

Concordia College – New York

THE 201 Global Christianity

- ONLINE -

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Adjunct Professor

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Office Hours: available via e-mail (will respond within 24 hours)

Course Description in Academic Catalogue

An exploration of the Christian faith and ethos in conversation with the liberal arts and professional studies as contextualized in the experiences of Christians from around the world. Pre-requisite: THE 101 (Christian Faith and Ethos), COM 100, and at least second-year standing.

Special Focus: Expressions of Christian Identity Across Time and Place

This semester we will be exploring the varied ways in which a Christian identity has been expressed in a wide range of historical, social, and geographic contexts and how that may inform our own diverse experiences and endeavours. This course will first focus on the history of the global spread of Christianity over the last two millennia, from its humble beginnings in Jerusalem and Judea to places as disparate as Indiana and India, the Falkland Islands and Fiji. This course will also want to understand what Christian “identity” has meant throughout this time and how local contexts and global movements have both impacted Christian traditions and been impacted by them. Finally, this course will ask students to consider their own place within contemporary Christianity and what the future might hold for Christianity across the globe.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- A. articulate the Christian faith and ethos through surveying the global impact of Christianity in direct relation to Christian history and identity;
- B. articulate ways in which issues of identity and local context interact with Christian traditions, notably, who Jesus is and why he matters;
- C. articulate the connections between the Christian faith and ethos and the liberal arts and professional studies;
- D. articulate your own identity in relationship to our diverse world, faith and reason, theology and philosophy, the sacred and secular, Christ and culture.

The student will become familiar with the contours of global Christianity, concentric and conflicting worldviews, and the history of ideas through engaging the topic of human identity in relation to Christ and the Christian faith. The student will also become familiar with related primary theological and philosophical sources, and further develop and hone skills in reading, thinking and listening. This will be accomplished by encountering a wide variety of individuals who embodied in their own historical and social context what they perceived a Christian identity to entail. Success in reaching these goals will be assessed through discussion board responses, two exams, a course essay project, and participation in class lecture and discussion. Through reading primary sources, listening to course lectures, and writing, the student will comprehend select and fundamental concepts and categories of the academic study of Christian thought and the history of ideas over time and vast geographical distances. This will be achieved through student thinking and writing and will be assessed through the course essay project, discussion boards, the mid-term and the final exam. The goal of the course is for you contemplate and articulate your identity in relation to global Christianity (who you are).

Readings

Course readings and primary sources as provided by the professor. Weekly course readings are found on Blackboard. We will also be referencing the Christian Scriptures (ESV): <https://www.esv.org> (ESV)

Methods of Instruction and Requirements

Our approach to human identity concentrates on primary sources in global Christian life and thought, and the history of ideas. As insightful interpreters, we will balance a hermeneutic of sympathy with a hermeneutic of suspicion. In other words, we will attempt to think through what it means to be fully human and with the fortitude of providence venture forth to find our place in the universe.

1. Careful and thoughtful reading of all assignments prior to the class for which they are assigned:

You are expected to actively engage the text(s) and to be able to discern central themes and draw connections between the various readings. Material from the reading assignments will not necessarily be covered in class. It is essential that you read the course material.

2. Punctual attendance and active participation in all class sessions:

Credit for participation requires the following: attending, listening, and thinking during our Zoom conference sessions and watching the lectures and taking notes. You are expected to provide thoughtful contributions to class discussions. Late work may or may not be accepted.

3. Essay Project:

You will be expected to write a 6 – 10-page paper (double-spaced, 12 pt. Arial or Times New Roman font, 1” margins, etc.) responding to the following three-point prompt: 1) How is your identity shaped by Christianity? 2) What have been some of the most significant historical processes that have come to shape your identity in relationship to Christianity? 3) Why does global Christianity matter for Christians and non-Christians alike?

4. Discussion Boards and Responses:

You will be expected to participate in weekly discussion boards by 1) posting your own original response to the discussion prompt and 2) posting two questions and/or comments to your fellow students’ original post. You will only receive partial credit if you only post your own response, leave just one comment, etc. That means that each discussion post will require three actions from you: 1) your original post, 2) a comment or question on a fellow students’ post, and 3) an additional comment or question on your fellow students’ post.

