

CARLETON UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF THE HUMANITIES
RELI 2230A “Global Christianity”
Fall Term 2018

Instructor: Prof. Johannes Wolfart
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OFFICE HOURS

Office hours will be held on Mondays and Tuesdays from 1:00-2:00pm.

E-MAIL COMMUNICATION

Carleton communications policy states that faculty must communicate with students through their Carleton email account. To ensure that this policy is upheld without too much trouble, you should send email to me via CULearn. Please be advised, further, that students can normally expect up to a 24hour turn-around time on e-mail communication, especially during high volume times (i.e. before examinations, at essay time, etc.).

COURSE PURPOSE and LEARNING OBJECTIVES

This course describes aspects of Christian societies and cultures in the period from (roughly) 1950 to the present. The overall purpose of this course is to inform and challenge, in equal measure, students with little or no prior exposure to the academic study of Christianity. Students should expect to know more about recent historical/contemporary Christianity at the end of the course than they did at the beginning. They can also expect to have acquired some conceptual tools for marshaling their knowledge. Finally, by the end of the course, students should be prepared to join ongoing critical conversations about the global character of Christianity.

Particular learning objectives include: **knowledge** of recent trends in the distribution and diversity of Christians and their communities around the globe; **ability** in both qualitative and quantitative representations and analyses of global Christians and their communities; **engagement** with problems of scale in the academic study of religion; **appreciation** of the significant differences between the “world religions” paradigm and the “global religions” paradigm.

Please note, finally, that while some of the worldviews studied in this course are explicitly theological, the academic procedures and critical methods employed in the academic study of religion are not. **This course presupposes your acceptance of the principles and disciplinary norms of the modern research university.** Your understanding of these, especially as they pertain to the study of religion, will undoubtedly develop further during this course.

READINGS

The assigned textbook for this course is Douglas Jacobsen, *The World's Christians: Who they are, Where they are, and How they got there* (Wiley-Blackwell, 2011). Octopus Books on Third Avenue at Bank (www.octopusbooks.ca) will stock copies of this book. For some topics the textbook selections will be supplemented with other materials, as indicated in the class schedule (below). Please note that assigned readings are a prerequisite rather than a substitute for class attendance. Your ability to follow lectures and to participate effectively in question and discussion periods will depend on you keeping up with the reading.

LECTURES

This is a lecture course, which means that my oral presentation is the primary mode of communication. Nevertheless, I shall also devote a certain amount of time in each class to both formal and informal discussions, moderated conversation, etc. Assigned readings and other preparatory materials are a prerequisite for participation in such activities, but (as above) they are not a substitute for lecture material. Thus I consider regular class attendance essential in this course. I will not post my own class notes. If you miss a class, it is up to you to find a classmate who will help you with notes. I absolutely cannot repeat class materials in an email, over the phone, etc. Finally, in my experience (which is considerable) students who attend class enjoy significantly greater success than those who don't. (Of course, I am aware that there is such a thing as the *post hoc ergo propter hoc* fallacy...)

Late arrivals are very distracting to both your fellow students and to me, so please be punctual. Finally, please be advised that I do not permit any recording during class time. PLEASE turn off all electronic communication devices and/or communication applications during class.

EVALUATION:

Progress in the course will be evaluated cumulatively, with an in-class test at the end of each of the four units (27 September, 18 October, 15 November, 6 December). Your best three test marks will be used for calculating 45% your final grade. Because your lowest test result will be dropped from the grade calculation, there will be no re-tests for missed in-class tests. There will be a final exam worth 55% of your final grade. The final exam will cover the whole of the course.

Certainly it is my aim as a teacher to get to know you as individuals, to recognize your individual strengths and weaknesses, and to foster individual intellectual development. At the same time, however, I am obliged also to treat individuals equally in certain key respects. As a marker, therefore, I cannot take into consideration anything other than your actual performance on the tests and the exam.

CLASS SCHEDULE

Introductory class (6 September)

Read: course syllabus

Unit I – Some Important Basics

Week 1 (11 and 13 September)

Topic: Who or what is Christianity? The challenges of “ex-theological” definitions. Christian identity and Christian diversity in time and space. A multi-perspectival approach to the study of Christianity.

Watch: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0fKBhvDjuy0>

Listen: <http://www.bu.edu/cgcm/files/2011/02/audio-file.mp3>

Week 2 (18 and 20 September)

Topic: A survey of Global diversities and distributions of Christians in consideration of some recent trends. Sect-church-world religion: what categories and distinctions might be more useful?

