



TESP 4: The Christian Tradition

Fulfills RTC 1 Core Requirement

Winter 2016

MWF 9:15-10:20am

Professor: Dr. Diana C. Gibson

Contact: dcgibson@scu.edu

Office: Kenna 317

Office Hours: Wednesdays 10:30-11:30am, or by appointment

Course Description

We will examine the Christian tradition as *a way of life* that has shaped and transformed individuals, communities and societies since the time of Jesus. The course will focus on *diverse ways* the Christian tradition has been and is understood theologically and lived out historically in the lives of real people, with emphasis on the relevance of Christianity today. We will look at two major traditions within Christianity - Catholicism and Protestantism, and two distinct regions of the world - North America and Latin America. Critical thinking, engaged curiosity, and a willingness to venture outside your own worldview will be encouraged and actively fostered. This is an academic course aimed to enrich and challenge students whether they come from a Christian background, another faith, or no particular spiritual tradition.

Class Format: lecture, discussion, film & small group presentations.

Course Goals

Students will be able to:

1. identify formative stories, foundational sources and core theological concepts within the Christian Tradition;
2. describe and compare two geographical, historical and cultural approaches to Christianity and how these factors inform the living of the Christian faith;
3. identify significant issues facing the church today and articulate diverse responses within the Christian tradition;
4. use critical and imaginative thinking to reflect on their own beliefs and the role religion plays in their worldview.

Required Course Reading

Marcus J. Borg, *The Heart of Christianity: Rediscovering a Life of Faith* (2003)

Gregory Boyle, *Tattoos on the Heart: The Power of Boundless Compassion* (2010)

Regular reading assignments from the Bible
Supplementary readings posted on Camino

Core Curriculum Learning Objectives for RTC 1

1.1 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]

1.2 Use critical approaches to reflect on their own beliefs and the religious dimensions of human existence. [Critical Thinking; Complexity of Method; Reflection]

Assessment/Assignments

Class participation that is consistent, engaged, prepared, thoughtful and respectful - **15%**

This will indirectly support all course goals as well as RTC learning objectives.

Four essay papers: All papers are to be turned in electronically (to the drop box on Camino) and with a hard copy at the beginning of the class period on the day the paper is due or, if due date is not a class day, the next time the class meets.

1. **Spiritual autobiography** (3-4 pages) - **10%**: Explore how student's own assumptions and worldview influence her/his approach to the study of religion, and identify particular questions or issues of concern to the student - *Assesses Course Goal 4 and RTC objective 1.2.*
2. **Scripture Paper** (3-4 pages) - **10%**: Choose one biblical text from list instructor offers. Compare and contrast a literal and metaphorical interpretation of the text and how each might influence a Christian worldview and way of life. *Assesses Course Goal 2.*
3. **Sunday Worship Service Reflection** (3-4 pages) – **10%**: Visit a Sunday Worship Service at a Christian denomination other than the one that has been most influential in student's life and write a reflection and analysis paper. *Assesses Course Goal 4.*
4. **Jesus Paper** (4-6 pages) - **20%**: Identify 3 significant events or teachings in the story of Jesus, explore one theological concept which has emerged from one of those events, and examine how this has influenced Christianity in North American and Latin American contexts. *Assesses Course Goals 1 and 2 and RTC objective 1.1.*

Quizzes - given without notice at beginning of class - **10%** (lowest grade on a quiz will be dropped). *Indirectly assesses all Course Goals and RTC objectives*

Small Group Presentation on current issue or topic about which there is debate within the Christian tradition - **10%** *Assesses Course Goals 3 & 4 and RTC objective 1.2.*

