

**TESP 4 – The Christian Tradition**  
**Department of Religious Studies**  
Fulfills **RTC 1** core curriculum requirement

**Instructor:** Dr. Lynn Jencks

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*Please allow 24 hours for response on weekdays, 48 hours on weekends*

**Office Hours:** Kenna 303, MW 3:30-5:00 p.m., also by appointment

**Course Meetings**

Fall 2016, MWF 2:15 – 3:20 p.m. in Kenna 102

**Course Description**

This course, which fulfills the Religion, Theology, and Culture (RTC) 1 core curriculum requirement, introduces students to the global diversity of Christian theology, ethics, and spirituality. Unit 1 introduces students to Christian scripture through reading canonical and apocryphal gospels to understand who Jesus was and what Jesus meant to various early Christian communities. Unit 2 introduces students to Christian ethics through exploring Christian ethical perspectives from a variety of denominations and applying those ethical positions to evaluate presidential candidates. Unit 3 introduces students to Christian theology through Christologies that outline who Jesus is and what Jesus means to various global cultures in various eras. Unit 4 introduces students to Christian spirituality through multi-media explorations of diverse global manifestations of Christian belief and practice.

**Course Objectives**

After taking this course, students will be able to:

1. Describe and give examples of religious practices and beliefs from several different Christian denominations in globally distinct regions
2. Compare, contrast, and analyze New Testament passages that offer differing perspectives
3. Evaluate Christological works from various global cultures, including arguing in support of various works' strengths and critiquing their weaknesses.
4. Analyze Christian ethical perspectives from a variety of denominations on a current issue and apply these ethical stances to evaluate political figures

**Core Curriculum Learning Objectives – Religion, Theology, and culture (RTC) 1**

1. Students will be able to describe and compare the central religious ideas and practices from several traditions or within one, and from at least two globally distinct regions. (Knowledge of Global Cultures; Complexity of Content as well as Method; Ambiguity)
2. Students will be able to use critical approaches to reflect on their own beliefs and the religious dimensions of human existence. (Critical Thinking; Complexity of Method; Religious Reflection)

**Religion Department Objectives**

1. Students question and probe religion for what it reveals about human beings, their diverse societies, traditions, convictions and aspirations.
2. Students use diverse materials and demonstrate formal postures of inquiry into religion and in order to go beyond simple description of religion to a reflective engagement with it.
3. Students propose and investigate the “big questions” – that is, the meta-reflective questions that ask how and why we ask the questions that we do about religion.

## Required Reading

### *Textbook:*

Jacobsen, Douglas, *The World's Christians: Who They Are, Where They Are, and How They Got There*, Hoboken, NJ: Wiley-Blackwell, 2011. (Available at the Bronco Corner bookstore)

### *Other Readings:*

Available on the Camino course website

## Attendance

Attendance and participation constitutes 30% of your overall course grade. Students are allowed three excused absences. If you will be unable to attend a class because of illness or an unavoidable conflict, you must notify the professor before class. You will receive an excused absence for that session. An excused absence without prior notice will only be granted if the absence was due to an urgent matter that precluded prior notice and if the professor is notified as soon as possible.

## Full Participation

Full participation is required to receive full credit. Please be in class and ready to go when class is scheduled to start. If you have a schedule that makes it impossible for you to do this, let the professor know ahead of time. To facilitate attentive participation, put away all devices except when using them to consult readings and assignments during specific discussions.

## Late Assignments

No late reflection assignments will be accepted. Other assignments will receive a half-grade deduction for each day late. Thus one day late reduces an A assignment to an A-, two days late reduces an A assignment to a B, etc.

## Grading

### *Participation/Attendance – 30%*

Self-graded daily, on a scale of 0-3

0 = Unexcused absence

1 = No participation, or significantly late arrival, or didn't do readings

2 = Arrived late, or some participation, or didn't complete all readings, or spent time on devices

3 = Arrive on time; active, insightful participation; complete all readings

### *Reflection Papers – 25%*

Reflections of 1 page each, based on professor prompts and students' additional thoughts. In reflection papers, students demonstrate their grasp of key concepts and explore the varieties and nuances of Christian theology, ethics, and spirituality and relate them to students' own life journeys. Reflections are due at 12:00 noon on the day of class via Camino. Students choose 12 of the 21 reflection assignments to complete; these 12 must include the three mandatory reflection assignments, #3, #4, and #21. (*Core objective #1 Knowledge of Global Cultures, Complexity; Core objective #2 Religious Reflection*).

