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## MW 775 Christian Witness and Other Faiths

Terry C. Muck

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#### Recommended Citation

Muck, Terry C., "MW 775 Christian Witness and Other Faiths" (2004). *Syllabi*. Book 1348. http://place.asburyseminary.edu/syllabi/1348

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# ASBURY THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY Fall 2004

MW775 Christian Witness and Other Faiths

Tuesday, Thursday 1:00 - 2:15

**Meeting Room:** 

**Instructor**: Terry C. Muck

Phone: 858-2145 E-Mail: terry muck@asburyseminary.edu

Office: Wednesday, 2:00 - 4:30

I. **COURSE DESCRIPTION**: In a world becoming more and more religiously plural, all Christians are faced with the challenge of identifying and articulating an appropriate theological/missiological response to those of other religious traditions. This course looks at key issues in the encounter between Christianity and other religions and raises the questions students need to answer in developing a theological/missiological approach to religious pluralism. Students write a concluding paper outlining their approach to an aspect of pluralism.

#### II. READINGS

Richard Plantinga, ed. Christianity and Plurality: Classic and Contemporary Readings.

Oxford: Blackwell, 1999.

379 pages. ISBN: 0-631-20915-8 (paperback)

Wesley Pluralism Packet

David Bosch. A Spirituality of the Road.

Eugene, Oregon: Wipf and Stock, 2000 (1979). 92 pages. ISBN: 1-57910-795-8 (paperback)

Paul Hiebert. Missiological Implications of Epistemological Shifts.

Harrisburg, PA: Trinity Press, International, 1999. 135 pages. ISBN: 1-56338-259-8 (paperback)

#### III. ASSIGNMENTS

- 1. Class attendance and participation in discussion of assigned texts.
- 2. Write a response paper on the assigned readings. Form provided.

Due at class discussion of text. (Six from Plantinga, one each from Hiebert, Bosch, and Wesley)

- 3. A final examination.
- 4. Develop bibliography on Christian approaches to a major religious tradition. Choose from: Hinduism, Buddhism, Chinese religions, Judaism, Islam, Indigenous religions, New religious movements. Due November 2.
- 5. Paper on your biblical/theological approach to people of other religions.

Twenty type-written pages (double spaced).

Due: October 7, 2004

#### IV. SCHEDULE

Sept. 2 - The Challenge of Religious Pluralism

Sept. 7, 9 – Bible: Three Approaches - Read Plantinga, pp. 1-25

Sept. 14, 16 – Theology

14: Denominational

16: Personal - Read Hiebert, pp. 1-67

Sept. 21, 23 - Theology

21: Philosophical Read Hiebert, pp. 68-116

23: Wesleyan - Read Wesley Pluralism reading packet

Sept. 28, 30, Oct. 5 - NO CLASS: Writing Week

Write paper on your approach to religious pluralism: **Due Oct.** 7

Oct. 7 - Practices - Read Plantinga, pp. 29-89

7: The Apostle Paul

Oct. 12, 14 - Practices - Read Plantinga, pp. 93-125

12: Patrick

14: Methodius-Cyril

Oct. 19, 21 - Practices - Read Plantinga, pp. 129-165

19: Aquinas

21: Ricci

Oct. 26, 28 - Practices - Read Plantinga, pp. 169-266

26: Carey

28: Shepherd

Nov. 2, 4 - Practices - Read Plantinga, pp. 267-370

2: Bartholome de la Casas

4: Wesley

Nov. 9, 11 - Practices -

9: Booth

11: Theresa

Nov. 16 - Gift I - Read Bosch, pp. 9-90

16: History of Gift

Nov. 18, 23, 25 - NO CLASS: Reading Week

Nov. 30, Dec. 2 - Gift II

30: Gift as Missional Metaphor

2: Exchanging Gifts: The Hermeneutical Circle

Wesley Pluralism Packet

#### **LETTERS**

"Letter to John Burton" October 10, 1735

#### **SERMONS**

Sermon 61: "The Mystery of Iniquity" (2 Thessalonians 2:7) March 7, 1783

Sermon 63: "The General Spread of the Gospel" (Isaiah 11:9) April 22, 1783

Sermon 69-70: "The Imperfections of Human Knowledge: The Case of Reason Impartially Considered" (1 Corinthians 13:9) March 5, 1784; (1 Corinthians 14:20) July 6, 1781

Sermon 91: "On Charity" (1 Corinthians 13:1-3) October 15, 1784

Sermon 106: "On Faith" (Hebrews 11:6) April 9, 1788

Sermon 119: "Walking by Sight and Walking by Faith" (2 Corinthians 5:7) December 30, 1788

Sermon 122: "Causes of the Inefficacy of Christianity" (Jeremiah 8:22) July 2, 1789

Sermon 130: "On Living Without God" (Ephesians 2:12) July 6, 1790

#### **COMMENTARY**

Randy Maddox, "Wesley and the Question of Truth or Salvation through Other Religions," *Wesleyan Theological Journal 27* (Spring-Fall 1992): 7-29.

John Sanders, No Other Name: An Investigation into the Destiny of the Unevangelized (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Eerdmans, 1992), 249-251.

S. Mark Heim, ed. <u>Grounds for Understanding: Ecumenical Resources for Responses to Religious Pluralism</u> (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Eerdmans, 1998), 93-106.

Jerry Walls, <u>The Problem of Pluralism: Recovering United Methodist Identity</u> (Wilmore, Kentucky: Good News, 1986), chapter 3.

### **Christian Witness and Other Faiths**

**Fall 2004** 

Reading Interaction Form

Name	Date
Chapter/Article/Page #s_	
Evaluation: 1 (low) to 10 (high)	
Summary/Key Idea:	
What new insights have you gained from reading this material?	
What are the missiological applications of these insights?	
What are some issues, concerns, etc., that have been raised that you wou in our class?	ld like to discuss