Final Exam -**15%** *Assesses all course goals and RTC objectives.*

Course Policies

1. Class Preparation: You are expected to read all required material, take consistent notes, and arrive in class ready to discuss, raise questions, offer insights, and answer questions in a manner that reflects your thoughtful reading.
2. Class Discussion: You are expected to participate in all-class and small group discussions through *active listening* and *respectful response*. Respectful, engaged discourse will be the rule for the class. Questions and exchange of ideas must always be for the purpose of enhancing our understanding and learning. *Disagreements and differences are encouraged*, however disrespectful comments will immediately lower your final grade. *Texting, talking (side conversations) or napping during class are all signs of disrespect* and will automatically lower your final grade. Students are expected to remain in the classroom throughout the class period. (Please tend to your personal needs before coming to class.) Thoughtful and consistent participation in class discussions is *required* to attain an “A” grade in this class. If you are having trouble finding ways to participate in this learning environment, please see me and I will be glad to discuss this with you.
3. Technology: No electronic or mobile device use is allowed in class except with permission from the instructor. Cell phones should be stored away (NOT on your desk or lap) to avoid temptation or misunderstandings!
4. Academic Honesty: Santa Clara University insists on honesty and integrity from all members of its community. Students are expected to do their own work and to cite any sources they use. A student who commits any offense against academic honesty and integrity will be reported to the Office of Student Life and may receive a failing grade without a possibility of withdrawal. An offense may also dictate suspension or dismissal from the University. In particular, it is each student’s responsibility to understand the serious nature of plagiarism and the consequences of such activity. Please be certain to cite your sources very carefully in your papers. If you have any questions about what constitutes plagiarism, please do not hesitate to ask me. A thorough explanation of the University’s policy can be found on page 422 of the SCU 2014-2015 Undergraduate Bulletin, or by downloading the SCU Academic Integrity Brochure at <http://www.scu.edu/studentlife/resources/upload/Academic-Integrity-brochure-2014.pdf>.
5. Attendance: You are expected to arrive in class on time and attend every class session. *Frequent tardiness or missing more than three class periods will result in lowering your final grade.* Students are responsible for obtaining class content, missed notes, updated assignments and any other news from other students or the instructor *outside* of regular scheduled class time. If illness or family emergency requires you to miss more than three class periods, you must meet with instructor to discuss. More than six absences (1/5 of the class periods) *will result in a failing grade* unless reasons and make-up plans are approved by the professor.
6. Late Work: All papers are due at the beginning of class on the dates indicated, and into the Camino drop box on the due date. The grade for late work will be lowered, usually by 1/3 of letter grade for each calendar day that paper is late. Exceptions will be granted only for *very good reasons*, and must be negotiated with instructor *before the due date*.
7. Spelling and Grammar: Spelling, grammar and sentence structure definitely affect the grade on your papers. Please *proofread your work carefully*. Follow the Writing Style Guidelines on our Canvas Course page. Visit the Writing Center at the HUB for drop-in tutoring. Schedule and location for drop in times can be found at scu.edu/provost/writingcenter.

Disability Accommodation Policy: If you have a documented disability for which accommodations may be required in this class, please contact Disabilities Resources, Benson 216, 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 initiate a conversation with me about your accommodations during my office hours within the first two weeks of class. Students who are pregnant and parenting may also be eligible for accommodations. Accommodations will only be provided after I have verification of your accommodations as approved by Disabilities Resources, and with sufficient lead time for me to arrange testing or other accommodations. For more information you may contact Disabilities Resources at [408-554-4109](tel:408-554-4109).

Feedback: Students will receive regular feedback from the instructor through comments on papers and online discussions and are welcome to schedule meetings to discuss further. Students will assess their own experience of the course in a mid-quarter survey and in the standard end-of-term narrative evaluation. I have an open door policy anytime I am in my office, and am happy to make an appointment for other times as needed.

Grading Scale

- A (95-100) = Outstanding. Awesome. Takes my breath away!
- A- (90-94) = Amazingly good. I want to stand up and cheer.
- B+ (87-89) = Very good. I want to clap, but I'm still in my seat.
- B (83-86) = Good, solid work. I'm impressed.
- B- (80-82) = Good work, but I'm not excited.
- C+ (77-79) = Above average. No complaints.
- C (73-76) = Average. You've completed the assignment.
- C- (70-72) = You have mostly completed the assignment, but not thoroughly. Something is lacking, or perhaps your grammar or composition needs work.
- D (61-69) = I'll give it back to you and give you another chance, but only once, and that is if it is not a presentation or the final exam.
- F (60 & below) = Failure. Let's not even go there.

