

SANTA CLARA UNIVERSITY
Department of Religious Studies

TESP 4: INTRODUCTION TO CHRISTIAN TRADITION
Spring 2016

Professor: Paul G. Crowley, SJ, PhD
Professor's Office: 323D
Office Hours: Tuesdays, 10:30-11:30, Wednesdays, 3:00-5:00
Exceptions: Wednesdays 4/6, 4/13, 5/11, 6/1
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Brief Course Description

A comprehensive introduction to the Christian tradition, emphasizing its historical development, core theological content, and cultural expressions. The course also treats of the interface between Christianity and other world religions, and concludes with a reflection on the relationship between Christian faith and contemporary issues, namely how the Christian tradition bears on addressing climate change. While not a course in Catholicism per se, many of the major theological and historical references will have particular relevance to that part of the Christian tradition.

Texts for Purchase:

St. Augustine, *Confessions*. Chadwick translation. Oxford.
Borg, Marcus. *Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time*.
Francis, Pope. *Laudato Si': On Care for Our Common Home*. UCCB edition.
Jacobsen, Douglas. *The World's Christians: Who They Are, Where They Are, and How They Got There*. Wiley-Blackwell, 2011.
Metz, Johannes. *Poverty of Spirit*. (new translation)

Core Learning Objectives for RTC I Courses:

- I.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.
- I.2 Use critical approaches to reflect on their own beliefs and the religious dimensions of human existence. (Critical Thinking; Complexity of Method; Reflection)

Student Evaluation

- I. **One mid-term**, consisting of **essay and objective** questions.
[30% of the final grade]

2. **A final in-class exam.** [30% of the final grade]
3. **Six 500-600 word reflection papers.** [30% of the final grade]
4. **Class participation** as gauged through (1) **reading** of assigned readings, (2) contribution to **class discussions**, (3) completion of **short homework assignments** (outlines of some readings) **or occasional quizzes** worth 10 points each. [10% of the final grade]

Feedback

Written work, including exams, will be graded not only for content, but also for clarity and ease of expression, as there is a correlation between clear thinking and good writing. This includes grammar, diction, syntax, and spelling.

I am regularly available during office hours, and via email (pcrowley@scu.edu). On occasion

Grading

Letter grades for assignments and exams follow established ranks:

A: outstanding. Indicates work that excels in meeting the standards of thoroughness, creativity, and sustained and thoughtful engagement with the subject matter

B: good; impressive work

C: adequate; satisfactory work

D: minimally acceptable, but not satisfactory

F: unacceptable. With regard to essay assignments, this is the only grade for which I permit a rewrite. The highest grade I will award a rewrite, however, is D.

The addition of a plus (+) to a letter grade indicates that there are factors which distinguish it within the grade rank assigned; a minus (-) indicates that there are some relatively minor flaws with the work.

These grades will, in turn, be assigned points according to the following scale:

A = 100-97; A- = 96-92; B+ = 92-87; B = 86-83; B- = 82-80

C+ = 79-77; C = 76-73; C- = 72-70; D+ = 69-67; D = 66-63; D- = 62-60; F = 0

Policies

- ✓ **All students must regularly consult the course Camino website for added materials and readings.**
- ✓ **Academic Integrity:** Please see the University's policy regarding academic integrity. <http://www.scu.edu/academics/bulletins/undergraduate/Academic-Inteity.cfm>. Certain violations of academic integrity through cheating or plagiarism may result in automatic failure of the course. A proceeding brought

against a student becomes a part of that student's permanent record. Professor Crowley strictly enforces the University's Academic Integrity protocols.

All students will sign the **Santa Clara University Honor Code** on the first day of class. You will also be required to sign it before taking your mid-term and final exams.

- ✓ **Disability Accommodation:** To request academic accommodations for a disability, students must contact Disability Resources located in Benson Center, (408) 554-4111; TTY (408) 554-5445. It is the student's responsibility to contact the professor in order to make sure that accommodations are provided.

Basic Rules of Work-Place Etiquette

- ✓ **Attendance and on-time arrival** at all meetings. If you cannot attend, please inform me by email. Excessive absence or chronic late arrival to class will affect the final grade. There will be a sign-in sheet for each class meeting, starting in Week 2.
- ✓ **No active cell phones.** Cell phones must be TURNED OFF (not just silenced or put on vibrate) upon entering the classroom. Students are not to leave the classroom to pick up a phone call, text message, email, or other form of social communication through their phones.
- ✓ **Computer Use.** Computers may be open and used for the taking of notes, but they are not to be used to surf the Web or to engage in social media activities. This kind of behavior shows a lack of respect toward students who come to the classroom to engage the course material and also distracts the professor.
- ✓ **Time bathroom breaks.** There will be a break of 10 minutes in the middle of each class meeting for personal needs. Please take care of personal needs before class begins and/or during such breaks. Personal needs can emerge unexpectedly, but departures from the classroom in the middle of a meeting are not to be the norm. Leaving the classroom to make a phone call is prohibited. In small classes such as we have at Santa Clara, these departures can constitute major distractions for both students and the professor. If you have special needs, please work them out with Professor Crowley in advance.
- ✓ **Classroom Courtesy.** Please note that sharing with friends during the course meeting is distracting for everyone. If you need to communicate for some reason, please keep it to an absolute minimum.
- ✓ **Food.** Given the relatively early hour of the class, coffee and light fare may be brought to class.

COURSE MEETING SCHEDULE

* = reflection paper due

I Foundations of the Christian Tradition

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| T | March 29 | Foundational Orientations
Jacobsen, "Introduction," pp. 1–5 |
| Th | March 31 | Who was Jesus?
<i>Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time</i>
Gospel of Mark (Bible) |
| T | *April 5 | <i>Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time (...continued)</i>
Gospel of Mark (Bible) |
| Th | April 7 | The Resurrection–Pentecost Events
Lecture (readings to be posted in advance) |
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II Historical Development of the Christian Tradition

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| T | April 12 | Building the Tradition: Ancient Christianity
Jacobsen, Chapter 14 |
| Th | April 14 | Classical Christological Doctrines (Nicea, Chalcedon) |
| T | *April 19 | Augustine, <i>Confessions</i> |
| Th | April 21 | Augustine, <i>Confessions (...continued)</i> |
| T | *April 26 | Building the Tradition: Eastern Christianity and Islam
Jacobsen, Chapter 15; then Chapter 1 |
| Th | April 28 | Building the Tradition: Western Christianity
Jacobsen, Chapter 15; then Chapter 2 |
| T | May 3 | MID-TERM EXAM |
| Th | May 5 | Building the Tradition: Global Christianity
Jacobsen, Chapter 17; then Chapters 3 and 4 |
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III Regional and Cultural Forms of Christianity

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| T | May 10 | Christianity in the US |
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Jacobsen, Chapter 12

Th	*May 12	Christianity in Latin America Jacobsen, Chapter 11
T	May 17	Eastern Europe, Western Europe Jacobsen, Chapters 6 and 8
Th	*May 19	Middle East and Africa, Sub-Saharan Africa Jacobsen, Chapters 5 and 9
T	May 24	Central and South Asia, East Asia, Oceania Jacobsen, Chapters 7, 10 and 13

IV Social Implications of Christian Faith

Th	May 26	Pope Francis, <i>Laudato Si'</i>
T	*May 31	<i>Laudato Si'</i> (...continued)

V A Christian Spirituality

Th	June 2	Metz, <i>Poverty of Spirit</i>
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