor. Attendance is mandatory and participation in class will be an important factor for the final evaluation.

VI. GRADE

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Book review</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term paper paper</td>
<td>40%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class attendance</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class participation and reading</td>
<td>20%</td>
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VII. SCHEDULE
Unit 1. Introduction to the course
   Explanation of requirements
   Pre Reformation Britain
   Wycliff and the Lollards
   Background of the English Reformation
   Reading: Textbook, chapters 1 & 2

Unit 2. Henry VIII
   The separation from Roman jurisdiction
   Thomas Cranmer
   Thomas More
   Thomas Cromwell
   Reading: chapters 3 & 4

Unit 3. The Edwardian Reformation
   Mary Tudor and the return of Roman jurisdiction
   Elizabeth Tudor and the Via Media
   Theologians of the period
   Reading: chapters 5, 6 & 7

Unit 4. The Puritan reaction
   Presbyterians, "Independents" and "Separatists"
   The Jacobean period
   The Struggle between Episcopacy, Presbyterianism and "Independency"
   Reading: chapters 8 & 9
Unit 5.

Oliver Cromwell

The English Revolution

Anglicanism, Puritanism and the American colonies

English theology

Discussion of reading and research
ES 428 ETHICS AND HUMAN SEXUALITY (3 credits)

AIM: This seminar on the study of human sexuality and spirituality will deal with the relationship between traditional and queer theological concepts and ethical values necessary for ministry in MCC churches. The aim of the seminar is to help participants understand their own sexuality and that of their congregants in the light of issues and values of gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transsexuals (transgender) persons, looking also at the traditional opposition of many Christian churches to “Others”.

BOOK REQUIREMENTS:
Please consult the Bibliography (Appendix B) at the end of this syllabus.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS
1. Read all assigned material (Appendix A)
2. Classes will be held at Dr. Rhoades residence
3. Reports on two books (both written and oral) assigned on the first session
4. A research paper of no less than fifteen pages (not including a substantial bibliography is required. Topic to be discussed in class. The paper will be formatted according to Turabian, will be double spaced and include footnotes from books, journals and internet.
5. Each session will be a four hour session (from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.)
6. Students are reminded that plagiarism is not acceptable. All materials borrowed from sources or the internet must be footnoted and with quotations marks.

COURSE OUTLINE
June 7, 2005  Definition of sexuality and spirituality
June 9  Ethics of sexuality
June 14  Relation of sexuality and spirituality
June 15  Gender relations- Women’s experience
June 28  Gender relations- Men’s experience
June 30  Theology and the bible
July 5  Sexuality and Ecclesiology
July 7  Presentation of research paper

APPENDIX A – ASSIGNMENTS
Session 1  Introduction to the seminar
Book reports (written/oral assigned. With dates)
Discussion of research paper
A look at Nelson /Longfellow’s book Part I
Nancy Wilson, OUR TRIBE, introduction, Tribal tales, ch. 1
Healing our tribal wounds.
Assignment for session 2: Read Heyward, TOUCHING OUR STRENGTH (ch. 7, p. 119ff.)
Kelly Brown Douglas, SEXUALITY AND THE BLACK CHURCH, Part 3, ch. 5

Session 2: Ethics of sexuality, Discussion
Assignments for session 3:
Elizabeth Stuart: RELIGION IS A QUEER THING, ch. 9 through 12
Marcella Althaus Reed, THE QUEER GOD, chs. 1, 2, 3

Session 3: Relation of Sexuality and Spirituality, discussion
Assignment for Session 4:
Althaus-Reed: INDECENT THEOLOGY, (read through the book)
Kwok Pui-lan: POSTCOLONIAL IMAGINATION AND FEMINIST THEOLOGY, ch. 4 (Gender, Sexuality and the Politics of Otherness)

Session 4: Gender relation- women’s experiences- discussion
Assignment for session 5:
Goss: QUEER CHRIST. The book
Find on the Internet materials on bisexuality and transsexual topics.

Session 5 Gender Relation- Men’s experiences- Discussion
Assignments for session 5
Stuart: RELIGION IS A QUEER THING, ch. 5, 12, 13, 16
Prophets, Patriarchs and Pains in the neck, p. 37
Heyward: TOUCHING OUR STRENGTH, ch. 5
Wilson OUR TRIBE, p. 94 ff
Maurine C. Waun, MORE THAN WELCOME, the book

Session 6 Sexuality and Ecclesiology, Discussion
Your research paper should be finished for next session’s presentation

Session 7 Catching up and presentation of research.
APPENDIX B- BIBLIOGRAPHY

Please note that this bibliography is not listed in alphabetical order


Marcella Althaus-Reed, INDECENT THEOLOGY, Theological Pereversions in Sex, gender and Politics, Routledge, 2000

________________________, THE QUEER GOD, Routledge, 2003


Robert F. Goss, QUEERING CHRIST, Beyond Jesus Acting up, Pilgrim Press, 2002


Maurine C. Waun, MORE THAN WELCOME, Learning to Embrace Gay, Lesbian, bisexual and Transgendered persons in the Church, Chalice Press, 1999


Nancy Wilson, QUEER FOLKS, GOD, JESUS AND THE BIBLE, Alamo Squere Press, 2000

________________________, OUR TRIBE


Bernadette J. Brooten, LOVE BETWEEN WOMEN. Early Christian Responses to Female Homoeroticism, University of Chicago Press, 1996

(Also Check Footnotes in Kwok Pui-land, ch. 5 in the book just listed.)

Gary David Comstock, GAY THEOLOGY WITHOUT APOLOGE, Pilgrim Press, 1993