The Christian Tradition (TESP 4)

Winter 2016

MWF 9:15-10:20am

Class Schedule

Week 1 – Jesus: Introducing the Main Character

Question: Who is this guy? Why do people follow him?

What did the historical Jesus do and say in the late 20's of that first common-era century that made some people say, "He is a criminal; we must execute him," and others say, "He is divine; we must follow him"? How could people look at the same Jesus and judge so divergently? [How can one] explain the Jesus who was historically an object of condemnation for some and of adoration for others?

- John Dominic Crossan, *Jesus at 2000*

Monday: Class Overview, Introduction of Terms

Wednesday – READ FOR CLASS:

CAMINO: Borg, *Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time*

SCRIPTURE: *Carefully* read your assigned Bible passage *several times*, then identify 3 observations about Jesus from that passage.

Friday – READ FOR CLASS:

Tattoos, Introduction

Week 2 – Faith: Room for Mystery

Question: Do great Christians ever have doubts?

What people whose faith saved them seemed to have in common was their resistance to the primordial human temptation to make oneself the measure of the possible. These people were willing to accept the possibility that something could exist, could act, that went beyond their own knowledge and powers. They were willing to appeal for help and to accept it from a source they did not understand or control.

- Sandra M. Schneiders, *The Revelatory Text*

Faith lives in the same apartment building as doubt. When Faith was out of town visiting her uncle in the hospital, Doubt fed the cat and watered the asparagus fern. Faith is comfortable with Doubt because she grew up with him. Their mothers are cousins.

- J. Ruth Gendler, *The Book of Qualities*

Monday – READ FOR CLASS:

Borg, *Heart*, Chapter 2

Wednesday – READ FOR CLASS:

CAMINO: Mother Teresa's Struggle with Doubt/Faith: Read Op-Ed by James Martin in *The New York Times* (Aug 29, 2007), followed by some reactions. (James Martin is a Jesuit priest and the author of *My Life With the Saints*.)

SCRIPTURE: *Carefully* read your assigned Bible passage *several times*, then identify 3 observations about faith from that passage.

Friday – READ FOR CLASS:
Tattoos, Chapter 2, “Dis-graced”

DUE TODAY: Spiritual Autobiography

Week 3 – Bible: Meeting Tent, Metaphor, and Mega-stories

Question: Does the Bible matter?

Your words were found, and I ate them,
and your words became to me a joy
and the delight of my heart
- Jeremiah 15:16

Which passages of Scripture should guide our public policy? Should we go with Leviticus, which suggests slavery is OK and that eating shellfish is an abomination? How about Deuteronomy, which suggests stoning your child if he strays from the faith? Or should we just stick to the Sermon on the Mount – a passage that is so radical that it’s doubtful that our own Defense Department would survive its application? So before we get carried away, let’s read our Bibles. Folks haven’t been reading their Bibles.

- Senator Barack Obama, 2006 “Call to Renewal”

Monday – Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday

Suggested reading to mark this day: “Letter from a Birmingham Jail”

Wednesday – READ FOR CLASS:

Borg, *Heart*, Chapter 3

CAMINO: Letter to Dr. Laura

Friday – READ FOR CLASS:

CAMINO: Robert McAfee Brown, “Mary’s Song” in *Unexpected News: Reading the Bible with Third World Eyes*

CAMINO: *The Gospel in Art by the Peasants of Solentiname*

1. Matthew 6:7-15 – then page 32 (The Lord’s Prayer)
2. Luke 16:19-31 – then page 36 (The Rich Epicure and Poor Lazarus)
3. Luke 10:25-37 – then page 38 (The Good Samaritan)
4. Luke 9:10-17 – then page 42 (The Multiplication of the Loaves)

Week 4 – God: Concepts, Concerns & God’s C.V.