### *Mid-term Essay – 25%*

Students analyze a presidential candidate based on two contrasting Christian perspectives on one specific ethical issue. Grades are based on six assignments: paper outline, paper draft, revisions based on HUB feedback, writing peer reviews, revising based on peer feedback, and revising based on professor feedback. 6 pages. (*Core objective #1 Knowledge of Global Cultures; Core objective #2 Critical Thinking*)

### *Final Essay – 20%*

Students write a two-part essay based on their reflection assignments from the entire course. The first part analyzes a theme the student identified in readings and class discussion, using examples, comparisons, and contrasts from at least three diverse sources (3 pages). The second part is the students' reflections on how they grew in their journeys as seekers of ultimate meaning and as religious or non-religious people. This section is based on excerpts from reflection assignments that illustrate an area of student growth. (3 pages). (*Core objective #1 Knowledge of Global Cultures, Complexity; Core objective #2 Critical Thinking, Religious Reflection*)

### **Grading Scale**

A	=	93-100
A-	=	90-92
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	=	59 or lower

### **Feedback**

I will provide individual feedback to students on every reflection paper and essay draft, pointing out successes and offering constructive feedback on ways to improve weaker areas. Halfway through the course I will notify students of their current grade, including their participation grade. I encourage and welcome all students to contact me via e-mail or phone, stop by during office hours, and/or set up appointments with me to discuss their experience in the course and address any questions or struggles they might have.

### **Course Evaluation**

I offer students three anonymous narrative evaluation opportunities: early in the course, halfway through the course, and at the end of the course. I use the first two evaluations to make immediate adjustments in response to student concerns wherever possible and reasonable.

### **Academic Integrity Pledge**

The Academic Integrity pledge is an expression of the University's commitment to fostering an understanding of -- and commitment to -- a culture of integrity at Santa Clara University. The Academic Integrity pledge, which applies to all students, states:

I am committed to being a person of integrity. I pledge, as a member of the Santa Clara University community, to abide by and uphold the standards of academic integrity contained in the Student Conduct Code

Students are expected to uphold the principles of this pledge for all work in this class.

## **Disability Resources**

If you have a disability for which accommodations may be required in this class, please contact Disabilities Resources, Benson 216, (408) 554-4109, [www.scu.edu/disabilities](http://www.scu.edu/disabilities) as soon as possible to discuss your needs and register for accommodations with the University. If you have already arranged accommodations through Disabilities Resources, please discuss them with me during my office hours. Students who have medical needs related to pregnancy or parenting may be eligible for accommodations. While I am happy to assist you, I am unable to provide accommodations until I have received verification from Disabilities Resources.

## **Accommodations for Pregnancy and Parenting**

In alignment with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, and with the California Education Code, Section 66281.7, Santa Clara University provides reasonable accommodations to students who are pregnant, have recently experienced childbirth, and/or have medically related needs. Pregnant and parenting students can often arrange accommodations by working directly with their instructors, supervisors, or departments. Alternatively, a pregnant or parenting student experiencing related medical conditions may request accommodations through Disability Resources.

## **Discrimination and Sexual Misconduct (Title IX)**

Santa Clara University upholds a zero-tolerance policy for discrimination, harassment and sexual misconduct. If you, or someone you know, have experienced discrimination or harassment, including sexual assault, domestic/dating violence, or stalking, I encourage you to tell someone promptly. For more information, please consult the University's Gender-Based Discrimination and Sexual Misconduct Policy at <http://bit.ly/2ce1hBb> or contact the University's EEO and Title IX Coordinator, Belinda Guthrie, at [408-554-3043](tel:408-554-3043), [bguthrie@scu.edu](mailto:bguthrie@scu.edu). Reports may be submitted online through <https://www.scu.edu/osl/report/> or anonymously through Ethicspoint <https://www.scu.edu/hr/quick-links/ethicspoint/>

## **Reporting Practices**

I want you to feel comfortable coming to me with issues you may be struggling with or concerns you may be having. At the same time, please be aware that there are some reporting requirements that are part of my job at Santa Clara University. For example, if you inform me of an issue of harassment, sexual violence, or discrimination, I will keep the information as private as I can, but I am required to bring it to the attention of the institution's EEO and Title IX Coordinator. If you inform me that you are struggling with an issue that may be resulting in, or caused by, traumatic or unusual stress, I will likely inform the campus Student Care Team (SCU CARE). If you would like to reach out directly to the Student Care Team for assistance, you can contact them at [www.scu.edu/osl/report](http://www.scu.edu/osl/report). Additionally, you can report incidents or complaints to the Office of Student Life (OSL), Campus Safety Services, and local law enforcement. For confidential support, contact the Counseling and Psychological Services office (CAPS), the YWCA, or a member of the clergy (for example, a priest or minister). Finally, please be aware that if, for some reason, our interaction involves a disruptive behavior, a concern about your safety or the safety of others, or potential violation of University policy, I will inform the Office of Student Life. The purpose of this is to keep OSL apprised of incidents of concern, and to ensure that students can receive or stay connected to the academic support and student wellness services they need.

