



CANADIAN BAPTIST SEMINARY
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TRINITY WESTERN SEMINARY



**ASSOCIATED CANADIAN THEOLOGICAL SCHOOLS
OF TRINITY WESTERN UNIVERSITY**

Graduate Course Syllabus

Course Number: CCM 643

Course Name: World Faiths & Ways of Religion

Semester and Year: Fall 2020

Instructor: Dr. Bernard Mukwavi Dmin.

Adjunct Professor of Cross-Cultural Ministries

Contact Information: bernard.mukwavi@twu.ca

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Office Hours: I will be available for virtual appointments with students. Please contact me via email or phone to set up virtual meetings.

Semester Hours: 3 credit hours

Fall

Course Dates: 9/9 – 12/8, 2020

3 credit hours

Class days: Thursday 11:30am – 2:10pm

PLEASE NOTE: THIS COURSE IS OFFERED ONLINE AS LIVESTREAM

For our livestream we will use Zoom. Assignments will be posted on Moodle. It is important that you watch the pre-recorded lecture before class each week, so you are prepared for discussion. Class sessions will be interactive than lecture style.

I. Course Description

Historical origins, beliefs, and practices of major world religions are examined, with the purpose of analyzing the impact of the worldview generated by each faith group in order to gain insights into potential points of contact for mission and ministry in cross-cultural encounters or in pluralistic societies.

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II. Course objectives and Learning Outcomes: At the end of this course you will be able to:

1. Gain an understanding of the origin and development of religions and be able to develop a working definition of “Religion” and Worldview.”
2. Develop an appreciation of the complexity of non-Christian religious worldviews as they relate to socio-cultural backgrounds and Christianity.
3. Understand challenges faced in communicating the Gospel within a religious pluralistic society and develop a relevant communication method without losing Christianity’s fundamental dynamic.
4. Develop a Christian apologetic in relation to other religions in the context of Christianity’s doctrine of soteriology.

III. Course Textbooks

Corduan Winfried, Neighboring Faiths: A Christian Introduction to World Religions. Downers Grove, Illinois: InterVarsity Press, 2012.

Tennent Timothy, Christianity At The Religious Roundtable: Evangelicalism in Conversation with Hinduism, Buddhism, and Islam. Ada, Michigan: Baker Academic, 2010

IV. Other reading materials

- Articles and websites will be given in class.

V. Recommended Resources

Carson, D.A. The Gagging of God: Christianity confronts pluralism. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan Publishing House, 1996.

Netland Harold, Encountering Religious Pluralism: The Challenge to Christian Faith and Mission. Downers Grove, Illinois: InterVarsity Press, 2001.

Prothero Stephen, God Is Not One: The Eight Rival Religions That Run the World--and Why Their Differences Matter. San Francisco, CA: Harper Collins Publisher, 2011

Calvin E. Shenk, Who Do You Say That I Am?: Christians encounter other Religions. Waterloo, Ontario: Herald Press, 1997.

David W. Shenk, Global Gods: Exploring the Role of Religions in Modern Societies. Waterloo, Ontario: Herald Press, 1995.

VI. Course Assignments

Take note that assignments should be submitted online via Moodle classroom. Make sure to submit your assignments by midnight of the due date (Pacific Time.) Late assignment submission will be subject to a .5% of the assignment's total value each day you are late to submit. Marked assignments will be posted on Moodle.

1. Reading and response to Corduan Winfried, Neighboring Faiths: A Christian Introduction to World Religions. Due on or before November 26, 2020. Write a reflective paper after each chapter discussing the particular religion presented in the chapter. The reflection should focus on the philosophy surrounding the origin of the religion, the understanding of reality, the identified problem in the world and how the religion addresses it. Evaluate the weaknesses and strengths of the religion. Each reflection should be at least 3 typed pages in length. 30%
2. In class presentations 20%. Choose one of the following points and prepare a presentation to give in class 5-2 typed pages. The schedule for the presentations will be announced in class. Depending on the size of the class. In class presentations will be done as a group project or as an individual project. There will be time for questions and answers after each presentation. Other questions for the presentation might be generated from lectures and discussions. However, choose your presentation from the list below.
 - a. Define Religion, Worldview and how they impact societies. With reference to other sources, discuss the place of religion in modern societies and give your own perspective on this. Show your compelling reasons for your conclusions on this matter. Further, show the complexity of religious worldviews as they relate to social cultural backgrounds.
 - b. On communicating the Gospel across diverse religious cultural groups, identify challenges faced and discuss relevant communication methods that can be used without losing Christianity's fundamental dynamic.
 - c. Define religious pluralism and discuss the uniqueness of Christianity among other religious faiths, focusing on Christianity's claims as compared to other religions as well as the supremacy of the Holy Bible over other claimed sacred books.
 - d. Define religious fundamentalism and discuss its causes. When is fundamentalism justified? What examples would you give in this regard? Feel free to address issues of terrorism as perpetrated by religious fundamentalists, as well, address whether it's even possible for people of various faiths to live as good neighbours.