5. Mid-term and Final Exams

Accommodations for Students with Documented Disabilities

Concordia College complies with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 as amended by the ADA Amendments Act of 2008. Students with disabilities who need special accommodations must submit documentation of the disability to the Concordia Connection Program in order for reasonable accommodations to be granted. Students are encouraged to notify their instructors and the Connection Program as soon as they determine accommodations are necessary; however, documentation will be reviewed upon receipt at any point in the semester. The Connection Program will partner with students to determine the appropriate accommodations and, in cooperation with the instructor, will work to provide all students with a fair opportunity to perform in the particular class. Specific details of the disability will remain confidential between the student and the Connection Program, unless the student chooses to disclose or there is legitimate academic need for disclosure on a case-by-case basis.

Academic Integrity and Ethics

At Concordia College – New York, we are guided in all of our work by the values of academic integrity and ethics: honesty, trust, fairness, responsibility, and respect. As a student, you are required to demonstrate these values in all of the work you do. Participating in behaviour that violates academic integrity and ethics (e.g., plagiarism, unauthorized collaboration, multiple submissions, cheating on examinations, or fabricating information) will result in your being sanctioned. Violations of Concordia College’s academic integrity and ethics policies are very serious and documentation of violations will be forwarded to the office of the Dean of Students, where records are kept for five years after the student graduates or withdraws from the College. Violations may subject you to

disciplinary action including the following: receiving a failing grade on an assignment or examination; receiving a failing grade for the course; and/or suspension or expulsion from the program and/or college. Refer to the *Student Guide* section on Academic Integrity and Ethics for complete policies.

Evaluation

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|--------------------------|-----|
| Participation | 20% |
| Weekly Discussion Boards | 20% |
| Mid-term Exam | 20% |
| Essay | 20% |
| Final Exam | 20% |

Grading System / Quality Points

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|----|---|---------|-----------------------|
| A | = | 94-100% | (4.0 quality points) |
| A- | = | 90-93% | (3.7 quality points) |
| B+ | = | 87-89% | (3.3 quality points) |
| B | = | 84-86% | (3.0 quality points) |
| B- | = | 80-83% | (2.7 quality points) |
| C+ | = | 77-79% | (2.3 quality points) |
| C | = | 74-76% | (2.0 quality points) |
| C- | = | 70-73% | (1.7 quality points) |
| D+ | = | 65-69% | (1.3 quality points) |
| D | = | 60-64% | (1.0 quality points) |
| F | = | 0-59% | (0.0 quality points) |

Course Schedule:

Week 1: April 22 - 27

Watch: Welcome and Introduction to the Course

Watch: The State of Global Christianity

Watch: Christianity, Christianities, or Christian traditions?

Read: Global Data on Christianity PDFs

Discuss: State of global Christianity & your Christian identity

Zoom: Course orientation and conversation

Readings on Blackboard

Week 2: April 29 - May 4

Watch: From Humble Beginnings to the Halls of Power – Christianity from Judea to the Roman Empire

Read: Primary Documents

Discuss: Of Martyrs and Empire

Zoom: Discuss the ancient origins and early spread of Christianity

Readings on Blackboard

Week 3: May 6 - May 11

Watch: From Christendom to Reformation – European Christianity

Read: Primary Documents

Discuss: Of Prophets, Priests, and Kings

Zoom: Discuss the impact of Europe on Christianity + Essay Project

Mid-Term: Take mid-term exam covering weeks 1 – 3 (by May 12)

Readings on Blackboard

Week 4: May 13 - 18

Watch: From the New World to the New World Order – Christianity & The Modern Era of Globalization

Read: Primary documents

Discuss: Global transformations and the “next Christendom”

Zoom: Discuss the impact of globalization on Christianity

Readings on Blackboard

Week 5: May 20 - 26

Watch: The Late-Modern and the Future of Christianity

Re-read: Global Data on Christianity PDFs + “The Next Christendom”

Discuss: Future predictions and pretend prophecy

Zoom: Christianity identity and the next millennium

Final Exam: Take final exam covering entire course (by May 26)

Essay Project: Due May 26

Readings on Blackboard