

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

MCC 911 Missiological Engagement with World Religions

Doctor of Applied Intercultural Studies

COURSE SYLLABUS

December 11-15, 2017

PROFESSOR



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Dissertation: *Value Formation and the Holy Spirit in the Theologies of Thomas C. Oden, Jürgen Moltmann, and J. Rodman Williams.*

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The process of engaging followers of other religions is examined with the purpose of facilitating effective communication of the gospel. Representatives serving in diverse religious contexts explore unique opportunities and challenges presented by various historical and contemporary religious environments.

OBJECTIVES

Through the pre-session readings, research, and writing, the session lectures and discussion, and the post-session reading, research, and writing, the student should be able:

1. To appraise the elements of various world religions based upon their own beliefs, rationalities, and worldviews.
2. To evaluate some of the components of engagement of various world religions with a Christian and missiological lens.
3. To assess the various missiological methodologies in reaching practitioners of various world religions in terms of engagement and effectiveness.
4. To integrate the material of the course into a means by which the usage and an appreciation of indigenous questions via religious lens are accepted with a genuine missiological interactive sensitivity.
5. To interact with world religion discussions in regards to various religious and Christian traditions in terms of various Evangelical and Pentecostal positions and concerns on relating to other world religions.

METHODOLOGY

The course will include some lectures, student presentations, and class discussions. It will also involve library (and possible field research) in the preparation of a final assessment document.

TEXTBOOKS

Farhadian, Charles E. *Introducing World Religions: A Christian Engagement*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2015. ISBN-978-0801032349

Hiebert, Paul G and R. Daniel Shaw. *Understanding Folk Religion: A Christian Response to Popular Beliefs and Practices*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 1999. ISBN- 978-0801022197

Noss, David S., and Blake Grangaard. *A History of World Religions*. 13th ed. New York: Routledge, 2012. ISBN-978-0205167975

Sire, James. *The Universe Next Door: A Basic Worldview Catalog*. 5th ed. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2009. ISBN-978-0830838509

Smart, Ninian, and Richard D. Hecht, eds. *Sacred Texts of the World: A Universal Anthology*. New York: Crossroad Publishing, 1984. ISBN-978-0824506391.

(Books will be available for purchase at the Founders Bookstore at Evangel University <http://www.cbamatthews.com/evangel/> Be sure to buy and read the textbooks for every class before you come to the modules. Another book source is Gary Flokstra at info@4wr.org who has both new and used books for missionaries and mission organizations. You may also purchase the books from Amazon.com by clicking on the hyperlink title.)

Additional Sources:

Muck, Terry C. "Missiological Issues in the Encounter with Emerging Buddhism." *Missiology: An International Review* 28, no. 1 (2000): 35-45.

Muck, Terry C. "Interreligious Dialogue: Conversations That Enable Christian Witness." *International Bulletin of Missionary Research* 35, no. 4 (2011): 187-92.

"The Necessity of Retaining Father and Son Terminology in Scripture Translations for Muslims." Position paper, see at FatherSon.ag.org

Smith, Alex. "Christian Witness to Buddhists." Lausanne Occasional Papers. No. 15 Thailand Report: Lausanne Committee for World Evangelization, Wheaton, IL, 1990.

Note that additional resources will be provided prior to and during class.

CALENDAR AND OUTLINE

Monday	Introduction, The study of religion, secular vs. Christian interpretation of the world religions Basics of the World Religions (not being presented by students)
Tuesday through Thursday	Student Presentations of World Religions and Missionary engagements with the world religions (depending on time)
Friday	Missiological Engagement

Schedule subject to change in order to accommodate to visiting missionaries schedules.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

It is assumed that students at AGTS will endeavor to be honest and of high integrity in all matters pertaining to Seminary life. A lack of respect and integrity is evidenced by cheating, fabricating, plagiarizing, misusing facilities, removing books and other property not one's own, and disrupting classes.

