

Christian Thought

UCCS—Spring 2017

PHIL 3620

Tuesdays, 1:40 – 4:20

Columbine Hall 322

Instructor: Jeff Scholes

Office: COB 4057

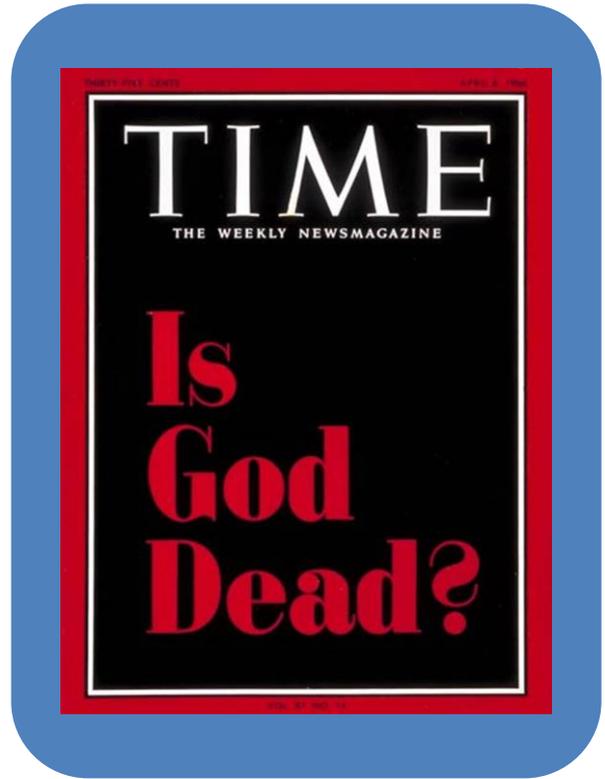
Office Hours:

Tuesdays, 12:15-1:30; Wednesdays, 12:15-1:30

email me to set up an appointment to guarantee a meeting

Phone: x8113

E-mail: jscholes@uccs.edu



Course Rationale and Description

Christianity has its doctrine and rituals that many are familiar with, but it also has a 2,000 year intellectual history. In other words, thinkers have modified their thinking on Christianity over the last two millennia based on changing times. The 20th century was a particularly tumultuous century that forced the Christian religion to adjust its message in order to respond to certain events.

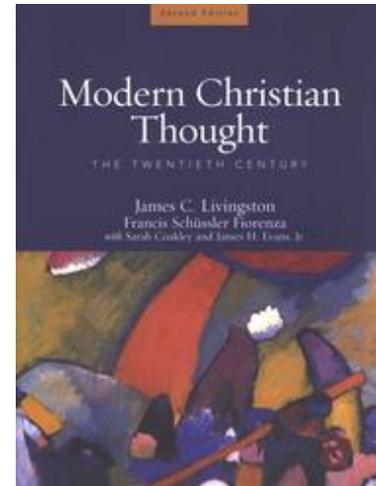
This course examines those twists and turns, particularly in the 20th and early 21st centuries, in Christian thought. Students will learn of the historical and philosophical context out of which certain theologies arise and what these theologies are attempting to accomplish. In addition, students should be able to critically analyze the intellectual response to recent historical movements for their cogency and failures. Emergent will be a fuller understanding of the complex relationship between history, philosophy and Christianity.

Course Objectives

- To lay out the major concepts in Christian theology
- To familiarize ourselves with the place of Christianity in the post-Enlightenment West
- To locate certain 20th and 21st century thinkers in a longer intellectual history of Christianity
- To think and write critically of ideas and arguments of the thinkers covered

Required Texts

- *Modern Christian Thought: The Twentieth Century*, vol. 2, 2nd ed., James Livingston and Francis Schüssler Fiorenza, Fortress Press, 2000. (MCT)



- Course Reading Packet (CRP)
 - This contains primary readings from selected thinkers and will be available for free on Blackboard under the appropriate content folder for the week.

