

Christianity and World Religions

THEO 60819-01 (3884)

M.T.W.R.F., 8:30-11:10

June 16-July4, 2014

Prof. Young-chan Ro

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Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday, 11:20-12:00, and by appointment

Malloy Hall 240

This course explores Christian faith in the context of comparative and cross-cultural understanding of “God” or “ultimate reality” in light of cultural and religious diversity. The course will investigate the nature of human religiosity or “faith” by understanding different worldviews and value systems. The second part of this course will concentrate on non-Western religions including Buddhism, Confucianism, and Daoism in East Asia. The course will discuss how to meet “other” religious and cultural traditions in order to engage in a meaningful dialogue with other traditions.

Texts

Required:

Dalai Lama, *Beyond Religion*.

Mircea Eliade, *The Sacred and The Profane*

Paul Tillich, *Dynamics of Faith*

Fredrick Mote, *Intellectual Foundation of China*

Recommended:

Raimon Panikkar, *The Intrareligious Dialogue*. New York: Paulist Press, 1999

Paul Knitter, *Without Buddha I Could not be a Christian*, London: Oxford, 2009

Requirements:

1. Class participation and contributions
2. Two reflection papers (5 pages for each paper)

“In” (incomplete) is given to the students who request in writing two weeks prior to the final exam date. Permission is given based on legitimate reasons.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

University of Notre Dame is an Honor Code university; please see the University Catalog for a full description of the code and the honor committee process. The principle of academic integrity is taken very seriously and violations are treated gravely. What does academic integrity mean in this course? Essentially this: when you are responsible for a task, you will perform that task.

When you rely on someone else's work in an aspect of the performance of that task, you will give full credit in the proper, accepted form. Another aspect of academic integrity is the free play of ideas. Vigorous discussion and debate are encouraged in this course, with the firm expectation that all aspects of the class will be conducted with civility and respect for differing ideas, perspectives, and traditions. When in doubt (of any kind) please ask for guidance and clarification.

Topics and Readings

Some readings may require multiple readings. Some writings are dense and requires a slow and careful reading with many dictionaries on philosophy, world religions, theology, etymology, etc. In some cases, multiple readings may be required. Do not be fooled by the quantity of the readings in some texts.

Topics and Reading Assignments (it may be readjusted as needed):

June 16, Introduction

Dynamics of Faith,

June 17, 1-34

June 18, 35-83

June 19, 84-113

June 20, 115-147

The Sacred and The Profane

June 23, 20-65

June 24, 68-113

June 25, 116-159

June 26, 162-213

Beyond Religion (Buddhism)

June 27, 3-71

June 30, 73-153

July 2, 155-183

Intellectual Foundation of China (Confucianism and Daoism)

July 3, 1-58

July 4, 59-114