
RELS 205/305

World Christianity

Welcome to this paper on World Christianity. It is offered both to students on campus in Dunedin, and to distance students. The paper is taught by Dr John Shaver and Dr Will Sweetman, with lectures on Africa by Dr Pamela Welch.

This paper is concerned with the global expansion of Christianity in the modern period, and the consequences of that expansion for the practice of Christianity. In the first week, lectures will provide an introduction to the demography of contemporary Christianity and the approach to the study of Christianity taken in this paper.

Following these lectures, the remainder of the course is divided into four sections dealing with different regions of the world: Asia, Africa, the Pacific (or Oceania) and North America. Each section is structured similarly. The first lecture will provide an overview of Christianity in the region, followed by three lectures which will address the relationship between Christianity and colonialism, the manner in which Christianity has been adapted to the indigenous culture(s) of the region, and the development of Pentecostalism. We hope that by examining these three broad themes in each region you will be enabled to form a comparative view of their significance for Christianity. Each of the four sections of the course will end with some case studies which allow for a more in-depth examination of the particular forms that Christianity has taken in different contexts.

Our hope is that this structure will allow you to focus on either one or more particular regions of interest to you (e.g., Africa and the Pacific) or to examine one particular theme (e.g., colonialism or Pentecostalism) in a global comparative context. The emphasis throughout the paper will be on the *practice* of Christianity.

Aims and learning outcomes

The aim of this paper is to provide an overview of the global expansion of Christianity, in the modern period, and to examine the consequences of that expansion for the practice of Christianity.

Students who successfully complete the paper will be able to:

- demonstrate a sound understanding of the major historical developments in the global expansion of Christianity, and
- give an account of the challenges posed by the translation of Christianity into the languages and cultures of regions shaped by non-western traditions, and
- explain the differences in the strategies adopted by, or forced upon, different Christian communities in the adaptation of Christian practice in new cultural settings.

In addition, students at 300-level will be able to

- analyse the impact of these historical developments on how Christianity is understood by Christians, and how it is understood by scholars of religion.

Lecturers

Will Sweetman

Will is Associate Professor of Asian Religions. His primary focus of Will's research is European writing on India in the pre-colonial period. The archives for his research are mostly those emanating from Christian missions in South India. Will is course co-ordinator for this paper, and will lecture on Christianity in Asia and Africa.

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John Shaver

John Shaver is Lecturer in Religion. He holds a Ph.D. with distinction in Anthropology from the University of Connecticut. John engages in the evolutionary study of religion, and has a particular interest in the religions of the Pacific. He has conducted research in the Czech Republic, Fiji, Mauritius, New Zealand and the United States and his work has appeared in anthropology, biology, neuroscience, psychology and general science journals.

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Pamela Welch

Pamela is an Honorary Fellow and occasional lecturer in the Department of Theology and Religion. She studied English at Cambridge University and Theology at King's College, London before embarking on a Ph.D. in History (also at King's College, London). Her field of research is the history of religion, particularly that of settler Christianity, within the British Empire and Diaspora of the nineteenth to early twentieth centuries, with a primary emphasis on Southern/Central Africa and Australasia.

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Lecture schedule

The dates listed below are the times when students on campus will meet and they provide a guide for distance students to plan their reading. For each lecture, there is a reading specified. You will find all readings on eReserve in Blackboard. Please ensure that you have done the reading *before* the lecture. These readings represent the bare *minimum* reading required for successful completion of the paper. You should also read extensively in the works *recommended* in each lecture, which are intended to provide a starting point for research when writing an essay or preparing a topic for the exam.

1. Introduction (Dr John Shaver)

11 Jul	1.1	What is World Christianity?
	Reading	Grass, "Global Christianity."
12 Jul	1.2	Studying World Christianity
	Reading	Frankiel, "Cross-Cultural Study of Christianity."

2. Asia (Dr Will Sweetman)

18 Jul	2.1	Introduction: An Overview of Christianity in Asia
	Reading	Hsia, "The Catholic Missions in Asia."
19 Jul	2.2	Colonialism: "Civilising Mission" in Asia
	Reading	Copland, "Christianity as an Arm of Empire."
25 Jul	2.3	Adaptation: The Rites Debates
	Reading	Aranha, "Malabar Rites Controversy."
26 Jul	2.4	Pentecostalism: New Jerusalems
	Reading	Ma, "Asian Pentecostalism."
1 Aug	2.5	Case Study 1: Caste in the Indian Church
	Reading	Jeremiah, "Subversion of Caste."