Read: Jacobsen 62-66; 370-374

Consider: <http://www.pewforum.org/2011/12/19/global-christianity-exec/>

Week 3 (25 and 27 September)

FIRST IN-CLASS TEST on 27 September!

Topic: Basic Christian practices and beliefs in global perspective.

Read: Jacobsen, 13-49.

Unit II – Some Significant Issues and Debates

Week 4 (2 and 4 October)

Topic: “De-centering” and “Re-centering” Christianity: when was Christianity “European”? Is it now “African”? Or “Asian”?

Read: Jacobsen, 155-202.

Week 5 (9 and 11 October)

Topic: Latin American Christianity: (how) is it (really) different?

Read: Jacobsen, 201-224.

Week 6 (16 and 18 October)

SECOND IN-CLASS TEST on 18 October!

Topic: Christian minorities in global diaspora: for example, Mennonites and Copts.

Read: Saad Michael Saad, “The Modern Period: An Era of Trials, Tribulations and Triumphs” in: Lois M. Farag, ed., *The Coptic Christian Heritage* (Routledge, 2014), 87-102; <http://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/mennonites/>

Consider: <https://www.mwc-cmm.org/article/global-mennonite-history-series?language=en>

FALL BREAK!

Unit III – Some Interesting and Surprising Developments

Week 7 (30 October and 1 November)

Topic: Pentecostalism: one movement or many?

Read: Jacobsen, 51-61; 227-243.

Watch: https://archive.org/details/HolyGhostPeople_201403

Week 8 (6 and 8 November)

Topic: Global Christian cultures and sub-cultures: the many roles of the media, from broadcast evangelism, to Christian pop, to the internet...

Reading: “The Global and the Local: The Ambivalence and Ambition of Christian Televangelism in India” in: P.N. Thomas and P. Lee, eds., *Global and Local Televangelism* (Palgrave: Macmillan, 2012), 108-125.

Consider: <http://dictionaryofchristianese.com>

Week 9 (13 and 15 November)

THIRD IN-CLASS TEST on 15 November!

Topic: What is a “Reverse Missionary” and why does it matter?

Reading: J. Kwabena Asamoah-Gyadu, “African Initiated Christianity in Eastern Europe: Church of ‘The Embassy of God’ in Ukraine,” *International Bulletin of Missionary Research* 30.2 (2006), 73-75.

Watch: <http://www.pbs.org/wnet/religionandethics/2010/01/08/january-8-2010-reverse-missionaries/5359/>

Unit IV – Global Christianity, Activism and Criticism

Week 10 (20 and 22 November)

Topic: Diverse Christian institutions with global reach: for example, the World Council of Churches, the Worldwide Anglican Communion and the Mennonite Central Committee... How (are they) Christian (are they)?

Consider: <http://www.oikoumene.org/en/>; <http://www.anglicancommunion.org/>;
<http://mcccanada.ca/>

Week 11 (27 and 29 November)

Topic: Hometown Proud in the Church Universal: Is there such a thing as Christian “glocalism”? The remarkable instances of Filipino “Passion Catholicism” and other examples.

Read: Fenella Cannell, “Reading as Gift and Writing as Theft” in: idem., ed., *The Anthropology of Christianity* (Duke University Press, 2007), 134-162.

Week 12 (4/6 December)

FOURTH IN-CLASS TEST on 6 December!

Topic: The “Next Christendom” – what will it be? How can Philip Jenkins really know? Who would have predicted the last century?

Read: Philip Jenkins, “The Next Christianity,” *The Atlantic Monthly* (October 2002), n.p.
see at <https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2002/10/the-next-christianity/302591/>



University Regulations for All Humanities Courses

Copies of Written Work Submitted

Always retain for yourself a copy of all essays, term papers, written assignments or take-home tests submitted in your courses.

Academic Integrity at Carleton

Plagiarism is presenting, whether intentionally or not, the ideas, expression of ideas, or work of others as one's own. Plagiarism includes reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else's published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one's own without proper citation or reference to the original source. Examples of sources from which the ideas, expressions of ideas or works of others may be drawn from include but are not limited to: books, articles, papers, literary compositions and phrases, performance compositions, chemical compounds, art works, laboratory reports, research results, calculations and the results of calculations, diagrams, constructions, computer reports, computer code/software, and material on the internet. More information can be found [here](#).

