



Course Syllabus Wycliffe College Toronto School of Theology

This description is intended to assist in the course approval process and to assist students in determining whether this course will help them achieve their educational objectives and the learning goals of their program. It is not a learning contract. The details of the description are subject to change before the course begins. The course syllabus will be available to the class at the beginning of the course.

Course Identification

Course Number : WYP2618HS
Course Name: Gospel, Church, and Culture
Campus: St. George [synchronous-remote delivery]
Class time: winter term, Tuesdays, 7 to 9 pm (lecture) & 9 to 9:30 pm (seminar)

Instructor Information

Instructor: Judy Paulsen Teaching Assistant: Ethan Rector
jpaulsen@wycliffe.utoronto.ca ethan.rector@mail.utoronto.ca
Office Hours: Monday through Thursday

Course Prerequisites or Requisites

WYP1610H: The Church, The Faith, and Our World is a *recommended* pre-requisite for this course.

Course Description

This course will explore the interaction between the gospel, church and culture, and what this means for transmission of the gospel in North American contexts today. Building on concepts introduced in the recommended prerequisite course, we will begin by examining the form and function of the gospel, church, and culture, in human society. A theology of mission will then be explored, through the lens of four key doctrines that inform a Christian understanding of culture. We will consider worldview as a tool for understanding culture, and will look specifically at how several shifts in the broader culture are affecting the Church's mission in western society. The course will include Biblical material, reference the experience of cross-cultural missionaries, and consider bridges for the gospel within contemporary Canadian and American cultures.

Course Methodology

This course will require a weekly 2-hour synchronous-remote lecture and a ½-hour synchronous-remote seminar. It will include lectures, readings, Discussion Board postings and responses on the readings, an oral class-presentation, impact summaries, and an integrative project.

Course Outcomes

COURSE OUTCOMES	COURSE ELEMENT	PROGRAM OUTCOMES
By the end of this course, students	This outcome will be demonstrated through these course elements:	This course outcome corresponds to these aspects of Wycliffe's statements of outcomes (MTS, MDiv)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • will discuss definitions of the gospel, church and culture; 	In-class exercises, Discussion Board posts and responses	MTS: 1.3, 1.6, 2.3 MDiv: 1.3, 1.6, 2.2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • will identify and describe an artifact of contemporary Canadian culture, and explain how the gospel relates both ideologically and practically to the cultural frameworks reflected in the artifact 	Oral presentation	MTS: 1.6, 2.1, 2.3 MDiv: 1.6, 2.1, 2.2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • will recognize and discuss how key doctrines inform an understanding of culture; 	Oral presentation, impact summaries	MTS: 1.6, 2.1, 2.3 MDiv: 1.6, 2.2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • will identify and interpret how the gospel, church, and culture relate (and have related throughout Church history) as dynamic forces; 	In-class exercises, impact summaries, Discussion Board posts and responses, oral presentation	MTS: 1.4, 1.6, 2.3 MDiv: 1.4, 1.6, 2.2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • will describe and analyze some of the complexities and challenges of translating & transmitting the gospel cross-culturally; 	Oral presentation, impact summaries, integrative project	MTS: 1.6, 2.1, 2.2 MDiv: 1.6, 2.1, 2.2, 2.4, 3.1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • will recognize and apply the relevancy of worldview to the discussion and practice of cross-cultural mission; 	Oral presentation, impact summaries, Discussion Board posts and responses, integrative project	MTS: 1.6, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3 MDiv: 1.6, 2.1, 2.2, 2.4, 3.1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • will identify the shift in worldview that has developed during the transition from modernity to postmodernity, and will analyze what this 	In-class exercises, integrative project	MTS: 1.6, 2.1, 2.3 MDiv: 1.6, 2.1, 2.2, 2.4, 3.1

shift means for the western church and its mission;		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • will design strategies for effective transmission of the gospel in North American contexts, based on analysis of context and contextually appropriate translation. 	Oral presentation, impact summaries, Discussion Board posts and responses, integrative project	MTS: 1.6, 2.1, 3.3 MDiv: 1.6, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 3.1

Course Resources

Required Course Texts

- Vincent Donovan, *Christianity Rediscovered* (Orbis, 1978/2003)
- Heidi Neumark, *Breathing Space: A Spiritual Journey in the South Bronx*, (Beacon Press, 2003)

Course Website(s)

- Quercus: <https://q.utoronto.ca/>

This course uses Quercus for its course website. To access it, go to the U of T Quercus login page at <https://q.utoronto.ca/> and login using your UTORid and password. Once you have logged in to Quercus using your UTORid and password, look for the **My Courses** module, where you'll find the link to the website for all your Quercus-based courses. (Your course registration with ACORN gives you access to the course website in Quercus.) Information for students about using Quercus can be found at: <https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10701>.