Course Requirements

1. Reading Response Papers (RRP)

- You will write a **250-300 word** response to the primary reading (found in the CRP) each week and post it under the Discussion Board on Bb
- Your response will be in the form of answers to the following 2 questions:
 1. What is the author's main point?
 2. How does the author support this point?
- You must comment at least twice on the posts from two other students

2. Leading Discussion Assignment (LDA)

- Each of you will lead a weekly class discussion
- On your assigned week, you will:
 1. Write a **critical analysis** of the primary reading (**250-300 words**) that answers the primary question: "Is the argument presented good or bad, and why?"
 2. Write out at least 3 **discussion questions** that will get us going (Print out both of these and bring to class OR send to me via email at least 30 minutes before class and I'll print them out for the class)
 3. Lead the class discussion
 4. **You will still turn in an RRP on the week of your LDA**

3. Midterm Paper

- 1000-1500 word (3-4 pages) essay on a question that I ask
- Turned in on Bb

4. Final Thesis Paper

- 2500-3000 word (8-10 pages, double-spaced, 1" margins) **THESIS** paper
- Each student will meet with me individually to discuss this paper.
- Turned in on Bb

Attendance

- Because we meet only once a week and have only 15 class sessions, it is imperative that you attend each session.
- Yet I understand that issues come up that may force you to miss class. **Hence you may miss one class unexcused with no penalty.**
- Missing more than one class with an unexcused absence, however, will result in the lowering of your **final grade by a half a letter grade per class missed after one**. Or a B becomes a B- for 2 unexcused absences, a C+ for 3 unexcused absences. Only absences accompanied by a medical note or substantiated family emergency are excused, all others are considered unexcused.
- If you are late and miss the role sheet, please notify me of your presence at the break, and I will mark you tardy. Two tardies constitute one full absence.
- You must stay for the whole class. This means you must be on time and not leave early. I pass around a role sheet at the beginning and sometimes when we return from break to check this.
- **Work does NOT constitute an excused absence**

Additional notes

1. A **late assignment** is 10% off each day it is late. So if you turn it one second after the time in which it is due, you will start out with a 90% out of 100%. Turn it in the next day (after midnight on the day it is due), and it starts out a 80% out of 100%
2. If you must use a laptop to take notes in class, I require that you **sit on the front two rows** in class.
3. Cell phones **must be shut off** during class. If you text during class, you will be asked to leave class for the duration and points will be deducted from your Class Participation grade.
4. **Plagiarism** (or using someone else as a source for your own material without giving credit to that other source) will receive either a failing grade on the assignment or for the class (I will use discretion on a case-by-case basis)

Grade Percentages

Reading Response Papers	10 x 3% a piece =	30%
Leading Discussion Assignment:		15%
Midterm Paper:		20%
Final Thesis Paper:		35%

Grade Scale

95 – 100 = A	74 – 76 = C
90 – 94 = A –	70 – 73 = C –
87 – 89 = B+	
84 – 86 = B	60 – 69 = D
80 – 83 = B –	

77 –79 = C+

Below 60 = F

Note: I round up to the nearest tenth of a percent on your FINAL GRADE. If you finish with an 89.5, that is rounded up to an A-. But if you finish with an 89.49999999999999, that is still a B+.