Academic Accommodation Policy

Academic Accommodation

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows:

Pregnancy obligation: write to the instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details see the [Student Guide](#)

Religious obligation: write to the instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details see the [Student Guide](#)

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at

613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the [PMC website](#) for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (if applicable).

Grading System at Carleton University

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor, subject to the approval of the faculty Dean. Standing in courses will be shown by alphabetical grades. The system of grades used, with corresponding grade points and the percentage conversion is below. Grade points indicated are for courses with 1.0 credit value. Where the course credit is greater or less than one credit, the grade points are adjusted proportionately.

[Grading System](#)

Course Sharing Websites and Copyright

Classroom teaching and learning activities, including lectures, discussions, presentations, etc., by both instructors and students, are copy protected and remain the intellectual property of their respective author(s). All course materials, including PowerPoint presentations, outlines, and other materials, are also protected by copyright and remain the intellectual property of their respective author(s).

Students registered in the course may take notes and make copies of course materials for their own educational use only. Students are not permitted to reproduce or distribute lecture notes and course materials publicly for commercial or non-commercial purposes without express written consent from the copyright holder(s).

Statement on Class Conduct

The Carleton University Human Rights Policies and Procedures affirm that all members of the University community share a responsibility to:

- promote equity and fairness,
- respect and value diversity,
- prevent discrimination and harassment, and preserve the freedom of its members to carry out responsibly their scholarly work without threat of interference.

Deferred Term Work

In some situations, students are unable to complete term work because of illness or other circumstances beyond their control, which forces them to delay submission of the work.

Students who claim illness, injury or other extraordinary circumstances beyond their control as a reason for missed term work are held responsible for immediately informing the instructor concerned and for making alternate arrangements with the instructor and **in all cases this must occur no later than three (3.0) working days after the term work was due.**

The alternate arrangement must be made before the last day of classes in the term as published in the academic schedule. Normally, any deferred term work will be completed by the last day of term. More information is available [in the calendar](#).

Deferred Final Exams

Students who are unable to write a final examination because of a serious illness/emergency or other circumstances beyond their control may apply for accommodation. Normally, the accommodation for a missed final examination will be granting the student the opportunity to write a deferred examination. In specific cases when it is not possible to offer a deferred examination, and with the approval of the Dean, an alternate accommodation may be made. [More information.](#)

The application for a [deferral](#) must:

1. be made in writing or online to the Registrar's Office no later than **three working days** after the original final examination or the due date of the take-home examination; and,
2. be fully supported by appropriate documentation and, in cases of illness, by a medical certificate dated no later than one working day after the examination, or by appropriate documents in other cases. Medical documents must specify the date of the onset of the illness, the (expected) date of recovery, and the extent to which the student was/is incapacitated during the time of the examination. The University's preferred medical form can be found at the Registrar's Office [forms and fees page](#).

Any questions related to deferring a Final Exam or Final Assignment/Take Home Examination should be directed to the [Registrar's Office](#).

Withdrawal From Courses

Withdrawn. No academic credit, no impact on the CGPA. WDN is a permanent notation that appears on the official transcript for students who withdraw after the full fee adjustment date in each term (noted in the Academic Year section of the Calendar each term). Students may withdraw on or before the last day of classes.

Important dates can be found [here](#):

Financial vs. Academic Withdrawal

Make sure that you are aware of the separate deadlines for Financial and Academic withdrawal!

Making registration decisions in Carleton Central involves making a financial and academic commitment for the courses you choose, regardless of attendance. If you do not attend – you must withdraw in Carleton Central within the published deadlines to cancel your registration. [More information](#)

Department Contact Information

College of the Humanities 300 Paterson Hall (613)520-2809

CollegeOfHumanities@cunet.carleton.ca

Drop box for CLCV, HUMS LATN GREK Term Papers and assignments is outside 300 P.A.

Greek and Roman Studies 300 Paterson Hall (613)520-2809

GreekAndRomanStudies@cunet.carleton.ca

Drop Box is outside of 300 P.A.

Religion 2A39 Paterson Hall (613)520-2100

Religion@cunet.carleton.ca

Drop box for RELI Term Papers and assignments is outside of 2A39 P.A.

Registrar's Office 300 Tory (613)520-3500

<https://carleton.ca/registrar/>

Student Resources on Campus

[CUKnowHow Website](#)

[Academics: From registration to graduation, the tools for your success.](#)