Class Schedule

Week 1 (January 5th) Gospel, Church & Culture: form and function in human society.

- **Prior to 9 am on the day of the first class please post a short bio to the Discussion Board on Quercus. Share with the other students who you are, where you are from, and one instance in your own life when you experienced a 'cultural pinch' (i.e. when you became aware of some novel, competing, or changing cultural norm).**

Week 2 (January 12th) A theology of mission: four key doctrines that inform the Church's understanding of gospel and culture.

Week 3 (January 19th) A historical perspective of cross-cultural mission: the tension between coherence & contextualization.

- Discussion of *Christianity Rediscovered* (Donovan).
- **Impact summary due on Christianity Rediscovered & Oral presentations begin during the seminar.**

Week 4 (January 26th) The relationships between gospel, church and culture. How they interact as dynamic forces. A narrative example: Pat Patten's story. Discussion of Insider Movements.

- **Required reading:** Talmin H. & Travis, J. (ed.) *Understanding Insider Movements: Disciples of Jesus Within Diverse Religious Communities*. Pasadena, CA: William Carey Library, 2015. **pages 7-39, 489-499, and 537-543 (pdf posted to Quercus)**

Week 5 (February 2nd) Translating and transmitting the gospel: grasping the complexities that arise due to cultural frameworks. A Biblical Case Study in Translating the Gospel: Acts 17.

Week 6 (February 9th) A case study of mission in a particular North American context.

- Discussion of *Breathing Space: A Spiritual Journey in the South Bronx* (Neumark)
- **Impact summary due on Breathing Space**

Week 7 (February 16th) Reading Week.

Week 8 (February 23rd) Reading a culture: an introduction to worldview.

- **Required reading:** "The Newbiggin Gauntlet: Developing a Domestic Missiology for North America" (Hunsberger). **(pdf posted to Quercus)**

Week 9 (March 2nd) From Modern to Postmodern and beyond: a Cultural Paradigm Shift

Week 10 (March 9th) Discussion of Linda Mercadante's qualitative research on current trends in North American spirituality, and presentation of recent research on Canadian spirituality conducted by Angus Reid.

- **Required reading:** Mercadante, Linda. *Belief Without Borders: Inside the Minds of the Spiritual but not Religious*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2014. **pages 227-258 (pdf posted to Quercus)**

Week 11 (March 16th) Not of the world but into the world: the Apostolic Church.

Week 12 (March 23rd) Cultivating Missional communities: Faithful Leadership.

- **Required reading:** Van Gelder, Craig and Dwight Zscheile. *The Missional Church in Perspective*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2011. **Pages 147 – 166 (pdf posted to Quercus)**

Week 13 (March 30st) Discussion of Integrative projects.

- **Integrative project due prior to class.**

Evaluation

Requirements

ASSIGNMENTS

Accurate grammar, punctuation and spelling are essential for clear communication. Submit a hard copy of your papers to me in class on the day they are due (distance students excepted), complete with title page and, where needed, proper citations.

Writing Style. The writing standard for the Toronto School of Theology is Kate L. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses and Dissertations*, 7th edition (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2007).

1. **Discussion Board interactions:**

- **Prior to 9 am on the day of the first class, post to the course Discussion Board, a short bio of who you are, where you are from, and a 'cultural pinch' you have experienced**
- **post a short summary of each individual assigned reading (wk. 4, 8, 10 & 12) and a substantive response to at least one other student's post, prior to 2 pm the day of class. You will need to post your summary prior to responding to other students' posts.**

The summary of each assigned reading should include: (1) the primary thesis (one sentence), (2) three to five key ideas in bullet form, and (3) your response and possible application (2 or 3 bullets or short sentences). **These posts and responses will be read by the instructor between 2 and 6 pm on the day they are due.**

Engagement = preparation + participation

Weight: 20%

2. Sign up to do a **10 to 15-minute oral presentation** on one artifact of contemporary Canadian culture. This could be a physical object, service, relational norm, artistic expression, advertisement, or document. It should be something that is recognized as normative and/or ubiquitous within Canadian culture.
- Describe the artifact you have chosen, explaining why you consider it *significant* as an artifact of contemporary Canadian culture. Give something of the history and worldview that is implicit or explicit in the artifact itself, and what this artifact says about the surrounding culture.
 - Explain how the Gospel relates to this artifact, both ideologically and practically
 - Explore what forms of Church, evangelism, and discipleship, might be most helpful in engaging with and addressing the issues reflected in this artifact.
 - Presentations should include Powerpoint slides. These should be uploaded to Quercus following the class presentation.

