

Santa Clara University

TESP 4: THE CHRISTIAN TRADITION
Spring 2009 Section 48337 4 units

Professor Janet Giddings	Classroom: Kenna 109
Office: Kenna 317	Class time: T/TR 3:40-5:25 p.m.
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Phone: 551-3000 x 6438	also, meetings by appointment

Course description

The theological examination of the Christian tradition covering such topics as religious experience and the meaning of God; Jesus in the Gospels; the development and history of the Christian Churches; the relevance of Christianity in the 21st century global world.

Welcome from Professor Giddings

I look forward to working with you in this first course in Religion, Theology, and Culture series. Here, we critically examine the theological and social dimensions of Christianity by studying: Christianity as a religion and how the tradition developed in varying contexts; theological concepts, their spiritual importance and meaning; Jesus and his impact theologically and ethically; how Christianity is effective today and will be in the future.

Required Readings

Bellinzoni, Arthur J. *The Future of Christianity: Can it Survive?* New York: Prometheus Books, 2006.

Mullin, Robert Bruce. *A Short World History of Christianity*. London: Westminster John Knox, 2008.

Handouts from Instructor; most will be on ANGEL (login: Xtian)

Learning Objectives and Outcomes (LOO)

By fully participating in this course the student can expect:

Learning Objective & Outcome	Assignment
LO 1: an introduction to the Christian religion through the study of history, scripture, social institutions, and experience.	Assigned reading of Mullins; Gospel of Mark; Gospel of John; The Letter of Jude; Response paper.
LO 2: encounters with God, Jesus, and the concept of Trinity as reflected through theology and religious experience.	Religious experience in the Christian Tradition as expressed by Bernard of Clairvaux; James; Jude; Sor Juana Inez de la Cruz;

LO 3: the impact of Christianity on culture(s) from its beginnings to its current global impact to a vision for its future; ethics.	Ethics assignment; research and analysis of Christianity in a culture other than the U.S., its historical and current context and impact; MLK essay;
LO 4: Writing and speaking about religion in a scholarly manner reflective of the Ignatian tradition.	Written assignments; Oral presentations; group discussions; discourse with instructor.

Grading Policy and Study Responsibility (100 points possible)

- 10 points informed participation
- 10 points Response paper: Mullins
- 10 points team research and presentation of one scholarly article on Christian ethics and culture; one page analysis.
- 20 points Research paper; Christianity in a culture outside the U.S.; six pages. (Directive on ANGEL) Discussion of these papers in groups
- 10 points: Presentation of Research paper
- 20 points MIDTERM; short essay answers
- 10 points quiz on Bellinzoni
- 10 points: Final
- **Late research papers will not be accepted; other papers may be accepted late if the professor decides in your favor but you will lose points out of respect to those who meet deadlines.**
- All papers will follow MLA Handbook guidelines. You may use footnotes or parenthetical citations in your papers but you may not mix these styles.
- Please read “Transgressions in Writing” a short tip sheet posted on ANGEL.
- Please take advantage of the professor’s office hours and bring a draft of your paper for discussion prior to the final draft.

Specifically for Disabilities

The Office of Disabilities Resources has been designated by the University to ensure access for all students with disabilities to all academic programs and University resources. Reasonable accommodations are provided to minimize the effects of a student’s disability and to maximize the potential for success. Our goal is to support the college student to participate fully in campus life, its programs and activities.

In order to obtain services from DR, a student must register with the office.

Call: 554-4318 or,

<http://www.scu.edu/advising/learning/disabilities>.

Professor Giddings works tenaciously to teach in a manner that supports various learning styles. If you have a particular way of learning you may want to discuss this with Professor Giddings at the beginning of the quarter so she may help you make this course experience a success.

Accommodations and Support at SCU

The Drahmann Advising Center is the destination for Advising, Learning tools, tutoring, and International Student Resources.

<http://www.scu.edu/drahmann>

Academic Integrity

I expect your moral standard to fit the Jesuit tradition and the work you produce will be your own. When you consult, ponder, or borrow the ideas of others you must give them credit by citing them in your work and/or placing their name and title of their work on your Works Cited or Works Consulted list. This is ethical scholarship.

Wikipedia is not an appropriate research source for university scholarship. You may not quote from this source. However, if you begin the search of your subject with Wikipedia, you *must* add it to your Works Consulted list.

Attendance

The best way to earn 100 points is to attend all class sessions. You will lose points for multiple absences (more than one). Remember, this is quarter system.

Classroom Decorum

My teaching style is informal, respectful, and I hope fun. I enjoy teaching and interacting with student-scholars. Since discussion is essential to this course I want to make certain everyone understands the parameters: respect for each participant in the classroom. We each bring our unique perspective to the learning experience; we each speak in our own way and the style in which we learn is our own. Let us learn with and from each other.