Question: Does God matter?

If you have understood, then what you have understood is not God.

- Augustine

No expression for God can be taken literally. None. Our language is like a finger pointing to the moon, not the moon itself. ... That is why God can be seen as a king, rock, mother, savior, gardener, lover, father, liberator, midwife, judge, helper, friend, mother bear, fresh water, fire, thunder, and so on.

- Elizabeth Johnson, *Quest for the Living God*

Monday – READ FOR CLASS:

Borg, *Heart*, chapter 4

SCRIPTURE: *Carefully* read your assigned Bible passage *several times* and identify 3 key points that would appear on God’s CV based on this passage.

Wednesday – READ FOR CLASS:

CAMINO: Joan Chittister, “God Become Infinitely Larger” in *God at 2000*

Friday – READ FOR CLASS

Tattoos, Chapter 1: God, I Guess

DUE TODAY: Scripture paper

Week 5 - **The Human Person: Made in the Image of God**

Question: Do I matter?

The Church: Called to be the Body of Christ

Question: Does the church matter?

The glory of God is the human person fully alive.

- Irenaeus of Lyon (ca. 115-202)

A humble person is one who like the humble Mary says, “The Powerful One has done great things in me.” Each of us has an individual greatness. God would not be our author if we were something worthless. You and I and all of us are worth very much, because we are creatures of God... And so the church values human beings and contends for their rights, for their freedom, for their dignity. That is an authentic church endeavor. The church values human beings and cannot tolerate that an image of God be trampled.

- Archbishop Oscar Romero

Monday – READ FOR CLASS:

CAMINO: Henri Nouwen, “Being the Beloved” in *Life of the Beloved*

CAMINO: Elizabeth Johnson, *Consider Jesus*

SCRIPTURE: Assigned scripture passages:

1) Psalm 8:3-8

3) John 1:12-13

5) John 15:15

2) Mark 1:9-11

4) John 15:12-14

6) John 15:16-17

Wednesday – READ FOR CLASS:

CAMINO: Ronald Rolheiser, “Toward a Spirituality of Ecclesiology” in *The Holy Longing*

Borg, *Heart*, “Being part of a church”

CAMINO: Robert McAfee Brown, “Worship: Piece of Cake or Subversion?” in *Speaking of Christianity*

SCRIPTURE Reading: Acts 2:44-47; 4:32-35

Friday – READ FOR CLASS:
Tattoos, Chapter 4: Water, Oil, Flame

Week 6 – **Jesus Again (the Christ of Faith): *The Execution that Just Didn't Work***

Question: Why so much attention to this fellow who died 2000 years ago?

“For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”
- Jesus, Matthew 18:20

If Jesus of Nazareth was the poor man from Galilee who was tortured to death, then Christ is that which cannot be destroyed, which came into the world with him and lives through us in him. – Dorothee Soelle, *Theology for Skeptics*

The overriding consideration is that the resurrection happened not just to anyone but to the Crucified One. ... Jesus had been found guilty by human judges, who did away with him as a danger to religious tradition and the stability of the state. God now overturns the judgment of those judges and says there is another, divine judgment to be made about this crucified criminal, namely, that he is the Son of God. – Elizabeth Johnson, *Consider Jesus*

Monday – READ FOR CLASS:
CAMINO: Borg, *Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time*,
Borg, *Heart*, Chapter 5

Wednesday – READ FOR CLASS:
CAMINO: Elizabeth Johnson, *Considering Jesus*
CAMINO: Ronald Rolheiser, *The Holy Longing*
SCRIPTURE: Luke 24:13-35
OPTIONAL: *Revolutionary Patience*, poem #10 by Dorothee Soelle

Friday – READ FOR CLASS:
Tattoos, Chapter 3: Compassion

DUE TODAY: Sunday Worship Reflection Paper

Week 7 – **The Reign of God: *A World of Justice, Compassion and Peace***

Question: Can we keep politics out of the church?