Length: 10 to 15 minute oral presentation (followed by a short Q & A period)

Weight: 20%

Due date: On the day for which you signed up (week 3 through 11, during the seminar).

3. Read Vincent Donovan's *Christianity Rediscovered*. Write **an impact summary** on what you consider to be the five most important ideas in the book, and how these might shape your own approach to evangelism, catechesis and worship. Please write also about any points on which you find yourself disagreeing with or questioning him. (You do not need to footnote every reference to the book. Simply give the page number in brackets.) Avoid long quotations. Submit this summary electronically to the course TA via Quercus.

Length: 1000 words (4 pages)
Weight: 15%
Due date: January 19th

4. Read Heidi Neumark's *Breathing Space: A Spiritual Journey in the South Bronx*. Write **an impact summary** on the five most important things you learned from this book about contextualized mission. Discuss how these ideas might influence your own approach to such things as worship, pastoral ministry, and cultivating organizational change. (You do not need to footnote every reference to the book. Simply give the page number in brackets.) Avoid long quotations. Submit this summary electronically to the course TA via Quercus.

Length: 1000 words (4 pages)
Weight: 15%
Due date: February 9th

5. Integrative Paper:

Option 1: Consider **a distinct sociological group** within contemporary Canadian culture, E.g. suburban Baby Boomers, urban Generation X or Millennials, urban Indigenous, low-income rural single parents, recent immigrants, small town Newfoundlanders, 2nd generation Canadians. Identify and document several of the cultural distinctives of the group you have chosen. Explain how the Gospel is likely to best connect with this group, both ideologically and practically, how evangelism might happen among this group, and what forms Christian discipleship and church might take within this group.

Option 2: Conduct a study of a **particular geographic neighbourhood**. What particular sub-cultures are represented in this neighbourhood? What are the specific cultural issues that are of primary importance? (eg. Poverty/wealth, age & gender, ethnicity, commuting, parenting, isolation & other social issues, technology) Explain how the Christian Gospel addresses such issues and how it could be framed to do so. How might evangelism happen among those living in this neighbourhood?, Consider what forms Christian discipleship and church might take.

Credit will be given for making connections between the course readings, and the topic of your paper.

Weight: 30%
Length: 2500 words (10 pages)
Due date: March 30th, upload a copy to Quercus prior to the start of class.

Grading System

Letter Grade	Numerical Equivalents	Grade Point	Grasp of Subject Matter
A+	90–100%	4.0	Profound & Creative
A	85–89%	4.0	Outstanding
A-	80–84%	3.7	Excellent
B+	77–79%	3.3	Very Good
B	73–76%	3.0	Good
B-	70–72%	2.7	Satisfactory
FZ	0–69%	0	Failure

Grades without numerical equivalent:

CR	Designates credit; has no numerical equivalent or grade point value
NCR	Designates failure; has no numerical equivalent, but has a grade point value of 0 and is included in the GPA calculation
SDF	Standing deferred (a temporary extension)
INC	Permanent incomplete; has no numerical equivalent or grade point value
WDR	Withdrawal without academic penalty
AEG	May be given to a final year student who, because of illness, has completed at least 60% of the course, but not the whole course, and who would not otherwise be able to convocate; has no numerical equivalent and no grade point value

Policy on Assignment Extensions

Basic Degree students are expected to complete all course work by the end of the term in which they are registered. Under **exceptional circumstances**, with the written permission of the instructor, students may request an extension (SDF = “standing deferred”) beyond the term. An extension, when offered, will have a mutually agreed upon deadline that does not extend beyond the conclusion of the following term. An SDF must be requested no later than the last day of classes of the term in which the course is taken. The request form is available on the college website or from the Registrar’s office.

One percentage point per day will be deducted on *late assignments* if an extension has not been requested by the stated deadline for that assignment.

