



TESP 4: The Christian Tradition
Santa Clara University, Spring 2009
TR 11:50-1:35pm ■ Kenna 109
Prof. Joe Morris, Ph.D. ■ Office: Kenna 311
Office Hours: TR 2:00-3:00pm or by appointment
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Course Description:

This introductory course will provide an examination of the Christian tradition from both the inside (how Christianity explains itself and accounts for its beliefs, practices, and mission) and from the outside (views Christianity as one perception of truth among many others). Introducing the basic approaches to the study of religion by focusing on Christianity, this course will also examine the Jewish roots of Christianity; the Christian conception of God; biblical and theological reflection on Jesus; the development and history of the Christian churches; and the relevance of Christianity for our world today.

Objectives

This course

- Provides an introduction of the basic approaches to the study of religion through an examination of the historical, cultural and theological development of Christianity.
- Seeks to provide critical reflection on Christian belief and practice and what religion discloses about humanity in its quest for the Ultimate. This will also offer students an opportunity to reflect on their own beliefs and religious experiences and to probe how religion functions in their lives and the lives of others.
- Explores the central religious ideas and practices of Christianity and provides comparison with its diverse manifestations as well as with other religions.
- Studies Christianity in both its local and global manifold expressions.
- Examines the relationship between Christianity and its various “cultures” by exploring historical and theological texts as well as art, literature, music, poetry, biography, and film.

Required Texts

Weaver, Mary Jo and David Brakke. *Introduction to Christianity*, 4th ed. Belmont, Ca. Wadsworth Cengage Learning, 2009. [ISBN 13: 978-0-495-09726-6]

Various supplementary readings as posted on the ANGEL course website, on reserve in the library or distributed in class. Angel Enrollment pin: TRADITION

Assessment and Grading

- **Class attendance and participation:** involves on-time attendance, engagement in class activities, small and large group discussions, and online (ANGEL) activities and discussions. (25%)
- **Mid-term Examination:** This will be a subjective, short essay format. A study guide will be distributed one week prior to the mid-term examination. (15%)
- **Final Examination:** This will be subjective, short essay format. A study guide will be distributed one week prior to this final examination. (15%)
- **Religion in Practice:** Students visit on a Sunday the worship space of a Christian denomination other than the one that has been most influential in their lives. An analysis and reflection [2 page limit] of that concrete expression of Christian worship should be submitted to ANGEL by the final class of the quarter. (5%)
- **Group Project and Presentation:** In class multi-media group presentation on a contemporary issue, problem or aspect of our contemporary world that particularly calls for a response or reflection from the Christian tradition. The group's work is designed to integrate materials from the readings and discussions as well as to employ the group's reflections and experiences in devising a response to the selected issue, problem or aspect of our emerging globalized world. [15%]
- **Reading Responses:** These will be written response(s) to question(s) focusing on the readings and discussion for the specific day. These questions are posted throughout the quarter on ANGEL. The student is required to submit a response by the assigned date in the designated drop box on ANGEL. (25%)

Grading Scale

95%-100%	A
90%-94%	A-
87%-89%	B+
83%-86%	B
80%-82%	B-
77%-79%	C+
73%-76%	C
70%-72%	C-
67%-69%	D+
63%-66%	D
60%-62%	D-
59% & below	F

Other Resources

The course website on ANGEL will be an important place to find course requirements and procedures, reading response questions and drop boxes, field education experience

response drop boxes, online discussion, exam study guides, etc. In hopes of reducing the amount of paper, all course materials and communications will be posted on ANGEL.

OTHER INFORMATION:

■ Disability Accommodation Policy:

To request academic accommodations for a disability, students must contact Disability Resources located in The Drahmman 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.

■ Academic Integrity Policy

The University is committed to academic excellence and integrity. Students are expected to do their own work and to cite any sources they use. A student who is guilty of a dishonest act in an examination, paper, or other work required for a course, or who assists others in such an act, may, at the discretion of the instructor, receive a grade of F for the course. In addition, a student found guilty of a dishonest act may be subject to sanctions up to and including dismissal from the University as a result of the student judicial process as described in the *Community Handbook*. A student who violates copyright laws, including those covering the copying of software programs, or who knowingly alters official academic records from this or any other institution is subject to similar disciplinary action.