

WORLDWIDE CHRISTIANITY TODAY: HISTORICAL DYNAMICS AND CURRENT ISSUES

**SAH-PT 5/720
Summer 2018**

PURPOSE

For hundreds of years, the North Atlantic nations of Europe and North America were the unquestioned center of Christianity. During the past century, however, Christianity's influence has significantly declined in this region and only vestiges of European Christendom remain. In sharp contrast, the Christian movement has grown dramatically elsewhere, most notably in the former 'mission fields' of Africa, Asia, and Latin America. This course surveys the historic dynamics of the Christian movement, with special attention to issues that impinge on churches in the West in light of the diverse, multi-cultural, post-colonial expansion of Christianity.

PREREQUISITES

None

FORM

This is a one-week, 1.5 credit course that meets daily from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., July 16-20.

EXPECTATIONS AND COMPETENCE OBJECTIVES

Upon successfully completing this course, students should be able to:

- Identify key characteristics of the contemporary world Christian movement
- Explain the dynamics of Christian expansion in missiological terms
- Contrast earlier Christendom-based missionary efforts with the contemporary world Christian movement
- Discuss key issues that are especially relevant in a selected region where the Christian movement is growing rapidly
- Evaluate opportunities and obstacles to cross-cultural partnership between post-Christendom churches in the West and post-colonial churches of the global South.

REQUIRED READINGS

The following books must be read before the beginning of the course:

Robert, Dana L. *Christian Mission: How Christianity Became a World Religion*. (Wiley-Blackwell, 2009).

Sanneh, Lamin. *Whose Religion is Christianity?* (Grand Rapids, Michigan: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2003).

Sanneh, L. O. and Joel A. Carpenter, eds. *The Changing Face of Christianity: Africa, the West, and the World*. (Oxford: University Press, 2005).

ASSIGNMENTS

1. **All Students:** All students including auditors are expected to do all the required reading and participate in class discussions. 100% attendance is required of Certificate and Degree students.
2. **Certificate students:** Certificate students will submit an essay of 5-6 pages (1,250-1,500 words) demonstrating thoughtful engagement with the material and reading for the class.
3. **Basic degree students** (Diploma; M.A.; M.Div): will submit a one page précis of each required book, and a five-page essay (1,250 words) indicating their personal response to a particular theme or idea introduced in the course.
4. **Advanced degree students** (Th.M): will submit a one page précis of each required book, and a fifteen-page essay (3,750 words) indicating their personal response to at least three themes or ideas introduced in the course.

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Anderson, Allan H (2002). *African Reformation: African Initiated Christianity in the Twentieth Century*. Trenton, NJ: Africa World Press.
- Anderson, Allan H (2004). *An Introduction to Pentecostalism: Global Charismatic Christianity*. New York: Cambridge University Press.
- Bamat, Thomas and Jean-Paul Wiest, eds. (1999). *Popular Catholicism in a World Church: Seven Case Studies in Inculturation*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis.
- Barrett, David, George T Kurian, et al. (2001). *World Christian Encyclopedia (2 volumes)*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Bays, Daniel, ed. (1996). *Christianity in China: From the Eighteenth Century to the Present*. Stanford: Stanford University Press.
- Bays, Daniel (2011). *A New History of Christianity in China*: Wiley-Blackwell.
- Bediako, Kwame (1995). *Christianity in Africa: The Renewal of a Non-Western Religion*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis.
- Bergunder, Michael (2008). *The South India Pentecostal Movement in the Twentieth Century*. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company.
- Bosch, David J. (1991, 2001). *Transforming Mission: Paradigm Shifts in Theology of Mission*. Maryknoll, New York: Orbis Books.
- Breward, Ian (2001). *A History of the Churches in Australasia*. New York: Oxford University Press.

- Chestnut, R. Andrew (2003). *Competitive Spirits: Latin America's New Religious Economy*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Douglas, Ian T., ed. (2002). *Waging Reconciliation: God's Mission in a Time of Globalization and Crisis*. New York: Church Publishing Incorporated.
- Frykenberg, Robert E. (2008). *Christianity in India: From Beginnings to the Present*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- González, Ondina E. and Justo L. González (2008). *Christianity in Latin America: A History*. New York: Cambridge University Press.
- Irvin, Dale T. and Scott W. Sunquist (2011). *History of the World Christian Movement, Vol. I*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books.
- Irvin, Dale T. and Scott W. Sunquist (2012). *History of the World Christian Movement, Vol. II*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books.
- Isichei, Elizabeth (1995). *A History of Christianity in Africa*. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company.
- Jenkins, Philip (2007). *God's Continent: Christianity, Islam, and Europe's Religious Crisis*. Oxford: University Press.
- Lewis, Donald M., ed. (2004). *Christianity Reborn: The Global Expansion of Evangelicalism in the Twentieth Century*. Studies in the History of Christian Mission. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company.
- Martin, David (2002). *Pentecostalism: Their World Their Parish*. Oxford: Blackwell.
- McLeod, Hugh, ed. (2006). *The Cambridge History of Christianity, 9: World Christianities, c. 1914-2000*. New York: Cambridge University Press.
- Moffett, Samuel H. (2005). *A History of Christianity in Asia: Vol. II 1500-1900*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis.
- Park, Chung-Shin (2003). *Protestantism and Politics in Korea*. Seattle: University of Washington Press.
- Sanneh, Lamin O. (1989a). *Translating the Message: The Missionary Impact on Culture*. Maryknoll, New York: Orbis Books.
- Stark, Rodney (1997). *The Rise of Christianity*. San Francisco: Harper Collins Publishers Inc.
- Walls, Andrew F. (1996). *The Missionary Movement in Christian History: Studies in the Transmission of Faith*. Maryknoll, New York: Orbis Books.
- Walls, Andrew F. (2002). *The Cross-cultural Process in Christian History*. Maryknoll, New York: Orbis Books.