

HON 3200.01/3201.01
HONORS COLLOQUIUM

SYLLABUS: SPRING 2013
“Christianity’s New Worlds”

Colloquium Professor: Dr. Philip Jenkins

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Distinguished Professor of History / Institute for Studies of Religion

<http://www.isreligion.org/>

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Colloquium Details and Support: Matt Moser (Matt_Moser@baylor.edu)

Instructor of Record: Dr. Andrew Wisely (Andrew_Wisely@baylor.edu)

Course Description. *Christians worldwide are living through an age of revolutionary change. For centuries, Christians have been overwhelmingly concentrated in Europe and North America, making the religion almost synonymous with “the West.” Over the past century, though, Christian numbers have shifted radically, to new centers in Africa, Asia and Latin America. By 2050, Africa alone could have a billion Christians. Also by that date, non-Hispanic whites will make up only one-fifth of the world’s Christian population. Suddenly, the faith has gone global in a way that would have stunned past generations of missionaries. This dramatic change in raw numbers is only part of the story. As the Christian faith has moved to the Global South, so its major concerns have shifted, to accommodate believers with needs and interests very different from those in the Old Christendom.*

“Christianity’s New Worlds” is an alternative track within the regular Colloquium, a two-credit-hour course for sophomores and juniors in the Honors Program. To receive credit, participants in this alternative track must read four texts, submit four essays, and attend three dinner discussions.

Attendance and Participation. To receive credit for attendance, you must be present for the *entire* discussion. Your contributions to the conversation are essential and will be considered when Dr. Jenkins evaluates your performance. You receive no attendance credit unless you also turn in a paper.

Absences. If you must miss a colloquium, contact Mr. Moser *beforehand*. If the Honors Program approves, you may be asked to submit an additional essay. If your absence is unexcused, you will not be eligible to submit an essay and will receive no points for the unexcused absence (see *Grading* below).

Academic Integrity. Plagiarism is a grievous offense and will result in *at least* an “F” for the course and your dismissal from the Honors Program. Never submit the work of others as your own.

Grading. Your overall performance for each session is based both on the essay and on attendance and participation. You will not receive credit for attending without submitting an essay; likewise, you will not receive credit for submitting an essay if you do not attend. You must both attend and turn in a paper to receive any points for a session. Good participation refers to cogency more than frequency of remarks. Dr. Jenkins will return essays with comments.

A final grade will be given according to the following scale:

36-40=A ; 34-35.9 = B+ ; 32-33.9 = B ; 30-31.9 = C+ ; 28-29.9 = C ; 24-27.9 = D ; < 24 = F

Guidelines. Before each session, prepare the reading questions that Dr. Jenkins has provided for discussion. While reading, mark the passages that intrigue or confuse you or that seem central for the author. Unrushed interaction will shape a response that addresses the issues in the text.

Following the session, write a 900-1000-word essay (typed and double-spaced, 12-pt font) using the prompt Dr. Jenkins has provided with the reading questions. Provide page number(s) in parentheses following quotations/paraphrases from assigned text. Plan enough time to sculpt an essay that does justice to the book.

Submit your essay by e-mail to Philip_Jenkins@baylor.edu before 5:00 PM of the Monday following the colloquium. *Late submissions are penalized one point per day, beginning at 5:01 PM of the due date.*

SCHEDULE for “Christianity’s New Worlds”

January 28: Essay only - no discussion meeting

Introduction Link: <http://www.personal.psu.edu/faculty/j/p/jpj1/colloquia2.htm>

After reading Dr. Jenkins’s book *New Faces of Christianity*, turn in an essay in response to this prompt:

The book *New Faces of Christianity* argues that people in emerging churches around the world understand the Bible very differently from older and deeper-rooted churches in the West. Allowing for the sizable social and political differences between the West and the rest of the world, what do you think that Western Christians might learn from looking at these very different readings and ways of understanding?

→ Essay due by 5:00 PM on Monday, January 28, 2013

February 11, 2013: 6:30-9:30 PM in Memorial Senior Common Room: Dinner and discussion

Liao Yiwu, *God is Red. The Secret Story of How Christianity Survived and Flourished in Communist China*

Assignment Link: <http://www.personal.psu.edu/faculty/j/p/jpj1/liao.htm>

→ Essay due by 5:00 PM on Monday, February 18, 2013

March 4, 2013: 6:30-9:30 PM in Memorial Senior Common Room: Dinner and discussion

Robert Brenneman, *Homies and Hermanos: Gods and Gangs in Central America*

Assignment Link: <http://www.personal.psu.edu/faculty/j/p/jpj1/homies.htm>

→Essay due by 5:00 PM on Monday, March 11, 2013 [note: this is the Monday of Spring Break]

March 25, 2013: 6:30-9:30 PM in Memorial Senior Common Room: Dinner and discussion

Lamin Sanneh, *Summoned from the Margin. Homecoming of an African*

Assignment Link: <http://www.personal.psu.edu/faculty/j/p/jpj1/sanneh.htm>

→Essay due by 5:00 PM on Monday, April 1 [note: this is Easter Monday – no classes]