

Santa Clara University

TESP 4: THE CHRISTIAN TRADITION

Winter 2010, Section 54286
MWF 10:30 – 11:35 AM
Sobrato 19

Instructor:

Michael C. McCarthy, S.J.
Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 1:00 – 2:00 PM; or by appointment
Office: Kenna 300 E
Telephone: (408) 554-4715
E-mail: MCMcCarthy@scu.edu

Peer Educators: Chris Barna (cbarna@scu.edu); Arianna Urban (aurban@scu.edu)

Course Description:

A 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.

The course will begin with a discussion of the various ways we will approach the tradition: historically, theologically, culturally. Initially we will consider how Christianity developed from a sect within Palestinian Judaism to religion in its own right. It will continue with an examination of how distinct “Christianities” develop in different cultural, linguistic, and ethnic contexts (especially divergences between “Eastern” and “Western” Christianity). It will conclude with an assessment of how the tradition has evolved in more recent centuries from a religion based in Europe to one rooted in Asia, Africa, and the Americas, together with the lights and shadows, opportunities and shadows that attend to that development.

Learning Goals and Objectives:

This course fulfills Santa Clara’s Core Requirement in Religion, Theology, and Culture 1. By the end of the course students will be able:

1. To describe and compare the central religious ideas and practices from several traditions or within one, and from at least two globally distinct regions.
2. To use critical approaches to reflect on their own beliefs and the religious dimensions of human existence.

Required Reading:

Nystrom/Nystrom, *The History of Christianity: An Introduction* (McGraw Hill)

NB: You must also purchase an I-Clicker, available in the bookstore with the course textbooks or from a student who has used one in a previous quarter.

Additional readings as indicated below.

Method:

As an introduction to the Christian tradition, we will proceed through the succeeding periods of Christian history in order to develop a basic cultural literacy. Most classes will treat a theme or issue from a particular period. Typically, class will begin with five minutes of an introductory exercise, very frequently a brief quiz and announcements. Usually, after a lecture of around 30-40 minutes, the instructor will pose a question to an individual, inviting his/her reflections on the relevance of the day's subject matter. At this point, the entire class is expected to discuss the material, to assess its significance and raise important questions for the remainder of the session.

Every few days, the class will be assigned readings from primary texts. On such occasions, after the customary quiz it is expected that the class will engage in a discussion of the reading material for the entire hour.

Requirements: There will be multiple **quizzes**, two **examinations**, and three **papers** of varying scope. **Attendance** is mandatory and will be recorded, and **participation** will be judged every few weeks. A word, therefore, on each of these five components of the course.

Quizzes will be frequent and usually take up the first five minutes of the class. Generally, they will consist of five multiple choice questions on the reading assigned. They aim to encourage regular reading and assess the quality of that reading. Study questions to guide the reading will be given on the course website. Quizzes will be given promptly at the beginning of class. (Hint: Do not be late to class !!!). *Except in the case of extraordinary circumstances, students may not make up quizzes or complete them at any time other than when given.* At the end of the quarter, however, the grades from the lowest two quizzes (including those missed on account of absence) will be dropped before the calculation of the final grades.

Examinations will be given twice in the course of the quarter. The Midterm (Friday, February 5, 2010) will be an hour-long in-class examination on the material covered until that point. The class prior to the Midterm will include a review. The Final (Monday, March 15, 2010, 9:10 AM – 12:10 PM) will be a longer examination on the material covered throughout the quarter. Again, it will be preceded by a final review. Examinations may be made up only in cases of extreme and exceptional circumstance.

Papers will be due on three dates during the quarter. The first paper (due on Wednesday, January 6, 2010) will be a brief (1-2 page) spiritual autobiography. The second paper (due Wednesday, February 3, 2010) will be a moderate (2-3 page) treatment of a specific theme from the first half of the course. The third paper (due on Wednesday, March 10, 2010) will be also be a longer (4-5 page) synthesis of one of the major themes running throughout the course. Assignments will be discussed in class and given more extensive explanation on the course website. *Late papers are welcome, though you must know that there is a **10 percentage point penalty** for doing so. Papers submitted a week after the due date will not be accepted.* All papers must be submitted both in paper and in electronic format through the TurnItIn dropbox on Angel (see below under "Academic Integrity").

