

Course Syllabus

KNT3631/6631 – Theology of Religions: Diversity, Plurality and the Christian Message Knox College

Toronto School of Theology
Fall/2017

Instructor Information

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Course Identification

Course Number: Course Code (e.g. KNT?)
Course Format: *In-class*
Course Name: Theology of Religions
Course Location: Knox College
Class Times:
Prerequisites: Introductory Course in Theology

Course Description

This course will explore major approaches to the relationship between the Christian Faith and other religions in the context of the plurality and diversity of the contemporary world.

Course Resources

Required Course Texts/Bibliography

- Kärkkäinen, Veli-Matti, **An introduction to the theology of religions: biblical, historical, and contemporary perspectives**. Downers Grove: IVP, 2003.

Course Website(s)

- Blackboard <https://weblogin.utoronto.ca/>

This course uses Blackboard for its course website. To access it, go to the UofT portal login page at <http://portal.utoronto.ca> and login using your UTORid and password. Once you have logged in to the portal using your UTORid and password, look for the **My Courses** module, where you'll find the link to the website for all your Blackboard-based courses. (Your course registration with ROSI gives you access to the course website at Blackboard.) Note also the information at

<http://www.portalinfo.utoronto.ca/content/information-students>. Students who have trouble accessing Blackboard should ask [xxx] for further help.]

- Personal Website <http://individual.utoronto.ca/jsmith>

Course Learning Objectives/Outcomes

College

First Degree course objectives are to:

- introduce the field of theology of religions
- become familiar with the multi-religious context of Canada
- develop an appreciation of other religions
- become familiar with the major themes, typologies and methods of theology of religions
- examine, critique and engage important theological models in theology of religions
- explore a Reformed missiological response to the multi-religious context and build a credible theology of religions

Graduate Students will demonstrate,

- The ability to identify and describe key developments in Christian theology of religions
- The ability to research and accurately describe the content and interests of a religion other than Christianity
- The ability to engage critically with major themes in theology of religions
- The ability to engage critically with major authors in the field
- The ability to engage perspectives in theology of religions from their own faith tradition
- The ability to teach others on the history and content of theology of religions

BD Level

Students successfully completing this course will be able to demonstrate the following learning outcomes. (Not all categories will be required for all courses.)

(A) IN RESPECT OF GENERAL ACADEMIC SKILLS

Identify and describe major approaches to the relationship between the Christian Faith and other religions

(B) IN RESPECT OF THE UNDERSTANDING OF THE CONTENT OF ONE OR MORE THEOLOGICAL DISCIPLINES

Identify and describe major typologies and methods in theology of religions

Describe the relationship between the reformed tradition and themes of mission and inter-religious dialogue

Identify and describe the factors in the Canadian context that makes theology of religions important

(C) IN RESPECT OF PERSONAL AND SPIRITUAL FORMATION

Formulate coherent theological responses to the engagement of secular culture and different religions

Demonstrate an ability to engage people of other faiths in respectful dialogue

Demonstrate an ability to engage people in secular culture in respectful dialogue

(D) IN RESPECT OF MINISTERIAL AND PUBLIC LEADERSHIP

Demonstrate an ability to give leadership within congregational and denominational communities

Graduate (AD) Level

The Graduate Studies Council (previously Advanced Degree Council) has developed detailed statements of “learning outcomes” for each of the advanced degree programs (ThD/PhD, MA and ThM). They are available as appendices in the respective Handbooks. “Learning outcomes” have to do in part with the level of knowledge and skill that will be characteristic of a typical graduate of the program. In accordance with this overall statement, instructors are required to develop a statement of learning outcomes for each course. These outcomes will provide one of the benchmarks for evaluation and grading.