2 Aug	2.6	Case Study 2: Saints and Gods
	Reading	Mosse, "Catholic Saints."

3. Africa (Dr Pamela Welch & Dr Will Sweetman)

8 Aug	3.1	Introduction: An Overview of Christianity in Africa
	Reading	Kalu, "African Christianity: An Overview."
9 Aug	3.2	Colonialism: Missions and Empire
	Reading	Gray, "Christians, Colonialism and Communications."
15 Aug	3.3	Adaptation: African Initiated Churches and African Revivals
	Reading	Shaw, "Local Revival and Global Expansion."
16 Aug	3.4	Pentecostalism: Mega churches and Modern-Day Prophets
	Reading	Asamoah-Gyadu, "Pulling down Strongholds."
22 Aug	3.5	Case Study 3: Bible Translation
	Reading	Sanneh, "Missionary Translation in African Perspective."
23 Aug	3.6	Case Study 4: High Gods
	Reading	Cox, "Making Mwari Christian: The Case of the Shona of Zimbabwe."
24 Aug	5pm	<i>Deadline for submission of essay outlines</i>
28 Aug–1 Sep		<i>Mid-semester break</i>

4. The Pacific (Dr John Shaver)

5 Sep	4.1	Introduction: An Overview to Christianity in the Pacific
	Reading	Ernst and Anisi, "The Historical Development of Christianity in Oceania."
6 Sep	4.2	Colonialism: Christianity as Resistance
	Reading	Burt, "The Remnant Church: A Christian Sect of the Solomon Islands."
12 Sep	4.3	Adaptation: Incorporating "Tradition"
	Reading	Kaplan, "Christianity, People of the Land, and Chiefs in Fiji."
13 Sep	4.4	Pentecostalism: Rejecting "Tradition"
	Reading	Newland, "Turning the Spirits into Witchcraft: Pentecostalism in Fijian Villages."
19 Sep	4.5	Case Study 5: Rationalising Globalisation, "Cargo Cults"
	Reading	Ryan, "Christianity, Cargo Cults, and Politics among the Toaripi of Papua."
20 Sep	4.6	Case Study 6: Negotiating Tradition, Kava and Kastom within Christianity
	Reading	Young, "Kava and Christianity in Central Vanuatu."
21 Sep	5pm	<i>Deadline for submission of essays</i>

5. North America (Dr John Shaver)

26 Sep	5.1	Introduction: An Overview to Christianity among Native Americans
	Reading	McNally, "The Practice of Native American Christianity."
27 Sep	5.2	Colonialism: What is Conversion?
	Reading	Gerbner, "Theorizing Conversion: Christianity, Colonization, and Consciousness in the Early Modern Atlantic World."
3 Oct	5.3	Adaptation: Revitalisation Movements
	Reading	Wallace, "Handsome Lake and the Great Revival in the West."
4 Oct	5.4	Pentecostalism: Religion as Social Medicine
	Reading	Marshall, "'Navajo Reservation Camp Meeting a Great Success!' The Advent of Diné Pentecostalism after 1950."
10 Oct	5.5	Case Study 7: Religious Plurality, The Indian Shaker Church
	Reading	Amoss, "Symbolic Substitution in the Indian Shaker Church."
11 Oct	5.6	Summary and Exam Preparation

Assessment overview

The assessment differs for students taking the paper at 200-level and at 300-level. In both cases there are three components—an essay, an outline for the essay, and an exam.

For RELS 205:

- an essay outline of 500 words (5%);
- an essay of 2,500 words (35%);
- a final exam of three hours (60%).

For RELS 305:

- an essay outline of 750 words (10%);
- an essay of 3,500 words (40%);
- a final exam of two hours (50%).

1. Essay outline

For the first assignment you should choose one of the questions below as the title for an essay. The outline should be no longer than 2–3 pages and include:

- i) headings and subheadings, to show what topics you will cover
- ii) a brief indication of the anticipated conclusion
- iii) at least three of the works you intend to consult

The outline is intended to assist you in the process of writing a good essay. Your final essay need not be identical with what you present on your outline, if one of your lecturers suggests (or you choose) another approach to the topic. The deadline for the essay outline is 5pm on Thursday the **24th of August**. *No extensions will be granted for this assignment.*

2. Essay

The second component of assessment for this course is **one** essay on a title chosen from the list below. The word-limit for students taking RELS 205 is 2,500 words and for those taking RELS 305 is 3,500 words. You are *not* expected to adapt or replace the title of the essay (as is usual in some universities). Any such alteration to the title of the essay *must* be negotiated with the lecturers. Guidelines for presentation of essays are given in the Department's *Study and Style Guide* which is available from the office, or through Blackboard.

The deadline for the essay is 5pm on Thursday the **21st of September**. No requests for extensions will be entertained after Thursday the 14th of September.

Choose one of the following as the title for your essay:

1. The history of Christianity emerged in the academy only by distinguishing itself from "Church History," which had been a partner of Christian Theology in seminaries, with a distinguished ancestry going back to Eusebius. Tamar Frankiel

Is there a difference between "the history of Christianity" and "Church History" and if so, what implications might this have for the study of World Christianity?

2. First they had the Bible and we had the land; now we have the Bible and they have the land. Eduardo Mondlane

Discuss the relationship between Christian mission and colonialism.

3. What could be more absurd, indeed, than to transport France, Italy, or some other European country to the Chinese? Alessandro Valignano (1579)

How far has conversion to Christianity been separable from Westernisation?

4. What factors have contributed to the growth of Pentecostal Christianity in the twentieth and early twenty-first centuries?

3. Examination

In the examination you will be required to answer three essay questions. The date for the examination will be announced on Blackboard once it has been set by the Examinations Office.