Cheating is defined as "intentionally using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information or study aids in any academic exercise." It is assumed that whatever is submitted by a student is the work of that student and is new work for that course. Fabrication is "intentional and unauthorized falsification or invention of any information or citation in an academic exercise or form." Plagiarism is "intentionally or knowingly representing the words or ideas of another as one's own in any academic exercise." One who facilitates any of the above is equally responsible with the primary violator.

Penalties may include restitution, an "F" on an individual paper, exam, or course; loss of campus employment; disciplinary probation; removal from extracurricular activities; and suspension.

THE USE OF COMPUTERS IN THE CLASSROOM

The use of computers for word processing in the classroom represents a privilege given to students to enhance their learning. They may be used only for purposes related to the course. It is therefore a breach of classroom etiquette, an act of rudeness, and a distraction to other students, when computers are also used to surf the web, watch videos, play games, and send messages, etc., during class time. The professor assumes that seminarians will be persons of integrity when using computers in the classroom.

NON-DISCRIMINATORY LANGUAGE

Students should use non-discriminatory language in all written and spoken communication in this class. For specific guidelines, see the Student Handbook at <https://www.evangel.edu/wp-content/uploads/2012/01/Student-Handbook-2017-18.pdf>

While AGTS does not endorse the following websites, they provide more information on non-discriminatory language:

General Principles: http://www.randomhouse.com/words/language/avoid_guide.html

Gender: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/workshops/hypertext/apa/gender.html>

Racial and Ethnic Identity: <http://www.apastyle.org/race.html>

Disabilities: <http://www.apastyle.org/disabilities.html>

Age Discrimination: http://www.randomhouse.com/words/language/avoid_guide.html

DISABILITY ACCOMMODATION

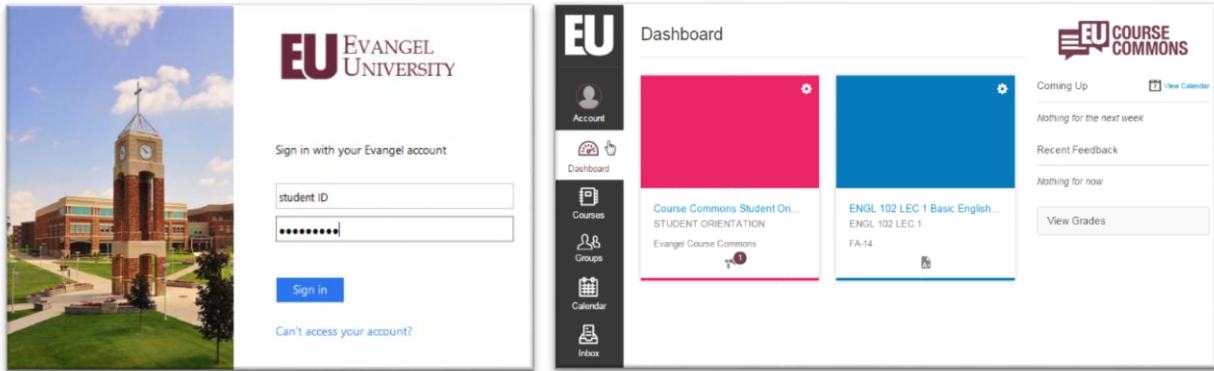
Assemblies of God Theological Seminary, Evangel University, is committed to equal educational opportunities for students with disabilities in accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the American with Disabilities Act as amended (ADA).

Academic Support, a division of the Center for Student Success, is the office designated to review disability documentation, determine reasonable accommodations, and develop plans for the provision of such accommodations.

If you have already established accommodations through Academic Support and receive accommodation memos, please meet with the professor to discuss the provisions of those accommodations as soon as possible (accommodations are not retroactive). If you have not yet established accommodations, but have a disability or health condition (permanent or temporary) that may have some impact on your work in this class and for which you may require accommodations, you are welcome to contact the Academic Support staff in the Center for Student Success (ZM-208; 417-865-2815 x.8215) so that accommodations can be arranged. See the Disability and Academic Accommodations Handbook for further information on the accommodations process.