<b>Unit 1: Christian Scripture</b>		
Mon., Sept. 19	Course introduction	
Weds., Sept. 21	Topic: Christian Beginnings <i>Textbook:</i> Ch. 14, "The Ancient Tradition"	<i>Assignments due:</i> Reflection assignment #1
Fri., Sept. 23	Topic: Narratives of Jesus's birth <i>Camino:</i> Matthew, Luke, and Apocryphal Gospel	<i>Assignments due:</i> Reflection assignment #2
Mon., Sept. 26	Topics: High Christologies and Christian Theology <i>Camino:</i> Narratives of Jesus's death: Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, and Apocryphal Gospel	<i>Assignments due:</i> Reflection assignment #3 - MANDATORY
Weds., Sept. 28	Topic: Low Christologies and Christian Ethics <i>Camino:</i> Jesus's teachings: Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Thomas	<i>Assignments due:</i> Reflection assignment #4 - MANDATORY
<b>Unit 2: Christian Ethics</b>		
Fri., Sept. 30	Topic: Roman Catholic Ethics <i>Camino:</i> Roman Catholic ethicists on end-of-life issues	<i>Assignments due:</i> Reflection assignment #5
Mon., Oct. 3	Topic: Mainline Protestant Ethics <i>Camino:</i> Mainline Protestant ethicists on e-o-l issues	<i>Assignments due:</i> Reflection assignment #6
Weds., Oct. 5	Topic: Evangelical Ethics <i>Camino:</i> Evangelical ethicists on end-of-life issues	<i>Assignments due:</i> Reflection assignment #7
Fri., Oct. 7	Topic: Other Christian Ethics <i>Camino:</i> Other Christian ethicists on end-of-life issues	<i>Assignments due:</i> Outline of midterm paper
<b>Unit 3: Christian Theology</b>		
Mon., Oct. 10	<i>Textbook:</i> Ch. 15, "The Great Division and the Age of the East: 500 to 1000"	<i>Assignments due:</i> Reflection assignment #8
Weds., Oct. 12	Topic: Christologies 500 to 1000 <i>Camino:</i> Christology reading	<i>Assignments due:</i> Reflection assignment #9
Fri., Oct. 14	<i>Textbook:</i> Ch. 16, "The Rise of the West and Decline of the East: 1000 to 1500"	<i>Assignments due:</i> None – work on midterm paper
Mon., Oct. 17	Topic: Christologies 1000 to 1500 <i>Camino:</i> Anselm	<i>Assignments due:</i> None – work on midterm paper
Weds., Oct 19	<i>Textbook:</i> Ch. 17, "Christianity in a Global Era: 1500 to Present"	<i>Assignments due:</i> Midterm paper

Fri., Oct. 21	<i>Textbook:</i> Ch. 11, "Latin America"	<i>Assignments due:</i> Reflection assignment #10
Mon., Oct. 24	Topic: Latin American Liberation Theology <i>Camino:</i> Gustavo Gutiérrez, <i>A Theology of Liberation</i>	<i>Assignments due:</i> Reflection assignment #11
Weds., Oct. 26	<i>Textbook:</i> Ch. 5, "The Middle East and North Africa"	<i>Assignments due:</i> Copy of HUB feedback and two hard copies of midterm paper second draft
Fri., Oct. 28	<i>Camino:</i> Middle East/North African Christologies	<i>Assignments due:</i> Reflection assignment #12
Mon., Oct. 31	<i>Textbook:</i> Ch. 6, "Eastern Europe"	<i>Assignments due:</i> 2 hard copies each of 2 midterm paper peer reviews
Weds., Nov. 2	<i>Camino:</i> Region 2 Eastern Europe Christologies	<i>Assignments due:</i> Reflection assignment #13
<b>Unit 4: Christian Spirituality</b>		
Fri., Nov. 4	<i>Textbook:</i> Ch. 1, "The Orthodox Tradition"	<i>Assignments due:</i> Reflection assignment #14
Mon., Nov. 7	<i>Camino:</i> Readings on Greek Orthodoxy	<i>Assignments due:</i> Midterm Paper third draft
Weds., Nov. 9	<i>Textbook:</i> Ch. 2, "The Catholic Tradition"	<i>Assignments due:</i> Reflection assignment #15
Fri., Nov. 11	<i>Camino:</i> Readings on Roman Catholicism	<i>Assignments due:</i> Reflection assignment #16
Mon., Nov. 14	<i>Textbook:</i> Ch. 3, "The Protestant Tradition"	<i>Assignments due:</i> Reflection assignment #17
Weds., Nov. 16	<i>Camino:</i> Readings on the Amish	<i>Assignments due:</i> Reflection assignment #18
Fri., Nov. 18	Discussion of Midterm Papers	<i>Assignments due:</i> Midterm paper final draft
<b>November 21 – 25: Academic Holiday</b>		
Mon., Nov. 28	<i>Textbook:</i> Ch. 4, "The Pentecostal/Charismatic Tradition"	<i>Assignments due:</i> Reflection assignment #19
Weds., Nov. 30	<i>Camino:</i> Readings on the Assembly of God tradition	<i>Assignments due:</i> Reflection assignment #20
Fri., Dec. 2	<i>Camino:</i> Final reflective reading	<i>Assignments due:</i>

		Reflection assignment #21 - MANDATORY
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