COURSE OUTCOMES	COURSE ELEMENT	PROGRAM OUTCOMES
<p>By the end of this course, students successfully completing, will have acquired the following levels of knowledge:</p>	<p>This outcome will be achieved through these course elements:</p>	<p>This course outcome corresponds to this aspect of the TST outcomes statement for the individual AD program:</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> gained increased demonstration of comprehension of theology of religions in general and a specific aspect of it in particular; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> lectures course as a whole 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ThD/PhD: 1.1; 1.2 ThM I: 1.2 ThM II: 1.2 MA: 1.2
<p>increased ability to report, restate and summarise the history and biblical foundations of theology of religions;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> lectures seminar presentation final paper 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ThD/PhD: 1.1; 1.2 ThM I: 1.3 ThM II: 1.2 MA: 1.3
<p>increased their skill in applying their knowledge by the application of critical tools and methods;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> lectures (section 3) Paper on major religion final paper 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ThD/PhD: 1.1, 1.2 ThM I: 1.3 ThM II: 1.2 MA: 1.3
<p>had an opportunity to appraise, argue and assess the position of a particular author, passage or interpretive issue.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> final paper 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ThD/PhD: 1.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5 ThM I: 2.4, 2.6, 2.6 ThM II: 2.4, 2.5, 2.6

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MA: 2.4, 2.5, 2.6
<p>By the end of this course, students successfully completing, will have had an opportunity to demonstrate and enhance their level of ability in the following areas:</p>	<p>This outcome will be achieved through these course elements:</p>	<p>This course outcome corresponds to this aspect of the TST outcomes statement for the individual AD programs:</p>
Teaching a first degree class	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • seminar presentation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ThD/PhD: 2.2.1 • ThM I: 2.2.1 • ThM II: 2.2.1 • MA: 2.2.1
<p>Developing an appraisal and assessment of the complexity of a religion other than Christianity</p> <p>Critical engagement with a major author in the field</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper on major religion • final paper 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ThD/PhD: 2.2.2 • ThM I: 2.2.2 • ThM II: 2.2.2 • MA: 2.2.2
the use of a library and the construction of a bibliography	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • final paper 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ThD/PhD: 2.2.3 • ThM I: 2.2.4 • ThM II: 2.2.3 • MA: 2.2.4
<p>scholarly skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • clear and effective communication in both oral and written forms; • the construction of a logical argument; • the making of informed judgments on complex issues; • the use of standard conventions of style for scholarly writing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • seminars • final paper 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ThD/PhD: 2.2.5 • ThM I: 2.2.6 • ThM II: 2.2.5 • MA: 2.2.6

By the end of this course, students successfully completing, will have had an opportunity to demonstrate and enhance the following areas of vocational preparation:	This outcome will be achieved through these course elements:	This course outcome corresponds to this aspect of the TST outcomes statement for the individual AD programs:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an ability to reflect critically by appraising, distinguishing, examining and communicating effectively, a profound and nuanced understanding of theology of religions in the contemporary context 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • course as a whole • seminar • interaction with students from other ecclesiastical and theological traditions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ThD/PhD: 4.3.1.2

Evaluation First Degree Students

Assignments and grading for First Degree Students:

1. Seven Reading Reports based on Handbook. Due as per Course Calendar (Total pages for reports – two-three pages except as noted, double-spaced, 12pt, one-inch margins.) These reports will account for 50% of the course grade.

Grading Criteria: Each section will be graded on: accurate description of textbook content 6/10, style and clarity 2/10 and questions posed 2/10

2. Paper (five pages, double-spaced, 12 pt, one- inch margins with bibliography) Due **XXXXX**:

In this paper the student has to give evidence of reading another 300 pages of which at least 200 pages are from the following list of books (or alternative books approved by the instructor). The balance of the readings could come from the course bibliography. (This paper represents 10% of the course grade.)