Attendance is an essential part of the course and will be recorded daily. *You may miss class twice*, for whatever reason, with no questions asked. Each class you miss after that will result in the loss of 10 percentage points, per day missed, on the attendance portion of your grade. Tardiness results in the loss of 5 points. In addition, both absence and tardiness jeopardizes your quiz scores. Students who miss 5 or more classes will fail the course. *If you do come to class late, please come in so quietly that no one (esp. the instructor) notices you.*

Participation is required, both in the form of active listening and active contributions to the discussion. Read the material and listen to the lectures with a constant concern for how you might articulate its relevance or what pertinent questions you may ask. Come to class prepared to engage others in conversation. And have your books and materials available throughout the class.

Evaluation: A (95-100%); **A-** (90-95); **B+** (87-89); **B** (83-86); **B-** (80-82); **C+** (77-79); **C** (73-76); **C-** (70-72); **D+** (67-69); **D** (63-66); **D-** (60-62); **F** (below 60)

Quizzes:	25%
First Paper:	5%
Second Paper:	5%
Midterm:	15%
Third Paper:	10%
Final Exam:	25%
Attendance/ Participation	15%

Instructions for using Angel:

A detailed syllabus and many other important items for this course will be available at the following Internet address: <http://angel.scu.edu>. You are automatically enrolled in the course on Angel. To access the relevant site, open the URL and follow the directions for students.

Logging on frequently will be essential for checking study questions (for help with daily quizzes), finding assignments, viewing announcements, joining in occasional discussions, keeping up on notes from the instructor, and finding out your grades. **THROUGH ANGEL, STUDENTS WILL BE ABLE TO RECEIVE UP-TO-DATE FEEDBACK FROM THE INSTRUCTOR ON THEIR PERFORMANCE IN ALL ASPECTS OF THE CLASS.**

Academic Integrity:

Please understand that if you are caught in any form of academic dishonesty, you will receive a 0 for the assignment or exam in question. The most common form of cheating is plagiarism, i.e., to pass off the ideas or words of another as if it were one's own. Regardless of the source (book, article, another student, the Internet), you must be careful not to plagiarize.

In an effort to discourage plagiarism, each time you submit a hard copy of a paper, you must also submit it electronically into the TurnItIn drop-box under "Lessons" in ANGEL. This service which checks your paper against the web and a database of other student papers. The service provides instructors with a plagiarism report.

Again, every time you hand in a paper (hard copy) for this course, either download it or paste your paper in the appropriate place on ANGEL "Lessons" site and submit it for a plagiarism review.

I-Clicker

This quarter the instructor will be integrating a new technology into this class that allows students to transmit immediate responses in class electronically. The system will be used to aid discussion, administer quizzes, and indicate attendance and participation. Each student must purchase an I-Clicker. They are available in the Campus Bookstore near the course textbooks, though you may also use an I-Clicker you or someone else used for another class. Individuals will register in class during the first week of term. Thereafter, it is the student's responsibility to have the I-Clicker in his/her possession at EVERY CLASS and to make sure that it is working. The instructor, however, will have a limited number of extra I-Clickers to rent in class (\$10 per class) and batteries (\$10 per set).

Additional Course Readings

Some class assignments may be accessed only electronically over the course website (Angel.com). To access them, simply look under the "Lessons" tab for the appropriate week, and click on "Readings." You should find the readings there. You must print them out. On the days when we will be discussing extra readings in class, you will be expected to have printed the text and have it with you in class.

Disability Accommodation Policy:

To request academic accommodations for a disability, students must contact Disability Resources located in The Drahnann Center in Benson, room 214, (408) 554-4111; TTY (408) 554-5445. Students must provide documentation of a disability to Disability Resources prior to receiving accommodations.