I hate, I despise your festivals,
and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies. ...
Take away from me the noise of your songs;
I will not listen to the melody of your harps.
But let justice roll down like waters,
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream. – Amos 5:21, 23-24

Pray then in this way: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. - Jesus of Nazareth, Matthew 6:9-10

I say Yes to the church that stresses liberty to the captives; I say No to the church that denies “the cry of the poor” by accepting social structures that violate the poor.

I say Yes to the church that celebrates God’s liberating power with bread and wine; I say No to those who do not affirm that accepting food and drink at Christ’s Table means ensuring food and drink on all other tables.

I say Yes to the need for the church to take sides; I say No to the church when it claims that political or economic neutrality is possible.

-- Robert McAfee Brown, *Saying Yes and Saying No*

Monday – NO CLASS due to President’s Day

Wednesday – READ FOR CLASS:

Borg, *Heart*, Chapter 7

Friday – READ FOR CLASS:

Tattoos, Chapter 6: Jurisdiction

Scripture Readings: Carefully read your assigned Bible passage several times and identify 3 observations about the reign of God based on this text and other readings for this week.

OPTIONAL READING (on CAMINO): Michael J. Himes, *We Hold These Truths*, pages 16-23 on “Religion” and “Politics” may be a helpful read, but not required.

Week 8 – Liberation Theology: *Christianity through other eyes*

Question: What can *we* learn about Jesus from the poor and oppressed?

I give you thanks, Father, because the poor and the humble have understood, not the proud and the powerful. - Jesus (Matt. 11:25) as paraphrased by Archbishop Oscar Romero

A church that doesn't provoke any crisis, a gospel that doesn't unsettle, a word of God that doesn't get under anyone's skin, a word of God that doesn't touch the real sin of the society in which it is being proclaimed, what gospel is that? -- Archbishop Oscar Romero

When I ask people for bread to feed the poor, they think I am a saint; when I ask them why the poor are hungry, they think I am a communist. - Brazilian Bishop Dom Helder Camara

Monday – READ FOR CLASS:

CAMINO: *Cloud of Witnesses*, “Jon Sobrino” (21-28); “Sanctuary” (135-146); “Dom Helder Camara” (207-215); “Four U.S. Martyrs” (285-292)

SCRIPTURE Readings: Luke 4:16-21; Matthew 25:31-46

Wednesday – Film: Romero

OPTIONAL (on CAMINO): Sobrino, “Jesus of Galilee from the Salvadoran Context: Compassion, Hope & Following the Light of the Cross”

OPTIONAL (on CAMINO): Brown, *Gustavo Gutierrez: An Introduction to Liberation Theology*

Friday – Film: Romero

Week 9 – Christianity & the World: *In the World but Not of the World*

"I simply argue that the cross be raised again at the center of the marketplace. For Jesus was not crucified in a church between two candles but on a cross between two thieves, on the town garbage heap, on a crossroads so cosmopolitan they had to write his title in three languages: Greek, Hebrew, Aramaic. It was the kind of place where thieves curse, cynics talk smut, and soldiers gambled. That is where he died and that is what he died about. And that is where the church should be and what church people should be about." - George McCloud, who founded the nondenominational Iona Community in Glasgow in the 1930's

Monday – READ FOR CLASS:

CAMINO: *Cloud of Witnesses*, "Martin Luther King, Jr."

CAMINO: Martin Luther King, Jr. "Letter from a Birmingham Jail"

SCRIPTURE Reading: Acts 17:1-9

Wednesday – SMALL GROUP PRESENTATIONS

Friday – SMALL GROUP PRESENTATIONS

Week 10 – Religious Pluralism: *Christianity in dialogue with religions*

Questions: Are all religions created equal? Are only Christians "saved"?

To put it simply, the living God is not a Christian. Rather, the incalculable mystery, which the Christian scripture dares to call love (I John 4:8 and 16) is not constrained in loving but freely pours out affection to all and each one.