- **Cobb, John B., Jr., and Christopher Ives, eds.** The Emptying God: A Buddhist-Jewish-Christian Conversation. **New York: Orbis, 1990.**
- **Covell Ralph R.** Confucius the Buddha and the Christ. **New York: Orbis 1986**
- **Cragg, Kenneth.** The Call of the Minaret. **Boston: Oneworld Publications, 2000.**
- **Cragg, Kenneth.** Muhammad and the Christian: A Question of Response. **London: Darton, Longman & Todd, 1984.**
- **Frazer, J.G.** The New Golden Bough. (Ed. T.H. Gaster) **New York: Criterion Books, 1959.**

- **Frazier, A.M.** Issues in Religion: A Book of Readings. (Preferably the 2nd Edition) New York: D.van Nonstrad, 1975.
- **Koyama, K.** Mount Fuji and Mount Sinai: A Critique of Idols. New York: Orbis, 1985.
- **Kúing, Hans, and J. Ching.** Christianity and Chinese Religions. New York: Doubleday. 1989.
- **Lefebure, Leo D.** The Buddha and the Christ: Explorations in Buddhist and Christian Dialogue. Maryknoll, N.Y.: Orbis, 1993.
- **Lee, Anthony Man-Tu.** Zen in 10 Simple Lessons. Barrons, 2002.
- **Panikkar, Raimundo.** The Silence of God: The Answer of the Buddha. Maryknoll, N.Y.: Orbis, 1989.
- **Panikkar, Raimundo.** The Unknown Christ of Hinduism. Rev. ed.; London: Darton, Longman & Todd, 1964,1981.
- **Tao Te Ching.** The Way of Life: Lao Tzu. (translated by R.B. W. Kennedy) New York: Mentor Books, 1955. (Or any other translation)
- **The Bhagavad Gita**
- **The Koran**
- **Thorpe, S.A.** African Traditional Religions: An Introduction. Pretoria: University of South Africa, 1993.

3. Paper: Describe your theology of religion with reference to: (Due XXXX)

1. Your perspective before the course
2. Questions raised during your reading and discussion in the course
3. A description of your perspective in relation to the major perspectives outlined in the course and your exploration of other religious views. (10 double-spaced pages - The paper will count for 40% of the course grade.)

Evaluation Graduate Students

Requirements

The final grade for the course will be based on evaluations in three areas.

- (1) Reading reports (10%) – In addition to participating in the regular activity of the class, including the reading of the required texts, students are expected to...
- (2) Paper on major religion (20%) – Students are expected to submit papers for all four of the seminars...
- (3) Seminar (30%)
- (4) Final paper (40%) – A substantial scholarly paper (25 pages or so)...

Grading System

A+ (90-100)
A (85-89)
A- (80-84)
B+ (77-79)
B (73-76)
B- (70-72)
Failure

Please see the appropriate handbook for more details about the grading scale and non-numerical grades (e.g. SDF, INC, etc).

Course Policies Knox College:

Policies for courses are contained in the TST Basic Degree Handbook and the Knox Student Handbook. In particular note:

Late Policy: 4 points deducted per week late (2 off by Monday, 2 more by Thursday)

Completion of Course Work: all course work (including any late work) must be completed by the end of term, the last day of exams. Only in the case of illness (with a note from a doctor), bereavement or other unusual circumstances will an extension be considered and this must be authorized by the Basic Degree Committee and the Faculty.

Style Guidelines for Papers: see Knox "Style Manual" booklet and A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses and Dissertations, by Kate L. Turabian

Email assignments: Please check with professor re: appropriate mode for submitting papers. EMAIL SUBMISSION IS ONLY ALLOWED WHERE SPECIAL PERMISSION IS GRANTED BY THE INSTRUCTOR. IT REMAINS THE STUDENT'S RESPONSIBILITY TO ENSURE THAT THE INSTRUCTOR RECEIVES THE SUBMISSION.

Plagiarism Policy: See TST Basic Degree Handbook

Consultation: Please do not hesitate to consult with me about any questions you may have.

Email and Course Blackboard site: Students must have a valid University of Toronto Email that is functioning for regular communication in this class and must be able to access the course Blackboard website for further information.

For Graduate Students: The same later policies apply as per above. No submission of work will be eligible for grading after the end of examination week without a pre-arranged SDF.