Schedule

Date Topic	To Read (BEFORE the date of the class listed in the row)	Written Assignments (all assignments due at 1:40 pm on date in left hand column)
1/17 Introduction to Course	No reading assignment	No written assignment due
1/24 Basics of Christianity	1. "Brief History of Christianity" (in Course Reading Packet—CRP)	No written assignment due
1/31 Legacy of Modernity	1. Preface [xiv-xvi]; Ch. 1 [1-17] in Modern Christian Thought (MCT) 2. Schleiermacher (CRP)	1. No RRP due 2. Leading Discussion Assignment (LDA)- "Brief History of Christianity"
2/7 American Empirical Religion	1. Ch. 2 [33-42]-MCT: 2. James-CRP	1. Reading Response Paper 1 (RRP)— Schleiermacher 2. LDA—Schleiermacher
2/14 Dialectical Theology	1. Ch. 3 [62-75]-MCT 2. Barth-CRP	1. RRP 2 due—James 2. LDA-James
2/21 Christian Existentialism	1. Ch. 5 [133-138; 140-146]-MCT 2. Tillich-CRP	1. RRP 3 due—Barth 2. LDA--Barth
2/28 Christian Realism	1. Ch. 6 [165-167; 175-181]-MCT 2. Niebuhr-CRP	1. Midterm paper due at 1:40 pm 2. LDA--Tillich
3/7 Political Theology and Liberation Theology	1. Ch. 9 [273-278; 288-295]-MCT 2. Gutierrez-CRP	1. RRP 4 due—Niebuhr 2. LDA-Niebuhr
3/14 Process Theology	1. Ch. 10 [309-329]-MCT 2. Hartshorne-CRP	1. RRP 5 due—Gutierrez 2. LDA-Gutierrez
3/21 Evangelical Theology	1. Ch. 12 [387-392; 401-408]-MCT 2. Packer-CRP	1. RRP 6 due—Hartshorne 2. LDA-Hartshorne

3/28	Spring Break	
4/4 Feminist Theology	1. Ch. 13 [417-428] MCT 2. Schüssler Fiorenza CRP	1. RRP 7 due—Packer 2. LDA-Packer
4/11 Black Theology	1. Ch. 14 [448-460] MCT 2. Cone CRP	1. RRP 8 due— Schüssler Fiorenza 2. LDA- Schüssler Fiorenza
4/18	Meet individually at my office to discuss final thesis paper	
4/25 Christianity and Other Religions	1. Ch. 15 [469-479]-MCT 2. Rahner-CRP	1. RRP 9 due—Cone 2. LDA-Cone
5/2 PoMo Theology	1. Ch. 16 [493-495; 500-506]- MCT	1. RRP 10 due—Rahner 2. LDA-Rahner
5/9	Final Research Paper due in Bb—1:40 pm	

Evaluation guidelines for all written assignments

Grade	Description	Content	Style
A 95-100	Excellent work	Assignment goes above and beyond completion according to instructions; shows both sophisticated understanding of course materials and original critical thought; professor learns something from the student	Grammar, spelling, punctuation, and citations are perfect or nearly perfect
A- 90-94 B+ 87-89	Strong work	Assignment shows not only solid understanding of materials but also some original thought and critical engagement	Only minor mistakes present in grammar, spelling, punctuation, and citations
B 84-86 B- 80-83 C+ 77-79	Acceptable work	Assignment is completed according to instructions but not much more; shows some understanding of materials but little individual thought/engagement	Sloppy; grammar, spelling, punctuation, and citations may be faulty or poor
C 74-76 C- 70-73 D+ 67-69 D 64-66	Poor work	Assignment not completed according to instructions and/or shows lack of reading, thought, and/or understanding of materials	Grammar, spelling, punctuation and citations are poor
D- 60-63 F 59>	Unacceptable work	No evidence of reading/thinking at all; student shows blatant disregard for assignment apart from turning it in (or paper was 4 days late or more)	Grammar, spelling, punctuation and citations are poor or non-existent
0	Ungraded	Student cheated/plagiarized or assignment was not turned in at all.	

Statement of Academic Integrity

Academic integrity lies at the foundation of the academic process. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, acts of fraud and deception on an examination or class assignment, acts of forgery or unauthorized alteration of any official academic record or document, and attempts to gain credit for work which one has plagiarized from the work of another person.

Plagiarism means taking ideas and writings from another person—known or unknown, published or unpublished—and representing them as one's own work. The word-for-word use of another person's work must in every instance be acknowledged by the use of quotation marks or by indentation and single-spacing of the material if at least three lines long, and the citation of author and precise source. Dependence upon another person's work, whether through paraphrase or the utilization of that person's statements as a basis for one's own, must be acknowledged by author and source citation.