- Elizabeth Johnson, *The Quest for the Living God*

Monday – READ FOR CLASS:

CAMINO: Elizabeth Johnson, *Quest for the Living God*

SCRIPTURE: Acts 17:22-28

Wednesday – FINAL

Friday – READ FOR CLASS:

Borg, *Heart*, Chapter 1

Tattoos, Chapter 10: Kinship

❖ **JESUS PAPER DUE FRIDAY, MARCH 18, 9:10AM**

❖ **NO FINAL DURING FINALS WEEK.**

Week 5 - The Human Person: Made in the Image of God

Question: Do I matter?

When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars that you have established:
what are human beings that you are mindful of them,
mortals that you care for them?

Yet you have made them a little lower than God,
and crowned them with glory and honor.

Psalm 8: 3-5

The glory of God is the human person fully alive.

- Irenaeus of Lyon (ca. 115-202)

Monday, February 2 - READ FOR CLASS:

CAMINO: Henri Nouwen, "Being the Beloved" in *Life of the Beloved*, pages 25-33

CAMINO: Elizabeth Johnson, *Consider Jesus*, pages 21-26 (begin with "Human Nature" and stop at the last paragraph on page 26)

SCRIPTURE: Assigned scripture passages:

7) Psalm 8:3-8

9) John 1:12-13

11) John 15:15

8) Mark 1:9-11

10) John 15:12-14

12) John 15:16-17

ASSIGNMENT: *Carefully* read your assigned Bible passage *several times* and identify 3 key insights on human nature based on this passage. Post on the discussion forum on Camino by 11:59pm Thursday and bring a hard copy with you to class.

Wednesday, February 4 - READ FOR CLASS:

CAMINO: Ronald Rolheiser, "Toward a Spirituality of Ecclesiology" in *The Holy Longing*, pages 114-134 (You may skim some of this, but make sure you get the key point of each section. Stop at "So Why Go to Church.")

Borg, *Heart*, pages 193 (bottom) -196 (top), "Being part of a church"

CAMINO: Robert McAfee Brown, "Worship: Piece of Cake or Subversion?" in *Speaking of Christianity*, pages 12-19

SCRIPTURE Reading: EVERYONE READ Acts 2:44-47; 4:32-35

Friday, February 6 - READ FOR CLASS:

Tattoos, Chapter 4: Water, Oil, Flame

Week 6 – Jesus Again (the Christ of Faith): *The Execution that Just Didn't Work*

Question: Why so much attention to this fellow who died 2000 years ago?

"For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

- Jesus, Matthew 18:20

If Jesus of Nazareth was the poor man from Galilee who was tortured to death, then Christ is that which cannot be destroyed, which came into the world with him and lives through us in him. – Dorothee Soelle, *Theology for Skeptics*

The overriding consideration is that the resurrection happened not just to anyone but to the Crucified One. ... Jesus had been found guilty by human judges, who did away with him as a danger to religious tradition and the stability of the state. God now overturns the judgment of those judges and says there is another, divine judgment to be made about this crucified criminal, namely, that he is the Son of God. – Elizabeth Johnson, *Consider Jesus*

Monday, October 28 - READ FOR CLASS:

CAMINO: Borg, *Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time*, pages 46-50 (stop at "The Purity System...")

Borg, *Heart*, chapter 5, pages 80-99

Wednesday, October 30- READ FOR CLASS:

CAMINO: Elizabeth Johnson, *Considering Jesus*, pages 27-33 (start at bottom of 27)

CAMINO: Ronald Rolheiser, *The Holy Longing*, pages 75-81

SCRIPTURE: Luke 24:13-35

OPTIONAL: *Revolutionary Patience*, poem #10 by Dorothee Soelle

Friday, November 1 - READ FOR CLASS:

Tattoos, Chapter 3: Compassion

DUE TODAY: Sunday Worship Reflection Paper

Week 7 – The Reign of God: A World of Justice, Compassion and Peace

Question: Can we keep politics out of the church?