Course grades. Consistently with the policy of the University of Toronto, course grades submitted by an instructor are reviewed by a committee of the instructor's college before being posted. Course grades may be adjusted where they do not comply with University grading policy (<http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/grading.htm>) or college grading policy.

Policies

Accessibility. Students with a disability or health consideration, whether temporary or permanent, are entitled to accommodation. Students must register at the University of Toronto's Accessibility Services offices; information is available at <http://www.accessibility.utoronto.ca/>. The sooner a student seeks accommodation, the quicker we can assist.

Plagiarism. Students submitting written material in courses are expected to provide full documentation for sources of both words and ideas in footnotes or endnotes. Direct quotations should be placed within quotation marks. (If small changes are made in the quotation, they should be indicated by appropriate punctuation such as brackets and ellipses, but the quotation still counts as a direct quotation.) Failure to document borrowed material constitutes plagiarism, which is a serious breach of academic, professional, and Christian ethics. An instructor who discovers evidence of student plagiarism is not permitted to deal with the situation individually but is required to report to his or her head of college or delegate according to the TST *Basic Degree Handbook* and the Graduate program Handbooks (linked from <http://www.tst.edu/academic/resources/forms/handbooks> and the University of Toronto *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters* <http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/AssetFactory.aspx?did=4871>). A student who plagiarizes in this course will be assumed to have read the document "Avoidance of plagiarism in theological writing" published by the Graham Library of Trinity and Wycliffe Colleges http://www.trinity.utoronto.ca/Library_Archives/Theological_Resources/Tools/Guides/plag.htm.

Other academic offences. TST students come under the jurisdiction of the University of Toronto *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters* <http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm>.

Back-up copies. Please make back-up copies of essays before handing them in.

Obligation to check email. At times, the course instructor may decide to send out important course information by email. To that end, all students in conjoint programs are required to have a valid utoronto email address. Students must have set up their utoronto email address which is entered in the ACORN system. Information is available at www.utorid.utoronto.ca. The course instructor will not be able to help you with this. 416-978-HELP and the Help Desk at the Information Commons can answer questions you may have about your UTORid and password. *Students should check utoronto email regularly* for messages about the course. **Forwarding** your utoronto.ca email to a Hotmail, Gmail, Yahoo or other type of email account is not advisable. In some cases, messages from utoronto.ca addresses sent to Hotmail, Gmail or Yahoo accounts are filtered as junk mail, which means that emails from your course instructor may end up in your spam or junk mail folder.

Email communication with the course instructor. The instructor aims to respond to email communications from students in a timely manner. *All email communications from students should be sent from a utoronto email address.* Email communications from other email addresses are not secure, and also the instructor cannot readily identify them as being legitimate emails from students. The instructor is not obliged to respond to email from non-utoronto addresses.

Course Schedule

Week 1. Introduction, Issues, Context & Methods. (Slides 1-18)

Reading Report 1: Textbook pages 1-29. Describe the different types of classification used in theology of religions. (up to 3 pages). Identify at least two questions for further discussion. **Due Next Week.**

Week 2. Biblical Perspectives (Slides 19-30)

Reading Report 2. Textbook pages 33-51. Describe briefly the biblical perspectives on religions outlined in the textbook. (up to 3 pages) Identify at least two questions for class discussion. **Due Next Week.**

Week 3.. Biblical Perspectives (Slides 31-43)

Reading Report 3. Textbook pages 55-110. Describe historical developments in theology of religions. (up to 3 pages) Identify at least two questions for class discussion. **Due Next Week.**

Week 4. Patristic to Reformation Perspectives (Slides 44-67)

Reading Report 4. Textbook pages 111-164. Describe ecclesiocentric approaches to theology of religions. (up to 3 pages) Identify at least two questions for class discussion. **Due Next Week.**

Week 5. Enlightenment and Modernist Perspectives (Slides 68-90)

