

History 31905

Christianity in the Global Age

Instructor: Prof. Deborah Fleetham
E-Mail: fleetham@purdue.edu
Office: UNIV 126
Zoom Office Hours: W 10-11:30 (or by appt)

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

- **Take-Home Essays (2 @ 20% each)** – Two essays (due February 16, and March 11). Essay questions will be handed out at least a week in advance and will be based on assigned course material.
- **Take-Home Final Reflection (10%)** – Due during exam week. Guidelines will be handed out in April.
- **Written Assignments on Readings (15%)** - Written Assignments on Readings. These assignments will include a combination of readings questions, short summaries, and reactions to readings. The purpose of these assignments is to guide your reading and prepare you for discussion. Some weeks groups students will have different reading assignments, and you will be writing summaries of your chapters for other students. A written assignment will be due for each Discussion as well as January 14 and March 23. Dates are listed on the weekly schedule (and on Brightspace in each weekly module.) Assignments due at 9 am on the due date.
- **Discussion (15%)** – Discussion will be a regular part of this part.

Some days (designated as DISCUSSION) on the course schedule will be devoted to discussing an assigned reading or film. On these days, you should complete the assigned reading before class, turn in the written assignment by 9 am, and attend class for discussion. This grade will be a combination of participation and attendance. **You will receive a grade for your active participation and are expected to attend all discussion sessions unless you have an excused absence such as or**

Textbooks

You are not required to purchase any books for this class. All readings are available on Brightspace as links to ebooks in the Purdue library or as PDFs. For those interested in purchasing a print copy, information is available on Brightspace.

Announcements

Announcements will be posted in Brightspace. Time-sensitive announcements will also be emailed. Check both regularly and always before class. If I need to cancel or modify class, I will post an announcement and email you.

Appointments/Office Hours

I encourage you to take with me outside of class. Due to the volatility of university COVID guidance and restrictions and the size of my office, I will be holding office hours (also called student hours) on Zoom. You can find the link in the Contact Me folder on Brightspace. You can also email me for an appointment or catch me after class.

Protect Purdue

As of the start the semester, university Protect Purdue classroom guidelines include:

- Wear face coverings correctly in classrooms.
- No eating or drinking allowed in class.
- Stay home when you are sick.

Course policies on attendance and participation (below) will follow Protect

Protect Purdue or a job interview (etc.). Please contact me in advance for an alternative assignment.

- **Contemporary Issue Project (20%)** – Ongoing. You will choose a contemporary issue dealing with some aspect of global Christianity. Over the course of the semester, you will be asked to post articles links on Brightspace, summarize them, discuss them in class. You will write a final paper due on April 29. that synthesize the articles and analyze how this topic fits into broader historical developments. You must also prepare a short, informal presentation for the final week of class.

Classes labeled **Contemporary Issues Discussion** on the schedule below will devoted to discussing your articles in class. Articles and summaries will be due on these dates. I will provide guidelines in a Contemporary Issue Guidelines handout.

Course Schedule

This schedule will also appear in Brightspace, which is divided into weekly modules. Each weekly module will include lecture outlines, reading links, and assignments.

Week 1 (January 10-14):

- January 10: Course Introduction
- January 12: Why Study Christianity as a Global Religion?
- January 14: Christianity: The Basics
Written Assignment due at 9 am on Brightspace.

Week 2 (January 17-21):

- January 17: NO CLASS – MLK Holiday
- January 19: Missionaries and Their Discontents
- January 21: **Contemporary Issues Discussion #1**
Follow directions on Brightspace to turn in your first article by 9 am.

Week 3: (January 24-28)

- January 24: The Global Catholic Church
- January 26: Latin America in 19th and early 20th Centuries
- January 28: **DISCUSSION:** Protestants and Catholics in Latin America
Hartch, *Rebirth*: Chapters 1 and 2
Written Assignment due at 9 am on Brightspace

Week 4: (January 31-February 4)

- January 31: What is Pentecostalism?
- February 2: Pentecostalism around the Globe
- February 4: **DISCUSSION:** Pentecostals and Charismatics in Latin America
Hartch, *Rebirth*, Chapters 5 and 6
Written Assignment due at 9 am on Brightspace

Purdue guidance. Protect Purdue guidance may be updated an altered during the semester. Up-to-date guidance is available on the Protect Purdue website.

Attendance/Participation Policy

This course follows Purdue's academic regulations regarding attendance, which states that students are expected to be present for every meeting of the classes in which they are enrolled. Evidence suggests that regular class attendance improves your learning, academic performance, and social and emotional well-being.

