

21-514 Introduction to Global Christianity
Fall 2014
Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary

Instructor:

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Course description

The course offers an introduction to Christianity as a truly worldwide movement today. We study factors that contributed to and sustain Christianity's current shape, reach, and impact and examine key cultural, ethical, and theological challenges facing mission and ministry in a world church. The course fulfills the Basic Graduate Theological Studies requirement for United Methodist ordination.

Course Objectives

- Understand the scope, texture, and identity of global Christianity today as a polycentric, increasingly non-Western movement.
- Appreciate the complex impact of the Western missionary movement and of Western colonial expansion on Christianity's current configuration.
- Examine key theological challenges raised by Christianity's global reach, such as globalization and the integrity of Christian witness; culture, context, and Christian identity; and theological pluralism and Christian unity.
- Identify biblical and theological elements appropriate to mission and ministry in a world church today.

Required Texts

- Bevens, Stephen B. and Roger P. Schroeder, *Constants in Context: A Theology of Mission for Today*. Orbis, 2005. ISBN: 978-1570755170. List price: \$34.00 (Barnes and Noble)
- Jenkins, Philip. *The Next Christendom: The Coming of Global Christianity*. Third ed. Oxford University Press, 2011. ISBN: 978-0199767465. List price: \$14.67 (Barnes & Noble)
- Kim, Sebastian and Kirsteen Kim, *Christianity as a World Religion*. Continuum, 2008. ISBN: 978-0826498410. List price: \$39.95 (Barnes and Noble)
- Kuster, Volker, *The Many Faces of Jesus Christ: Intercultural Christology*. Orbis, 2001. ISBN: 978-1570753541. List price: \$25.70 (Barnes & Noble)
- Schreier, Robert J. *The New Catholicity: Theology between the Global and the Local*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis, 1997. ISBN: 978-1570751202. List price: \$24.00 (Barnes and Noble)

Additional reading (essays, articles) will be uploaded on Moodle