Reading Report 5. Textbook pages 165-223. Describe Ecclesiocentrism (Early Approaches) and Christocentrism in the Roman Catholic Tradition. (up to 3 pages) Identify at least 2 questions for class discussion. **Due Next Week.**

Week 6. Outline of Ecclesiastical Approaches (Slides 90-115)

Reading Report 6. Textbook pages 116-211. Describe Christocentrism from a mainline Protestantism very briefly in terms of Tillich, Pannenberg, Newbigin, and Thomas. And describe briefly the Evangelical Christocentric positions described. (up to 4 pages) Identify at least two questions for further class discussion. **Due Next Week.**

Week 7. Reading Week – No Class

Reading Report 7. Textbook pages 282-355. Describe briefly the theocentric and ecclesiocentric positions discussed in this section. (up to 3 pages). Identify at least 2 questions for class discussion. **Due Next Week.**

Week 8. Early 20th Century Protestant Ecclesiocentrism & Roman Catholic Christocentrism (Slides 115-136)

Week 9. Mainline Protestant Christocentrism, Evangelical Christocentrism (Slides 137-148)
Paper on religion Due

- Week 10. Contemporary Evangelical Christocentrics (Slides 149-159)
- Week 11. Theocentrism (Slides 160-172).
- Week 12. Ecclesiocentrics (173-179)
- Week 13. Class Discussion
- Week 14. Examination Week – No examination for this course
Final Paper Due – First Degree students on the day of class
Final Paper Due – Graduate students – last day of examination week 12 noon

Draft

Bibliography:

Anderson, Gerald H., and Thomas R Stransky, eds. Christ's Lordship and Religious pluralism. **Maryknoll N.Y.: Orbis, 1981.**

_____, **Critical Issues in Mission Theology. New York: Paulist, 1974.**

_____, **Faith Meets Faith. New York: Paulist, 1981.**

Anderson, Sir Norman. Christianity and World Religions: The Challenge of Pluralism.

Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1984.

Ariarajah, S. Wesley. The Bible and People of Other Faiths. **Geneva: World Council of Churches Publications, 1985.**

Bavinck, Johan H. The Church Between the Temple and Mosque: A Study of the Relationship Between the Christian Faith and Other Religions. **Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1966.**

Bosch, David J. Transforming Mission: Paradigm Shifts in Theology of Mission. **New York: Orbis, 1992.**

Braaten, Carl. No Other Gospel? Christianity Among the World's Religions. **Minneapolis: Augsburg, 1992.**

Buhlmann, Walbert. All Have the Same God. **Slough: St. Paul Publications, 1982.**

_____, **The Chosen Peoples. Maryknoll, N.Y.: Orbis, 1992.**

Burrows, William It, ed. Redemption and Dialogue. **New York: Orbis, 1993.**

Carruthers, Gregory H. The Uniqueness of Jesus Christ in the Theocentric Model of the Christian Theology of Religions: An Elaboration and Evaluation of the Position of John Hick. **Lanham: University Press of America, 1990.**

Clarke, Andrew D., and Bruce W. Winter, eds. One God, One Lord: Christianity in a World of Religious Pluralism. **2nd ed. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker, 1992.**

Clendenin, Daniel B. Many Gods, Many Lords: Christianity Encounters World Religions. **Grand Rapids: Baker, 1995.**

Cobb John B Jr. Beyond Dialogue Toward a Mutual Transformation of Christianity and Buddhism. **Philadelphia: Fortress, 1982.**

_____, **Christ in a Pluralistic Age. Philadelphia: Westminster Press 1975**

Cobb, John B., Jr., and Christopher Ives, eds. The Emptying God: A Buddhist-Jewish-Christian Conversation. **New York: Orbis, 1990.**

Copeland, B. Luther. A New Meeting of the Religions: Interreligious Relationships and Theological Questioning. **Waco: Baylor University Press, 1999.**