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3. Do a critical book review on Christianity At The Religious Roundtable: Evangelicalism in Conversation with Hinduism, Buddhism, and Islam by Tennent Timothy. Approximately 5 typed pages in length. See guidelines at the bottom of this syllabus. Due November 5, 2020: 10%

Introduce the book as it would be introduced in a proper bibliography. Include details about the author's credentials, expertise, and how the author links the title and subject matter, etc.

Briefly identify the purpose of the book, theme and its intended readers. State your thesis about the book as you begin to review it then go ahead and prove your thesis from your findings from reading the book. Discuss the persuasiveness of the author and whether the stated argument of the author has been achieved and how and if not state why not. How would you describe the author's style? Have you identified any strengths or weaknesses in the book? State how helpful this book is to your personal and ministry growth.

4. Research Essay: Do a research on a religion of your interest other than Christianity but develop a Christian apologetics response to it for the purpose of sharing the Gospel with people of this religion. Identify what the particular religion sees as the problem of humanity and the universe and how this religion has changed as a result of external influences. Discuss similarity, commonality, barriers and confrontation between this religion and Christianity. End your paper with a formulated plan to help individuals of this religion encounter Christ as the solution to their spiritual need. In addition to consulting written material, feel free to include interviews with theologians and followers of the religion you will be researching. The paper should be no shorter or longer than 15-20 typed pages. Due December 3, 2020: 35%
5. Class Participation: Consistent attendance, thoughtful responses and contributions to class discussions through comments, questions, research and readings. 5%

VII. Summary of Course Requirements:

1. Reading and response: 30%
 2. In class presentations: 20%
 3. Book report: 10%
 4. Research Essay: 35%
 5. Class Attendance and Participation: 5%
- =100%

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VIII. Grading Scale

Letter Grade	Percentage	Description	Grade Point
A+	97-100	Superior	4.30
A	93-96	Excellent	4.00
A-	90-92	Very Good	3.70
B+	87-89	Proficient	3.30
B	83-86	Good	3.00
B-	80-82	Average	2.70
C+	77-79	Adequate	2.30
C	73-76	Acceptable	2.00
C-	70-72	Needs Work	1.70
F	Below 70	Below Standard	0.00

Course Policies

B. ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND AVOIDING PLAGIARISM AT TWU

One of the core values of Trinity Western University is the integration of academic excellence with high standards of personal, moral, and spiritual integrity. The University considers it a serious offence when an individual attempts to gain unearned academic credit. It is the student's responsibility to be informed about what constitutes academic misconduct. For details on this, and on identifying and avoiding plagiarism go to the [University Homepage > Academics > Academic Calendar](#) (p. 47).

<https://prezi.com/od62fxnkbmxh/plagiarism-how-to-get-it-out-of-your-life/> (Prezi presentation)

<http://bit.ly/1p00KX3> (Google Slide presentation offering more comprehensive information)

C. STUDENTS WITH A DISABILITY

Students with a disability who need assistance are encouraged to contact the Equity of Access Office upon admission to TWU to discuss their specific needs. All disabilities must be recently documented by an appropriately certified professional and include the educational impact of the disability along with recommended accommodations. Within the first two weeks of the semester, students must meet with their professors to agree on accommodations appropriate to each class. Students should follow the steps detailed by the Equity of Access Office on their website at: <http://www.twu.ca/student-life/student-success/disabilities-and-equity-access>.

HOSPITALITY IN THE CLASSROOM

TWU is committed to an ethic of inclusion centred on the principles of Christian hospitality, reciprocity and reconciliation. We seek to cultivate generous learning spaces that are based on respect for differences and are open to diverse views, opinions, and identities that are thoughtfully expressed in a collegial manner. We welcome and value all voices, including those from under-represented groups or those who have been marginalized.

The following policies are optional but recommended, to allow you to efficiently respond to student challenges to the syllabus. Click on these fields and press delete if you do not wish to use them:

D. CAMPUS CLOSURE AND CLASS CANCELLATION POLICY

In the event of extreme weather conditions or other emergency situations go to the <https://www.twu.ca/campus-notification>.

E. COURSE GRADE APPEALS

Students can appeal their grade to the course instructor by stating in writing their reasons for contesting the grade. Deadline for such appeals is one week after the student has receipt of grade. Formal course grade appeals can be made with the ACTS Office.

F. PAPER FORMATTING

*The preferred manner for citations is the Turabian Notes (Bibliography) format. For information and accuracy you may wish to reference the following style guide: Kate L. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses and Dissertations*, 9th ed. Students may find the following website helpful: http://www.press.uchicago.edu/books/turabian/turabian_citationguide.html*