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MW 775 Christian Witness and Other Faiths

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ASBURY THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
Fall 2005

MW775 Christian Witness and Other Faiths

Thursday 2:30 – 5:00

Room:

Instructor: Terry C. Muck

Phone: 858-2145

E-Mail: terry_muck@asburyseminary.edu

Office Hours: Wednesday 2:00 – 4:00 or by appointment

Required Texts:

David Bosch. *A Spirituality of the Road*.

Eugene, Oregon: Wipf and Stock, 2000 (1979).

Paul Hiebert. *Missiological Implications of Epistemological Shifts*.

Harrisburg, PA: Trinity Press International, 1999.

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

Oxford: Blackwell, 1999.

Readings as assigned by instructor, including Wesleyan approach to pluralism.

Requirements:

1. Attendance and participation in all classes.
2. Reading of assigned texts and articles.
3. Write a response paper on each class's assigned readings. Six from Plantinga, one each from Bosch, Hiebert, and Wesley. Due at class discussion of texts.
4. A final examination. Form to be determined by class.
5. Develop an annotated bibliography on Christian approaches to a major religious tradition—and those traditions approaches to Christianity. Choose from: Hinduism, Buddhism, Chinese religions, Judaism, Islam, Indigenous religions, New religious movements, Atheism/secularism. Due November 3, 2005.
6. Paper on your biblical/theological/personal approach to people of other religious traditions. Twenty typewritten pages, double spaced. Due October 13, 2005.

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 paper outlining their approach to an aspect of pluralism.

Course Objectives:

1. Students will develop bibliographic skills in the study of religion.
2. Students will articulate their biblical/theological/personal approach to people of other religious traditions, and the missiological implications of that approach.
3. Students will be able to compare and contrast the way Christians do mission with the way other religious traditions do mission.
4. Students will be able to devise mission strategies to other religions depending on the nature of the competition in discrete contexts.
5. Students will master the history of Christian approaches to people of other religious traditions.

Class Schedule

September 8: Context

September 15: Bible

Reading: Plantinga, pp. 1-25

September 22: Theology

Reading: Hiebert, pp. 1-116

September 29: NO CLASS

October 6: Personal

Reading: Bosch, pp. 9-90

October 13: Practices

Reading: Plantinga, pp. 29-89

Missiological approach paper due

October 20: Practices

Reading: Plantinga, pp. 93-125

October 27: NO CLASS

November 3: Practices

Reading: Plantinga, pp. 19-165

Annotated bibliography due

November 10: Practices

Reading: Plantinga, pp. 169-266

November 17: Practices

Reading: Plantinga, pp. 267-370

November 24: NO CLASS

December 1: Giftive Mission I

Reading: Wesleyan pluralism articles

December 8: Giftive Mission II

Final Examination