Covell, Ralph R. Confucius the Buddha and the Christ. **New York: Orbis 1986**

Coward, Harold. Pluralism: Challenge to World Religions. **New York: Orbis, 1985.**

_____, **ed.** Hindu Christian Dialogue Perspectives and Encounters. **New York: Orbis, 1990.**

Cracknell, Kenneth. Justice, Courtesy and Love: Theologians and Missionaries Encountering World Religions, 1846-1914. **London: Epworth, 1995.**

_____, **Towards a New Relationship: Christians and People of Other Faiths. London: Epworth, 1986.**

Cragg, Kenneth. The Christ and the Faiths: Theology in Cross Reference. **London: SPCK, 1986.**

_____, **The Christian and the Other Religions. London: Mowbray, 1977.**

_____, **Muhammad and the Christian: A Question of Response. London: Darton, Longman & Todd, 1984.**

Danielou, Jean. Holy Pagans of the Old Testament. **London: Longmans, Green & Co., 1957**

Dawe, Donald G. and John B Carman eds. Christian Faith in a Religiously Plural World. **New York: Orbis, 1978.**

D'Costa Gavin. John Hicks Theology of Religions A Critical Evaluation **New York: University Press of America, 1987.**

- _____, The Meeting of Religions and the Trinity. **New York: Orbis 2000**
- _____, Theology and Religious Pluralism The Challenge of Other Religions. **Oxford: Basel Blackwell, 1986.**
- _____, ed. Christian Uniqueness Reconsidered The Myth of a Pluralistic Theology of Religions. **New York: Orbis, 1990.**
- Dean, Thomas, ed.** Religious Pluralism and Truth: Essays on Cross-Cultural Philosophy of Religion. **Albany: State University of New York Press, 1995.**
- DiNoia, Joseph A.** The Diversity of Religions: A Christian Perspective. **Washington, DC: Catholic University of America Press, 1992.**
- Drummond, Richard H.** Toward a New Age in Christian Theology. **Maryknoll, N.Y.: Orbis, 1985.**
- Dupuis, Jacques.** Jesus Christ at the Encounter of World Religions. **Maryknoll N.Y.: Orbis 1991.**
- _____, Toward a Christian Theology of Religious Pluralism. **Maryknoll, N.Y.: Orbis, 1997.**
- Erickson, Millard J.** How Shall They Be Saved? The Destiny of Those Who Do Not Hear of Jesus. **Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker, 1996.**
- Fredericks, James L.** Faith Among Faiths: Christian Theology and Non-Christian Religions. **New York: Paulist, 1999.**
- Gillis, Chester.** A Question of Final Belief J. Hick's Pluralistic Theology of Salvation. **London: Macmillan, 1989.**
- Gioia, Francesco, ed.** Interreligious Dialogue: The Official Teaching of the Catholic Church 1963-1995. **Boston: Pauline, 1997.**
- Gort, Jerald D.** On Sharing Religious Experience: Possibilities of Interfaith Mutuality. **Grand Rapids, Mich.: Eerdmans, 1992.**
- Griffiths, Paul J.** An Apology for Apologetics: A Study of the Logic of Interreligious Dialogue. **Maryknoll, N.Y.: Orbis, 1991.**
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- _____, God Has Many Names. **Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1982.**
- _____, An Interpretation of Religion. **New Haven: Yale University Press, 1989.**
- _____, The Metaphor of God Incarnate Christology in a Pluralistic Age. **Louisville Ky.: Westminster John Knox, 1993.**
- _____, The Second Christianity. 3rd enl. ed. of Christianity at the Centre. **London: SCM Press, 1983.**

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- Hick, John, and Paul F. Knitter, eds. *The Myth of Christian Uniqueness: Toward a Pluralistic Theology of Religions*. Maryknoll, N.Y.: Orbis, 1987.
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- Kirk, J. Andres, and Kevin J. Vanhoozer. *To Stake a Claim: Mission and the Western Crisis of Knowledge*. Maryknoll, N.Y.: Orbis, 1999.
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