THE WORLDWIDE CHRISTIAN MOVEMENT:
HISTORY, DYNAMICS, AND CURRENT ISSUES

SAH-PT 5/720
Fall Semester 2016

PURPOSE
Just over a century ago, the unquestioned center of world Christianity was the North Atlantic
nations of Europe and North America. By the end of the century, however, the Church had
significantly declined in the North Atlantic, and historic Christendom was all but gone. At the
same time, surprisingly and in sharp contrast, the Christian movement had grown dramatically in
the global South, most notably in the former ‘mission fields’ of Africa, Asia, and Latin America.
This course presents an alternative to traditional Euro-centric histories of the Church by
surveying the historic dynamics of the Christian movement, the burgeoning growth of the past
century, and issues that impinge on post-Christendom Western churches in light of recognizing
the Christian movement as a highly diverse, multi-cultural, worldwide phenomenon.

PREREQUISITES
None

COMPETENCE OBJECTIVES
Upon successfully completing this course, students should be able to:
• Identify key characteristics of the contemporary world Christian movement
• Explain central missiological issues that illuminate the dynamics of Christian expansion
• Contrast earlier Christendom-based missionary efforts with the contemporary world
Christian movement
• Discuss keys issue of contemporary relevance that are especially relevant in a selected
region where the Christian movement is growing rapidly
• Evaluate opportunities and obstacles that pertain to cross-cultural partnership between
post-Christendom churches in the West and churches of the global South.

FORM AND CONTENT
This is a weekly, 3.0 credit course that meets once a week for eleven weeks on Wednesday
evenings from 6:00-9:00 p.m. For on-campus students, work in the course consists of classes
including lectures, discussions, assigned readings, précis of required texts, a journal, and a research
term paper. Distance students will do the same work but participate by Adobe Connect.
REQUIRED TEXTS
Students should purchase these through Amazon, the Regent College bookstore, or other sources, or may read them on reserve in the library as available.


COURSE POLICIES

1. **Attendance** For a weekly course, VST requires at least 80% attendance. For an intensive course such as this one, VST requires 100% attendance. For on-campus students, this means attending all five classes. For distance students, this means participating synchronously in all five classes via Adobe Connect.

2. **Reading and assignments** Students are expected to read all required assignments before class and to complete all assignments as outlined in the syllabus within the specified dates of the course and term.

3. **Academic honesty** Students are expected to adhere to VST’s requirements for academic honesty as published in the Student Handbook.

4. **Inclusive language** In speaking and writing, inclusive language is expected when making reference to humans and a variety of metaphors are anticipated when making reference to God.

5. **Assignment and Course Evaluation**
   Course evaluations at VST combine a letter grade system (A+ to B-; course failure is “Not Approved”) including narrative comments based on the competencies of the course. No number grades or weights of assignments are calculated, nor are final grades given numerical equivalents.

   Individual assignments within a course are given narrative evaluations, that is, APP (Approved) or INC (Incomplete) with narrative comments, based on the competencies and
expectations set for that assignment. One re-write is allowed on any assignment that is INC. The re-written assignment is due two weeks after the work is returned. The final evaluation for an assignment can be APP or NAPP after a re-write. For a passing grade in the course, all assignments must be Approved.

6. **Late assignments**
Submission of assignments on time is a part of academic, professional and pastoral competence and a part of every course at VST. All assignments in courses are due on the dates specified in the syllabus. Failure to submit an assignment on time will be noted in the narrative evaluation of an assignment. Repeated failure to submit assignments on time may affect the final grade for the course.

7. **Social Media**
Ordinarily, the use of electronic devices in the context of classrooms or meetings will be limited to support the learning, formation, or agenda at hand. Behaviors that distract the user or others from these purposes are socially discourteous and will be noted negatively in evaluating class participation.

8. **Special Needs**
VST is committed to creating safe space and an inclusive learning environment. If you have a diagnosed or suspected learning disability, chronic condition, mental health concern, or physical requirement which may impact your participation in this class, you are encouraged to discuss your needs with the instructor and the Dean within the first week of classes.

**CALENDAR**

Wednesday evenings, 6:00-9:00 p.m., for eleven weeks beginning September 14, 2016

Week-by-week outline of lectures, required readings, due dates, etc. — TBD

**EXPECTATIONS, ASSIGNMENTS, AND EVALUATIVE CRITERIA**

1. **Class participation:** Students are expected to participate in class discussions, and do adequate preparation for in-class discussion exercises. Evaluative criteria: comments and questions show adequate preparation, an understanding of the assigned readings and exercises, and a readiness to apply readings to interpretive questions and insights.

2. **Précis:** Students will write a one-page (250-300 word) précis of three of the five required texts for the class, summarizing the main points and ideas of each book.

3. **Term paper:** this paper will help students demonstrate their grasp of the subject matter and gain analytic skills. The paper will focus on a particular theme or issue chosen by the student and approved by the professor, and must be 15-20 pages in length double-spaced (approx. 3,000-3,750 words). The bibliography for the paper must reference (by footnote or endnote) 10-20 relevant research sources beyond course texts.
4. **Journal**: a brief set of written reflections that capture your insights, impressions, questions and thoughts in the days following each class. Due as specified in the calendar. Evaluative criteria: completeness, ability to accurately represent central themes, relevant questions, and depth of reflection and insight.

5. **Th.M. students**: All of the requirements indicated above, plus approx. 1,000 pages additional reading from the following bibliography, or other relevant sources. The term paper must be 30-35 pages in length, include an annotated bibliography, with citations (footnotes or endnotes) that indicate depth of research appropriate for Advanced Degree work.

6. **Certificate students** are required to do all the reading, participate in class discussions, keep the journal, and write a term paper of 9-12 pages showing thoughtful engagement with the reading for the class, and providing a personal reflection on the material covered.

7. **Audit students** are encouraged to do the required reading in order to participate knowledgeably in class discussions.

**SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY**


