2015

THEO 343-01-02 Dialogue Among World Religions

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THEOLOGY 343 – DIALOGUE AMONG WORLD RELIGIONS
FALL, 2015
SYLLABUS (PRELIMINARY)

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Course Description

The course will include the study of various world religions, Eastern and Western, and also of principles of interreligious dialogue and the ways in which religions view one another (“theology of religions”).

Course Objectives

Through their participation in this course, students will
1. Be able to state main features of various world religions: their history, Scripture and institutions, beliefs and practices
2. Be able to identify major approaches to interreligious understanding
3. Be able to identify major concerns of interreligious dialogue today
4. Have enhanced their ability to engage in interreligious dialogue by having practiced it

Texts

The basic required texts for the course are Introducing Theologies of Religions, by Paul Knitter (Orbis Books, 14th printing 2014), and Introduction to World Religions, edited by Jacob Neusner (Abingdon Press, 2010). Articles, selections from other books, etc. will be assigned as the class proceeds.

In the course of our studies, you will be expected to consult and refer to other materials. Wikipedia by itself is not an acceptable resource, to be cited in a paper. However, you may certainly use Wikipedia to direct you to other resources.

Plagiarism and Academic Honesty
Plagiarism and cheating are serious offenses which violate the “social contract” of the university and undermine the educational enterprise. The university’s policy on academic honesty will be enforced, and any test or assignment found to include the product of cheating or plagiarism will be given a 0. The Turn-it-In plagiarism detection software will be enabled for papers in this course.

Xavier University Student Handbook 2.3.9.1. Academic Honesty
The pursuit of truth demands high standards of personal honesty. Academic and professional life requires a trust based upon integrity of the written and spoken word. Accordingly, violations of standards of ethical behavior will not be tolerated at Xavier University. These include but are not limited to cheating, plagiarism, unauthorized assistance in assignments and tests, and the falsification of research results and material. All work submitted for academic evaluation must be the student’s own. Certainly, the activities of other scholars will influence all students. However, the direct and unattributed use of another’s efforts is prohibited as is the use of any work untruthfully submitted as one’s own. Penalties for violations of this policy may include, but are not limited to, one or more of the following: a zero for that assignment or test, an “F” in the course, and expulsion from Xavier. The Academic Dean of the college in which the student is enrolled is to be informed in writing of all acts of academic dishonesty, although the faculty member has authority to assign the grade for the assignment, test, or course. If disputes regarding the applicability or enforcement of this policy arise, the student, faculty member and department chair should attempt to resolve the issue. If this is unsatisfactory, the Academic Dean of the college will rule on the matter. As a final appeal, the Provost will call a committee of tenured faculty for the purpose of making a final determination.

Class policies
1. Regular attendance at class is imperative. Students are responsible for all material presented or assigned, whether or not they are present on a given day.
2. No food or drink may be consumed during class.
3. Electronic devices may not be used during class except for laptops or tablets for note taking.

Requirements and Grading
1. Five quizzes or short papers (10% each)
2. A final paper (25%)
3. A final exam (25%)
There will also be opportunities for extra credit:
(up to 5 points each for attendance and report):
• Attend one or both of the Nostra Aetate events (Oct. 18 and 19) presented by the Brueggemann Center
• Visit the Hindu Temple
• Visit the Dharma Center
• Participate in an interfaith project to address some current problem
Extra credit assignments are a kind of insurance. Some students do very poorly on one or another regular assignment, and it may become mathematically impossible for them to receive acceptable grades without some extra credit.

Brief extensions may be granted, upon request, for the short papers. In the absence of an extension, late assignments will be subject to a half grade (A to A-, A- to B+, etc.) per day penalty. There will be no retakes of tests or the final exam, and no extensions granted for the final paper, except in cases of a documented emergency, such as serious illness or a death in one’s immediate family.

Course Schedule

These are the topics which we shall address in Theology 343: Dialogue Among World Religions. This schedule is subject to revision as the course proceeds.

Aug. 24 – Introduction to course, incl. What is religion?
Aug. 26 – Principles of interreligious dialogue (Read Knitter Introduction)
Aug. 28 - Theology of Religions (Replacement) (read Knitter Part I)
Aug. 31 – Theology of Religions (Fulfillment) (read Knitter Part II)
Sept. 2 – Theology of Religions (Mutuality) (read Knitter Part III)
Sept. 4 – Theology of Religions (Acceptance) (read Knitter Part IV)
Sept. 7 – Labor Day, no class
Sept. 9 – Mass of the Holy Spirit, no class
Sept. 11 – Interfaith Cincinnati and other opportunities
Sept. 14 (Rosh Hashanah) – Pre-recorded lecture: The legacy of colonialism (Read paper on Xavier, something about de las Casas, Chapter 3 from Daggers)
Sept. 16 – Hinduism 1 (Read Neusner Chapter 4)
Sept. 18 - Hinduism 2
Sept. 21 – Sikh religion
Sept. 23 (Yom Kippur) – Pre-recorded lecture: Buddhism 1 (Read Neusner Chapter 5)
Sept. 25 – Buddhism 2
Sept. 28 (Sukkot) - Pre-recorded lecture: Daoism and Confucianism (Read Neusner Chapters 6 and 7)
Sept. 30 - Buddhist speaker
Oct. 2 – Shinto (Read Neusner Chapter 8)
Oct. 5 (Shemini Atzeret) – Pre-recorded lecture: Judaism 1 (Read Neusner Chapter 1)
Oct. 7 - Judaism 2
Oct. 9 - Fall holiday, no class
Oct. 12* - Visit to synagogue
Oct. 14 - Vatican II
Oct. 16 - Current Trends in the Catholic Church
Oct. 19 - Judaism 3
Oct. 21 - Jewish speaker
Oct. 23 - Christian origins (Read Neusner Chapter 2)
Oct. 26 - Development and spread of Christianity
Oct. 28 - Catholic Christianity
Oct. 30 – Orthodox Christianity
Nov. 2* – Visit to Orthodox Church
Nov. 4 - Orthodox speaker
Nov. 6 – Protestant Christitania 1
Nov. 9 – Protestant Christianity 2
Nov. 11* - Visit to Protestant Church
Nov. 13 – Protestant speaker
Nov. 16 - Islam 1 (Read Neusner Chapter 3)
Nov. 18 -Islam 2
Nov. 20 - Islam 3
Nov 23* - Visit to mosque
Nov. 30 - Muslim speaker
Dec. 2 - Baha'I faith
Dec. 4 - Indigenous religions (Read Neusner Chapter 9)
Dec. 7 – Indigenous African religions or Native American religions (Neusner, WR In America, Chapter 1)
Dec. 9 - Catch up day or new religions
Dec. 11 - Conclusion and Summary
Dec. 14 – Study Day

*These visits will take place at the time of worship at the various institutions and will replace the class session indicated.

Office of Student Success

Location:  514 Conaton Learning Commons
Phone:     513-745-3036
Email:     studentretention@xavier.edu

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