COURSE COMMONS

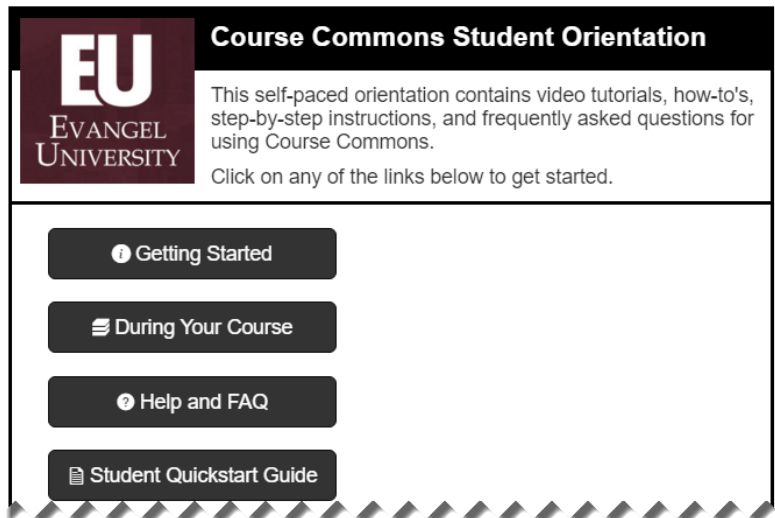
This course will use Course Commons, Evangel's learning management system. There are links to Course Commons in the Student Portal and the Evangel website. The login page for Course Commons is <https://courses.evangel.com/>.



*Use your **Evangel** username and password to login.*

Course Commons Student Orientation

All Evangel students have access to the [Course Commons Student Orientation](#). If you are new to Course Commons, you are encouraged to take advantage of this excellent resource. As part of your course preparation, this will help you make the most of the features that are available to you as a student.



Accessing the Course in Course Commons

Access your courses list by clicking on the Courses icon on the Global Navigation menu on the left of the screen. You can also click on the course card on the Dashboard.

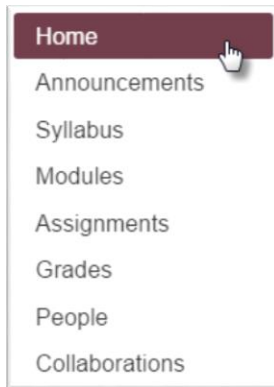
To customize your Courses list, see the following Help Guide: [How do I customize my Courses list?](#)

Students will have access to this course in Course Commons seven (7) days before the official beginning of the semester. Students have until seven (7) days after the semester begins to complete financial registration. If financial registration is not completed by the seventh day, course access will be revoked.

After the end of the semester, students will have read-only access to the course through Course Commons. Only access to already submitted work, course resources and grades will be available.

Accessing Course Content in Course Commons

The professor controls the availability of course content and features. Some items may be unavailable until a date set by the professor.

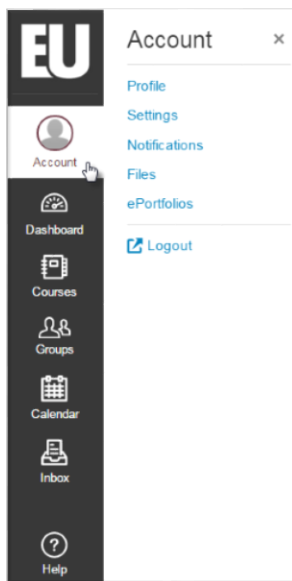


You can navigate the course content and features using the Course Navigation menu on the left. This menu can be customized by the professor, so it may differ from course to course, depending on what features the professor has chosen to make available.

You can collapse the Course Navigation menu to focus on the page content. Click on the menu icon in the upper left (which looks like 3 lines). You can expand the menu by clicking on the menu icon again.

All course content (syllabus, modules, course materials, assignments, online quizzes, online discussions, grades, etc.) can be accessed using the links in the Course Navigation menu.

Personal Settings in Course Commons



Students can adjust their personal settings in Course Commons. Click on the Account icon to access the Account menu.