I hate, I despise your festivals,
and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies. ...
Take away from me the noise of your songs;
I will not listen to the melody of your harps.
But let justice roll down like waters,
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream. - Amos 5:21, 23-24

Friday, November 8 - READ FOR CLASS:

CAMINO: *Cloud of Witnesses*, "Martin Luther King, Jr." (81-89), "Sanctuary" (135-146)

Week 8 – Liberation Theology: Christianity through other eyes

Question: What can we learn about Jesus from the poor and oppressed?

I give you thanks, Father, because the poor and the humble have understood, not the proud and the powerful. - Jesus (Matt. 11:25) as paraphrased by Archbishop Oscar Romero

A church that doesn't provoke any crisis, a gospel that doesn't unsettle, a word of God that doesn't get under anyone's skin, a word of God that doesn't touch the real sin of the society in which it is being proclaimed, what gospel is that? -- Archbishop Oscar Romero

When I ask people for bread to feed the poor, they think I am a saint; when I ask them why the poor are hungry, they think I am a communist. - Brazilian Bishop Dom Helder Camara

Sources must be read in a context, a location. What is the best context from which to read the texts about Jesus of Nazareth?

- "The Third World is the place of the gospel."
- Being consciously and actively immersed in the reality of El Salvador during the 1970s and 1980s has greatly enhanced my understanding of Jesus.
- The reality of El Salvador helps one understand Jesus' Galilee. The nature of Galilee's historical sin and grace is better understood through the *real* sin and grace of El Salvador, not only our thoughts *about* that sin and grace.
- [The martyrs of El Salvador] provide a privileged place from which to reread the texts about Jesus of Galilee and to better understand his life, praxis and destiny.
- When reality "breaks in," the manifestation of God has a special quality. It shakes things up and forces us to think, to do theology.

The conclusion is that it is not enough "to be₁₃ among concepts," if one wants to grasp

intellectively who Jesus is. Instead, it is necessary today “to be among realities,” analogous to how Jesus was among the realities of his day. – Jon Sobrino, S.J. 2009

Monday, November 11 - READ FOR CLASS:

CAMINO: *Cloud of Witnesses*, “Jon Sobrino” (21-28); “Dom Helder Camara” (207-215)

“Four U.S. Martyrs” (285-292)

SCRIPTURE Readings: Luke 4:16-21; Matthew 25:31-46

Wednesday, November 13 – Film: Romero

Week 10 – Religious Pluralism: Christianity in dialogue with religions
Questions: Are all religions created equal? Are only Christians “saved”?

On that day Israel will be third with Egypt and Assyria, a blessing in the midst of the earth, whom the Lord of hosts has blessed, saying, “Blessed be Egypt my people, and Assyria the work of my hands, and Israel my heritage.” Isaiah 19:24-25

“The God who made the world and everything in it, who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands. ... From one ancestor God made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, ... so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for and find God – though indeed God is not far from each one of us. For ‘In God we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said, ‘For we too are God’s offspring.’” – Paul, in Athens, Acts 17:22-28 (excerpts)

More divine truth and grace are found operative in the entire history of God’s dealings with humankind than are available simply in the Christian tradition.

- Jacques Dupuis

To put it simply, the living God is not a Christian. Rather, the incalculable mystery, which the Christian scripture dares to call love (I John 4:8 and 16) is not constrained

in loving but freely pours out affection to all and each one.

- Elizabeth Johnson, *The Quest for the Living God*

Monday, December 2 – REALLY READ FOR CLASS:

CAMINO: Elizabeth Johnson, *Quest for the Living God*, pgs 174 (“A Bountiful God”) – 179

SCRIPTURE: Acts 17:22-28

DUE TODAY: Jesus Paper

Wednesday, December 4 – IN CLASS FINAL

Friday, December 6 – READ FOR CLASS:

Borg, *Heart*, chapter 1, pages 2-5, 15-20

Tattoos, Chapter 10: Kinship

**NO FINAL DURING FINALS WEEK!
HAVE A GREAT WINTER BREAK!**