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/Assets/Governing+Council+Digital+Assets/Policies/PDF/grading.pdf>) or college grading policy.

Policies

Accessibility. Students with a disability or health consideration 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 it to his or her head of college or delegate according to the TST *Basic Degree Handbook* (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/policies/behaveac.htm>), a student who plagiarizes in this course. Students 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).

Turnitin.com. Students may be required to submit their course essays to Turnitin.com for a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their essays to be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of the Turnitin.com service are described on the Turnitin.com web site.

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>).

Writing Style. The writing standard for the Toronto School of Theology is Kate L. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses and Dissertations*, 7th edition (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2007).

Bibliography

Bosch, David. *Transforming Mission: Paradigm Shifts in Theology of Mission*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 1991.

Clapp, Rodney. *A Peculiar People: The Church as Culture in a Post-Christian Society*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1996.

Cray, Graham, ed. *Mission Shaped Church: Church Planting and Fresh Expressions of Church in a Changing Context*. London: Church House Publishing 2003.

Crouch, Andy. *Culture Making: Recovering our Creative Calling*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press 2008.

Donovan, Vincent J. *Christianity Rediscovered*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books 1978, new ed. 2003.

Frost, Michael and Alan Hirsch. *The Shaping of Things to Come: Innovation and Mission for the 21 Century Church*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 2003.

- Guder, Darrell L. (ed) *Missional Church: A Vision for the Sending of the Church in North America*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans 1998.
- Hanciles, Jehu J. *Beyond Christendom: Globalization, African Migration and the Transformation of the West*. Maryknoll, New York: Orbis Books, 2008.
- Hunsberger, George and Craig Van Gelder, eds., *The Church Between Gospel and Culture: The Emerging Mission in North America*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1996.
- Hunsberger, George. "The Newbigin Gauntlet: Developing a Domestic Missiology for North America", in *Missiology: An International Review* 19.4 (1991): 391–408. On-line version at <http://mis.sagepub.com/content/19/4/391>
- Hunter, George G. III *The Celtic Way of Evangelism: How Christianity can reach the West . . . Again*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2000.
- Jenkins, Philip. *The Lost History of Christianity: The Thousand-Year Golden Age of the Church in the Middle East, Africa, and Asia--and How It Died*. New York: HarperCollins, 2009.
- Mercadante, Linda A. *Belief Without Borders: Inside the Minds of the Spiritual but not Religious*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2014.
- Moynagh, Michael. *Church for Every Context: An Introduction to Theology and Practice*. London: SCM Press, 2012.
- Middleton, J. Richard and Brian J. Walsh. *Truth is Stranger than It Used to Be*. Downer's Grove, IL: Inter-Varsity Press, 1995.
- Naugle, David K. *Worldview: The History of a Concept*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans 2002.
- Neumark, Heidi. *Breathing Space: A Spiritual Journey in the South Bronx*. Boston: Beacon Press, 2003.
- Roxburgh, Alan. *The Missional Leader: Equipping Your Church to Reach a Changing World*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2006.
- . *Missional Map-Making: Skills for Leading in Times of Transition*. San Francisco: John Wiley and Sons, 2010.
- Sedmak, Clemens. *Doing Local Theology: A Guide for Artisans of a New Humanity*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2002.
- Shreiter, Robert J. *Constructing Local Theologies*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2008.
- Talman, Harley & Travis, John Jay (ed.) *Understanding Insider Movements: Disciples of Jesus Within Diverse Religious Communities*. Pasadena, CA: William Carey Library, 2015.
- Van Gelder, Craig. *The Ministry of the Missional Church: A Community Led by the Spirit*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2007.
- Van Gelder, Craig and Dwight Zscheile. *The Missional Church in Perspective*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2011.

Vanhooser, Kevin. *Everyday Theology: How to Read Cultural Texts and Interpret Trends*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2007.

Walls, Andrew F. *The Missionary Movement in Christian History: Studies in the Transmission of Faith*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2001.

Wiens, Hart. *Inside Translation: Translating the Gospel*. Canadian Bible Society, 2004.

On-line public document:

Angus Reid Institute Public Interest Research, Canadian Public Opinion Poll, 2017. A Spectrum of Spirituality. published April 13th, 2017, at <http://angusreid.org/religion-in-canada-150/> (accessed May 10th, 2017).

DRAFT