On the **Profile** page, you can add a profile picture to your account. You can also edit your display name, which will show to your instructor and peers throughout Course Commons.

The **Settings** link allows you to add additional contact methods (personal email or cell phone number for text message alerts) to your account. You can also add external services, like Twitter, Skype or Google Drive.

The **Notifications** link allows you to customize *what* notifications you receive from Course Commons and *how* and *when* you receive them. This is a student-centered feature that allows you to optimize your notifications to help you stay connected to what is happening in all your courses.

For more information, see the following pages in the Course Commons Student Orientation: [How to Update your Profile and Settings](#) and [How to Update Your Notifications Preferences](#).

Accessing Grades in Course Commons

All course grades will be recorded and shown through Course Commons. Simply click the “Grades” button on the lower right of the Dashboard to access your grades for all courses. You can also use the Grades link in the Course Navigation to access your grades for this course.

For more information on how to check your grades and what you can do from the Grades page, see the following page from the Course Commons Student Orientation: [How to Check My Grades](#).

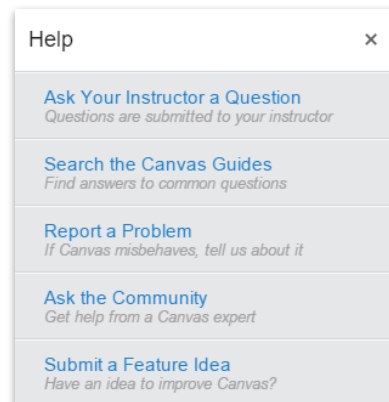
How to Get Help with Course Commons

Help is never more than a few clicks away! You can access the Help menu from any page in Course Commons.

Click on the Help icon in the lower left corner of the screen. Because the Course Commons is powered by the Canvas Learning Management System, all help guides and helpdesk tickets will reference Canvas.

From the Help menu, you can send a message to your instructor, search the Canvas Help Guides, or report a problem.

You can browse and search the Help Guides using the following link: <https://community.canvaslms.com/community/answers/guides/>.



Course Commons Troubleshooting

Do you have a question about a quiz, an assignment, or another item in the course? Contact your professor.

Are you having technical problems with Course Commons? Click the Help icon, click “Report a Problem” and complete the form to file a ticket for a personal response from the support team. Please be sure to include a thorough description of the problem.

Are you having trouble with your Evangel account (username and password)? Contact the IT Helpdesk at 417-865-2815 ext. 8368 (phone), helpdesk@evangel.edu (email), or help.evangel.edu.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Pre-Session: 1. While covering the same basic material, two of your textbooks have a fundamentally different approaches. Read, compare and contrast one religion (Buddhism, Hinduism, Chinese/Daoism/Confucianism, or Islam) in the two textbooks, Farhadian, *Introducing World Religions* and Noss/Grangaard, *A History of World Religions*. Write a 3-4 page (double space in Turabian 8th edition) interaction noting the different approaches, highlighting the similarities and differences from your own perspective, and citing any key lessons that you gleaned from the exercise. Be sure to include the primary source material from Smart/Hecht anthology to supplement your interaction. As the class focuses on these religions, we will spend time discussing these considerations as a backdrop to the broader questions. The paper should be turned in the first day of class.

2. Read these other required textbooks listed in this syllabus, Hiebert and Shaw, *Understanding Folk Religion*, and Sire, *The Universe Next Door*. The student is expected to submit 2-3 page typed critiques of each of the assigned texts. The critique should evidence graduate level interaction with the arguments(s) of the book. Less than 1 page can be summary, and the remainder should be critique. At the end, there should be a sentence or two with recommendations on who would benefit from the book. The paper should conform to the Turabian 8th edition format (double-space, Times New Roman 12), and for citing the book being reviewed you can cite the page(s) with parenthesis (e.g., (97)). For a book review, a title page is not required, but the complete bibliographical of the book being reviewed should be on the top of the first.

Session: 1. Attend class and participate in discussions.