Active participation and regular attendance in this course are expected, and attendance will be taken. Excessive absences (more than five unexcused absences) may result in a deduction of your course grade.

This policy will allow exceptions for the Protect Purdue Pledge, which requires you to stay home if you feel sick (and contact the Protect Purdue Health Center (496-INFO) or if you have instructions to quarantine or isolate.

Please contact me if to inform me if you must miss class for Protect Purdue reasons or for anticipated absences for university-sponsored activities, religious observations, grief/bereavement, military service, jury duty, parental leave, or job interviews. If you have individual issues or concerns, also please contact me.

Discussion Policy: Small-group discussion is best as a face-to-face activity. To receive credit for discussion sessions (see syllabus for dates), *you must attend in class or contact me for permission for an alternative assignment.* (See Course Requirements for more detail.)

Quarantine/Isolation

If you must isolate or quarantine, please email me as soon as possible so that we

Week 5: (February 7-11)

February 7: Catholic Renewal and the Vernacular Church

February 9: **DISCUSSION:** Latin American Catholic Renewal and Activism
Hartch, *Rebirth*, Chapters 3-4, 7-8
Written Assignment due at 9 am. See instructions on Brightspace.

February 11: **Contemporary Issues Discussion**
Follow directions on Brightspace. Turn in articles by 9 am.

Week 6: (February 14-18) – Themes in Global Christianity

February 14: Women

February 16: The Bible

ESSAY #1 DUE @ 11:59 PM

February 18: **Contemporary Issues Discussion**
Follow directions on Brightspace. Turn in articles by 9 am.

Week 7: (February 21-25)

February 21: East Asia to 1918

February 23: Nationalist China

February 25: **DISCUSSION:** Lin, *Shanghai Faithful* (pp. 91-162)
Written Assignment due at 9 am. See instructions on Brightspace

Week 8: (February 28-March 4)

February 28: China Under Mao

March 2: South Korea and Japan

March 4: **DISCUSSION:** Lin, *Shanghai Faithful* (pp. 165-250)
Written Assignment due at 9 am. See instructions on Brightspace

Week 9: (March 7- 11)

March 7: China 1970s to 2010

March 9: Art and Architecture

March 11: Old and New Media

ESSAY #2 DUE @ 5 PM

SPRING BREAK

Week 10: (March 21-25)

March 21: Colonial Africa

March 23: Post-Colonial Africa (NO Discussion)

Reading: Kim, "African Christianities" (PDF)

Written Assignment due at 9 am. See instructions on Brightspace.

March 25: **Contemporary Issues Discussion – Topic Due**
Follow directions on Brightspace. Turn in articles by 9 am.

Week 11: (March 28-April 1)

March 28: West Africa

March 30: Christianity and Islam

April 1: **DISCUSSION** Africa and the Diaspora (Readings – PDF)

can work together to develop a plan based on your particular situation to allow you to continue to succeed in this course.

Boiler Cast Recordings

Boilercast class recordings will not be routinely uploaded and available on Brightspace. Watching class from home is not the same as attending in person. Access will be provided to those who must miss class for Protect Purdue. Please contact me if you have an absence (see above), a documented disability, or a special consideration that requires you to have access to a Boilercast recording.

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.*

I understand the challenges this pandemic poses. Be proactive. If you encounter problems, please contact me so that we can find a solution. Earlier is better!

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

Written Assignment due at 9 am. See instructions on Brightspace.

Week 12: (April 4-8)

April 4: East Africa

April 6: South Africa

April 8: **DISCUSSION:** South Asia and Oceania

Readings: Posted on Brightspace (you will be assigned chapters on different countries. See instructions in Brightspace)

Written Assignment due at 9 am. See instructions on Brightspace

Week 13: (April 11-15)

April 11: Migration and Diasporas

April 13: Indonesia and America (Guest: Dr. Pamela Sari)

April 15: **Contemporary Issues Discussion**

Follow directions on Brightspace. Turn in articles by 9 am.

Week 14: (April 18-22)

April 18: Persecution and Pluralism

April 20: **DISCUSSION:** Persecution

Readings: Posted on Brightspace

Written Assignment due at 9 am. See instructions on Brightspace

April 22: China since 2010 (Guest: Dr. Christopher White)

Week 15: (April 25-29)

April 25: Reverse Mission

April 27: Globalization and Christianity

April 29: **Contemporary Issue Paper Due and Discussion**

Take-Home Reflection: due during exam week. Deadline TBA.

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.
- 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.

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.*

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.

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*. You can find links to up-to-date information on Brightspace.

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