

## Modern Christianity (REL 1205/2205)

T/TH 10:50 – 12:05  
Spring 2010  
St Mary 204

Dr. Marianne Delaporte  
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Office Hours: T/TH 9:00 – 10:30  
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### **Objectives:**

- To encourage an understanding of the broad geographical and social scope of the history of the Christian church, its major turning points, personalities, and teachings.
- To display the importance of historical context (especially social, political, and religious thought and actions) on the formation of church teachings and practices.
- To develop an appreciation for people in the history of Christianity.
- To clarify the centrality of religion in world history.
- To have a solid grounding in the history of Christianity, with special emphases on the Catholic tradition.

### **Requirements:**

- Two tests
- 6 online quizzes. (2.5 % each. Lowest grade dropped).
- Attendance and in-class participation
- *Upper Division students* will give An oral presentation debate concerning the Scopes Trial and Intelligent Design and will write a 2 to 3 page paper on the subject.
- One four to six part project on a particular religious faith tradition. Details will be given on the portal. This will include:
  - 1) Four page history and doctrine of denomination and handout filled out and bibliography.
  - 2) A multi-media assignment. See portal
  - 3) 2 visits to service at a church of your religious denomination. Following this – 3 page paper following site visit instructions found on portal.
  - 4) *Upper Division* – Interviews with two members of the denomination – one must be a professional (priest, minister, deacon etc) and another may be a lay person. Further instructions on portal.
  - 5) A 15 minute group oral presentation. See syllabus for date of your presentation. Prior to this presentation you must meet with professor during office hours.
  - 6) *Upper Division* – A final, thesis driven, 8 to 10 page research paper based on the accumulated evidence.

### **Required Texts:**

- Justo Gonzales – *The Story of Christianity: Volume II*
- <http://hrr.hartsem.edu/megachurch/database.html> (MegaChurch Website)
- <http://religiousmovements.lib.virginia.edu/> (New Religious Movements Website)
- <http://religions.pewforum.org/> (Pew Forum on U.S. Religious Landscape Website)
- Readings found on portal

**SUBJECT****READING DUE AND ASSIGNMENTS****Week One:**

Jan. 14      *Introduction*

**Week Two:**

Jan. 19      *The Reformation*

Jan. 21      *The Continental Reformation*      Gonzales 1, 2, 5, 7

**Week Three:**

Jan. 26      *Luther's Theology*      Gonzales 3, 4, Portal reading

Jan. 28      *The Radical Reformation*      Gonzales 6  
**Quiz 1**

**Week 4:**

Feb. 2      *The English Reformation*      Gonzales 8

Feb. 4      *The Catholic Reformation*      Gonzales 12 and 13

**Week 5:**

Feb. 9      *Catholic Missions*      Las Casas handout

Feb. 11

**Week 6:**

Feb. 16      *Catholics and Quakers*      Gonzales 18, 22, 23  
**Quiz 2 Online due by class**

Feb. 18      *Rationalism and the Enlightenment*      Gonzales 14, 15, 21

**Week 7:**

Feb. 23      *Moravians and Methodists*      **Part 1 Project Work Due**

Feb. 25      *The Thirteen Colonies*      Gonzales 24  
**Quiz 3**

**Week 8:**

March 2      **Student Presentation: Unitarian Universalists**  
**Student Presentation: Mennonites**

March 4      **TEST**      **Part 2 Project Work Due**

**Week 9: SPRING BREAK****Week 10:**

March 16      *Europe and Revolutions*      Gonzales 26, 28, 29

March 18 – No Class – Community Collaboration Day

**Week 11:**

March 23      *Colonial Expansion*

Gonzales 30

**Quiz 4 Online**

**Part 3 Project Work Due**

March 25      *United States*

Gonzales 25

**Student Presentation: African Methodist Episcopal Church**

**Week 12:**

March 30      *New Religious Movements I*

**Student Presentation: Church of Latter Day Saints**

**Parts 4 and 5 Project Work Due**

April 1      *Post-World War I*

Gonzales 31, 34 – 35

**Quiz 5**

**Week 13:**

April 6      *The Scopes Trial*

Readings on Portal  
(Intelligent Design video and  
Scopes Trial)

**Upper Division Debate**

April 8      *Vatican II*

Gonzales 33, 36

**Week 14:**

April 13      *New Religious Movements II*

NRM Website

April 15      *The Catholic Church*

Pew Forum Website

**Quiz 6 online**

**Week 15:**

April 20      *Africa*

handout

April 22      *The Pentecostal Movement*

**Student Presentation: Pentecostal Church**

**Week 16:**

April 27      *Megachurches*

Megachurches Website

April 29

**Week 17:      TEST**

**Part 6 of Project Due.**