Final Points:

In order to focus on the material and to minimize distractions from the task at hand, the instructor would ask you kindly to observe the following:

- 1) Please do not bring food or drink of any kind into the classroom.
- 2) Please turn off all cell phones, pagers, etc. *before* entering the room.
- 3) Please remove hats while in class.
- 4) Please do not chew gum or eat sunflower seeds.
- 5) If you must enter or leave the room after class has begun, please be exceedingly discreet.
- 6) Please do not leave class once it has commenced, unless absolutely necessary.
- 7) Please do not carry on conversations or private forms of communication during class.
- 8) If (though I cannot believe this would ever happen) you are not paying attention, at least appear to be paying attention.

Tentative Schedule

For an up-to-date and authoritative schedule of daily assignments, see the Calendar section of the course Website.

Week 1

- Mon., Jan. 4 Introduction to Course
- Wed., Jan. 6 Meet on Steps of Mission Church - The Formation of Tradition:
How does a religious building “construct” a people and their tradition?
First Paper Due
- Fri., Jan. 8 The Jewish, Greek, Roman Background of Christianity:
The Religious, Intellectual, and Political Contexts of Early Christians
Quiz: History of Christianity (HC) 1-21

Week 2

- Mon., Jan. 11 Jesus: Historical and Theological Approaches
Quiz: HC 22-34
- Wed., Jan. 13 Paul: Historical and Theological Approaches
Quiz: HC 34-41
Acts of the Apostles 9:1-30; 15:1-41; 21:15-26; 22:1-21
Letter to the Galatians
- Fri., Jan. 15 Gospel of Mark, Gospel of John: Textual and Theological Approaches
Quiz: HC 41-44
Mark 1:1-2:28; 8:1-9:32; 10:7- 11:52; 14:1- end
John 1:1-2:25; 18:1-21:25

Week 3

- Mon., Jan. 18 MLK Holiday – No Class
- Wed., Jan. 20 The Expansion of the Church: Christianity in the Third Century:
What social aspects of Christianity made it so attractive?
Quiz: HC 48-73
- Fri., Jan. 22 Martyrdom in Asia Minor and Africa
Quiz: The Martyrdom of St. Polycarp
The Martyrdom of Saints Perpetua and Felicitas

Week 7

- Mon., Feb. 15 Presidents' Holiday – No Class
- Wed., Feb. 17 Toward the Reform of the Church
Quiz: HC 189-224
- Fri., Feb. 19 The Protestant Reformation: The Theological Claims
Quiz: HC 225-255

Week 8

- Mon., Feb. 22 Protestant Expansion:
Social, Political, and Economic Stimuli of the Reformation
Quiz: 256-279
- Wed., Feb. 24 Catholic Reform (Including the Jesuit Phenomenon)
Quiz: HC 279-287, Life of Ignatius of Loyola (at
www.luc.edu/jesuit/ignatius.bio.html), Ignatius' "Foundation: Fact
and Practice," "Christ the King and His Call," Ignatius'
"Guidelines for the Discernment of Spirits"
- Fri., Feb. 26 The Enlightenment
Quiz: HC 288-317

Week 9

- Mon., Mar. 1 Modern Challenges to Christianity:
How did post-Enlightenment thinkers threaten traditional religious views?
How did Catholics, Protestant, and Orthodox theologians respond in
different ways?
Quiz: HC 318-332, 356-63
- Wed., Mar. 3 Christianity in North America: New Religions of the New World
Quiz: HC 332-42, 364-70
- Fri., Mar. 5 New Horizons: Orthodoxy in Russia; Catholicism in Africa, Asia, and
Latin America
Quiz: HC 342-54, 370-78

Week 10

Mon., Mar. 8	Final Review/Synthesis
Wed., Mar. 10	Final Class: Exam Review <i>Third Paper Due</i>
Fri., Mar. 12	TBA
MON., MAR. 15	FINAL EXAMINATION 9:10 AM – 12:10 PM