Academic dishonesty also includes the submission, as one's own work, of another person's work, such as another student's term paper or a paper from a term paper preparation service. The submission of one's own paper, or a substantial portion thereof, for academic credit in two or more courses also is considered to be academic dishonesty, except in those rare instances in which the instructors involved are so informed and give prior approval. In some cases when a faculty member believes that a student has not followed the rules for appropriate citation of materials he or she may wish to have the student redo the work or address the problem in another way.

No online research is allowed for this course without prior approval from the professor. Online encyclopedias (e.g. Wikipedia) are **not acceptable academic sources in all cases. Often, they are merely repositories of plagiarized information, or simply, they cannot be trusted as can published material.**

***Collaborative studying is allowed for this course, but no amount of collaboration may take place in the writing phase of any assignment. Doing such will be considered a form of cheating. Any submitted work that resembles too closely the submitted work of another student will result in serious consequences. Students must complete their own written work in its entirety. Also, no amount of copying (cutting and pasting) from other documents is allowed. All use of academic resources (lectures, essays, articles, books, online material, etc.) must properly cite/credit these sources for the ideas and language contained therein. Failure to do so is plagiarism, and will result in expulsion from the class, a grade of "F," and perhaps further academic penalties.**

Resources for Avoiding Plagiarism

<http://web.uccs.edu/history/toolbox/plagiarism.htm>

<http://tlt.its.psu.edu/suggestions/cyberplag/cyberplagexamples.html>

<http://www.chem.uky.edu/Courses/common/plagiarism.html>

<http://www.unc.edu/depts/wcweb/handouts/plagiarism.html>

<http://www.indiana.edu/~istd/examples.html>

Student Conduct Standards and Procedures

<http://web.uccs.edu/studentconduct/>

Additional Course Information

No incompletes will be given unless the student contacts me well in advance of the end of the quarter. The circumstances must include serious medical problems or other extreme difficulties.

All requests for special accommodations, e.g., medical, athletic, or learning-related, must be presented to me the first day of class. All such requests must be accompanied by the appropriate paperwork to be considered.

No absences will be excused except in the cases of (a) an emergent medical situation or severe illness; or (b) a death in the student's immediate family.

"Disabilities Services: Students with disabilities should turn in their disability verification letters within the first two weeks of class. For further information, contact Disability Services, Main Hall 105, 255-3354. For more information, see the [Disability Services page: http://www.uccs.edu/~dservice/](http://www.uccs.edu/~dservice/)

Military students: If you are a military student with the potential of being called to military service and/or training during the course of the semester, you are encouraged to contact your UCCS course instructor no later than the first week of class to discuss the class attendance policy. Please see the Military Students website for more information: <http://www.uccs.edu/~military/>."

Upon matriculation, all students implicitly agree to abide by the University's Academic Honor Code. Any violations of that code in our class will be taken very seriously. If we find evidence that you've violated the Honor Code, *either intentionally or unintentionally*, you will either (a) receive no credit for the assignment in question; or (b) be expelled from the class and assigned a failing grade for the course. In extreme cases, you may also be reported to the appropriate authorities on campus for further review.

A great online resource for learning proper citation and bibliographic method is the following: <http://www.dianahacker.com/resdoc/>

Accommodations

Any student wishing an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the instructors privately as soon as possible to discuss your specific needs. We rely on the Office of Academic Support to verify the need for accommodation based on their office files.

FERPA Information

According to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA), also known as the Buckley Amendment, information concerning grades and other student information may only be disseminated to a student in a secure and confidential fashion.

OTHER INFO:

Philosophy Department Homepage: <http://web.uccs.edu/philosophy/>

E-Companion Log-in: <http://www.uccs.edu/~online/login2.htm>

Campus E-mail Log-in: <http://webmail.uccs.edu/>

Information Technology Site (for downloading VPN, helpdesk, etc.):

<http://www.uccs.edu/~helpdesk/index.html>

IT Services Helpdesk Phone: (719) 262-3536