Distance Learning

This paper is taught concurrently on campus and by distance. While distance students cannot come to the weekly lectures, we make sure that they stay on target by recording lectures and sharing them on Blackboard. These recordings can be used alongside uploaded pdfs of the lecture slides used for each class.

Resources

A comprehensive list of advice about the Religion programme is available and regularly updated on our website at: <http://www.otago.ac.nz/religion/courses/resources.html>. This includes information on how to use Blackboard, how to format and submit assignments, and where to find help. It is important that you review this information!

Required reading

- Amoss, Pamela. "Symbolic Substitution in the Indian Shaker Church." *Ethnohistory* 25, no. 3 (1978): 225–49.
- Aranha, Paolo. "The Social and Physical Spaces of the Malabar Rites Controversy." In *Space and Conversion in Global Perspective*, edited by Giuseppe Marcocci, Wietse de Boer, Aliocha Maldavsky, and Ilaria Pavan, 214–32. Leiden: Brill, 2015.
- Asamoah-Gyadu, J. Kwabena. "Pulling down Strongholds: Evangelism, Principalities and Powers and the Pentecostal Imagination." *International Review of Missions* 96, nos. 382–83 (2007): 306–17.
- Burt, Ben. "The Remnant Church: A Christian Sect of the Solomon Islands." *Oceania* 53, no. 4 (1983): 334–46.
- Copland, Ian. "Christianity as an Arm of Empire: The Ambiguous Case of India under the Company, c. 1813–1858." *The Historical Journal* 49, no. 4 (2006): 1025–54.
- Cox, James L. "Making Mwari Christian: The Case of the Shona of Zimbabwe." In *The Invention of God in Indigenous Societies*, 67–88. Durham: Acumen, 2014.
- Ernst, Manfred, and Anna Anisi. "The Historical Development of Christianity in Oceania." In *The Wiley Blackwell Companion to World Christianity*, edited by Lamin O. Sanneh, 588–604. Hoboken: John Wiley & Sons, 2016.
- Frankiel, Tamar. "The Cross-Cultural Study of Christianity: An Historian's View." *Religion* 33, no. 3 (2003): 281–289.
- Gerbner, Katharine. "Theorizing Conversion: Christianity, Colonization, and Consciousness in the Early Modern Atlantic World." *History Compass* 13, no. 3 (2015): 134–47.
- Grass, Tim. "Global Christianity." In *Modern Church History*, 369–81. London: SCM, 2008.
- Gray, Richard. "Christians, Colonialism and Communications." In *Black Christians and White Missionaries*, 79–98. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1990.
- Hsia, R. Po-Chia. "The Catholic Missions in Asia." In *The World of Catholic Renewal, 1540–1770*, 199–216. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2005.
- Jeremiah, Anderson H. M. "Localizing Christianity for Social Change: The Subversion of Caste in Rural South India." In *Religion on the Move! New Dynamics of Religious Expansion in a Globalizing World*, edited by Afe Adogame and Shobana Shankar, 263–81. Leiden: Brill, 2012.

- Kalu, Ogbu U. "African Christianity: An Overview." In *African Christianity: An African Story*, edited by Ogbu U. Kalu, 24–42. Pretoria: Department of Church History, University of Pretoria, 2005.
- Kaplan, Martha. "Christianity, People of the Land, and Chiefs in Fiji." In *Christianity in Oceania: Ethnographic Perspectives*, edited by John Barker, 127–47. University Press of America, 1990.
- Ma, Wonsuk. "Asian Pentecostalism: A Religion Whose Only Limit is the Sky." *Journal of Beliefs and Values* 25, no. 2 (2004): 191–204.
- Marshall, Kimberly Jenkins. "'Navajo Reservation Camp Meeting a Great Success!' The Advent of Diné Pentecostalism after 1950." *Ethnohistory* 62, no. 1 (2015): 95–117.
- Mosse, David. "Catholic Saints and the Hindu Village Pantheon in Rural Tamil Nadu, India." *Man* 29, no. 2 (1994): 301–332.
- Newland, Lynda. "Turning the Spirits into Witchcraft: Pentecostalism in Fijian Villages." *Oceania* 75, no. 1 (2004): 1–18.
- Ryan, Dawn. "Christianity, Cargo Cults, and Politics among the Toaripi of Papua." *Oceania* 40, no. 2 (1969): 99–118.
- Sanneh, Lamin O. "Missionary Translation in African Perspective: Religious and Theological Themes." In *Translating the Message: The Missionary Impact on Culture*, 157–91. Maryknoll: Orbis, 1989.
- Shaw, Mark. "Local Revival and Global Expansion: The Case of African Christianity." In *Religion on the Move! New Dynamics of Religious Expansion in a Globalizing World*, edited by Afe Adogame and Shobana Shankar, 283–306. Leiden: Brill, 2012.
- Wallace, Anthony F. C. "Handsome Lake and the Great Revival in the West." *American Quarterly* 4, no. 2 (1952): 149–65.
- Young, Michael W. "Kava and Christianity in Central Vanuatu." *Canberra Anthropology* 18, nos. 1-2 (1995): 61–96.