

CARLETON UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF THE HUMANITIES
RELI 2230A “Global Christianity” (Summer 2016)
[REVISED 25 May 2016]

Instructor: Prof. Johannes Wolfart
Office: 2A62 Paterson Hall
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OFFICE HOURS

Office hours will be held on Tuesdays from 12:00-14:00, or by appointment.

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 organizing their knowledge. Finally, by the end of the course, students should be prepared to join ongoing critical conversations about the global character of Christianity.

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 (normally about 45 minutes) in each class to both formal and informal discussions, moderated conversation, etc. Readings are a prerequisite for participation in such activities, but (as above) they are not a substitute for lecture material. Thus I consider regular attendance in class essential in this course. As a matter of policy 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 considerably 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 unit (10 May, 19 May, 31 May, 14 June). Each test will be worth 25% of your final grade in this 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.

CLASS SCHEDULE

Unit 1 – Some Important Basics

Class I (3 May)

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 (a.k.a. “the three Ms”)

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

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

Class II (5 May)

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?

Reading: Jacobsen 62-66; 370-374

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

Class III (10 May)
FIRST IN-CLASS TEST!

Topic: Basic Christian practices and beliefs in global perspective.
Reading: Jacobsen, 13-49.

Unit 2 – Some Significant Issues and Debates

Class IV (12 May)

Topic: “De-centering” and “Re-centering” Christianity: when was Christianity “European”? Is it now “African”? Or Asian?
Reading: Jacobsen, 155-202.

Class V (17 May)

Topic: Latin American Christianity: (how) is it (really) different?
Reading: Jacobsen, 201-224.

Class VI (19 May)

SECOND IN-CLASS TEST!

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

Unit 3 – Some Surprising Developments

Class VII (24 May)

Topic: Pentecostalism: one movement or many?
Reading: 51-61; 227-243.
Watch: https://archive.org/details/HolyGhostPeople_201403

Class VIII (26 May)

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>

Class IX (31 May)
THIRD IN-CLASS TEST!

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

Reading: TBA

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

Unit 4 – Christianity and Criticism

Class X (2 June)

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/>

Class XI (7 June)

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

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

Class XII (9 June)

FOURTH IN-CLASS TEST!

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

Reading: TBA

REGULATIONS COMMON TO 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.

PLAGIARISM

The University Senate defines plagiarism as “*presenting, whether intentional or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.*” This can include:

- 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;
- submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another’s data or research findings;
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another’s works and/or failing to use quotation marks;
- handing in “*substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs.*”

Plagiarism is a serious offence which cannot be resolved directly with the course’s instructor. The Associate Deans of the Faculty conduct a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They can include a final grade of “F” for the course

GRADING SYSTEM

Letter grades assigned in this course will have the following percentage equivalents:

A+ = 90-100 (12)	B = 73-76 (8)	C - = 60-62 (4)
A = 85-89 (11)	B- = 70-72 (7)	D+ = 57-59 (3)
A- = 80-84 (10)	C+ = 67-69 (6)	D = 53-56 (2)
B+ = 77-79 (9)	C = 63-66 (5)	D - = 50-52 (1)

F	Failure. Assigned 0.0 grade points
ABS	Absent from final examination, equivalent to F
DEF	Official deferral (see “Petitions to Defer”)
FND	Failure with no deferred exam allowed -- assigned only when the student has failed the course on the basis of inadequate term work as specified in the course outline.

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean.

DATES AND DEADLINES

Last day to withdraw (financial): with a full fee adjustment

Early Summer: May 20, 2016. Full Summer May 20, 2016

Late Summer: July 25 2016

Last Day to withdraw (Academic):

Early Summer June 14, 2016.

Full/Late Summer: August 16, 2016 & any other courses that end this term.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term.

<http://carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/academic/>

For an accommodation request the processes are as follows:

Pregnancy obligation: contact 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

Religious obligation: contact 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.

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).

PETITIONS TO DEFER

If you miss a final examination and/or fail to submit a **FINAL** assignment by the due date because of circumstances beyond your control, you may apply a deferral of examination/assignment. If you are applying for a deferral due to illness you will be required to see a physician in order to confirm illness and obtain a medical certificate dated no later than one working day after the examination or assignment deadline. This supporting documentation must specify the date of onset of the illness, the degree of incapacitation, and the expected date of recovery.

If you are applying for a deferral for reasons other than personal illness, please contact the Registrar’s Office directly for information on other forms of documentation that we accept.

Deferrals of assignments must be supported by confirmation of the assignment due date, for example a copy of the course outline specifying the due date and any documented extensions from the course instructor.

Deferral applications for examination or assignments must be submitted within **5 working days** of the original final exam.

ADDRESSES: (Area Code 613)

College of the Humanities 520-2809	300 Paterson
Greek and Roman Studies Office 520-2809	300 Paterson
Religion Office 520-2100	2A39 Paterson
Registrar's Office 520-3500	300 Tory
Student Academic Success Centre 520-7850	302 Tory
Paul Menton Centre 520-6608/TTY 520-3937	501 Uni-Centre
Writing Tutorial Service 520-2600 Ext. 1125	4 th Floor Library
Learning Support Service 520-2600 Ext 1125	4 th Floor Library