2. Based on the reading of **all the required literature** and your additional research, be prepared to give a presentation for 45-50 minutes on a specific world religion, (on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Dec. 12-14) answering these questions (clarity on some of the questions will come from Monday and early Tuesday discussions). This is a basic understanding of the religion itself and should answer these questions:

- What is the basic history of the religion, and the main geographic distribution? No more than 15 minutes on this.
- What are the basic tenets of this faith, and worldview of practitioners? What are the main branches (and basic differences)?
- Is there a sacred text(s)? What is the final authority for determining appropriate belief?
- What are the key rituals in this religion? What is the key mode of participation for the average follower? Is there a structure or hierarchy in the leadership of this religion?
- Is there any additional pertinent information about this religion and its adherents that a new missionary going into this environment should know in order for appropriate contextualization or genuine relationship to occur?

The student is to oversee the follow-up discussion. Only one presentation per religion, so first come first served in terms of reserving your selection.

- The Religions to be presented:
 - Hinduism
 - Buddhism
 - Islam
 - Latin American Roman Catholicism
 - Shintoism
 - Animism
 - Jainism
 - Sikhism
 - Secularism
 - Zoroastrianism
- The procedure
 - The student should select one the religions as soon as possible and notify the professor (lewis@evangel.edu, 417-268-1014). They will be assigned on a first-come, first-served basis.
 - The student should prepare a presentation for class, and include a select bibliography of key works in and on that religion.

Post-Session: 1. A research paper is required. This should engage with more detail analysis of one of the world religions (or sub-group—e.g. Tibetan Buddhism, Shia Islam). The first part of the paper (at least 50 %) should be on a summary of the religion with its tenets, beliefs, rituals, and history. The last part should be a missiological engagement. What principles, perspectives, activities, and perspectives should be in mind when engaging with a follower of the said religion? The paper should be 20-28 pages in length, not including bibliography (double-spaced, Turabian 8th ed.). Due date will be June 30, 2018.

NOTE: ALL REQUIRED WORK FOR THIS COURSE MUST BE SUBMITTED BEFORE JULY 1, 2018 (the first day of class of the next set of modules).

It is highly recommended to complete the post-session work (i.e. all assignments) within 90 days of the last day of class in order to begin pre-session work for your next course. However, all assignments **MUST** be completed before **July as a grade of failure may be issued**. If additional time is required, the student must request an extension prior to this date. If merited, a 90 day extension can be granted (a fee applies). Please note the following policy for this class:

Incomplete Grades

Students are expected to complete all course work in a timely fashion as specified by the instructor in the course syllabus. A grade of “IP” (In Process) will be issued if the professor’s due date falls after the AGTS semester ending date. Due dates of doctoral modular courses are at the discretion of the professor but will be considered IP until the first day of the next module or set of modules. A grade of failure may be issued if the work is not submitted by the first day of the next module(s) unless the student has requested an extension. If the student requests additional time, an incomplete “I” grade may be given at the discretion of the instructor for a 90 day extension for extenuating circumstances upon the presentation of the Incomplete Grade Request form: <http://agts.edu/current-students/administrative-forms/>. In the event the instructor grants a grade of incomplete, he or she will have the option of lowering the final grade for the course one letter grade lower than it would have been had the work been submitted on time. If the work is not submitted before the expiration of the 90 day extension, a grade of failure may be issued. No student will be permitted to begin credit courses in a new semester if carrying more than two IP or I courses. *Note: A \$50 fee will be charged to the student’s account for every extension granted and a \$30 fee applies to every grade change even if the instructor has approved an extension for completing the work.*

General Guidelines for Formal Writing Assignments: The papers should be written carefully and adhere to the source documentation method set out in Kate L. Turabian, et al., *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 8th edition. As per GMD requirements, the use of text notes is required, but for annotations footnotes should be used for clarity. The papers will be graded on cogency, clarity, comprehensiveness, and proper formatting (See Addendum One for the “AGTS (GMD) Rubric for the Evaluation of the Quality of Student Writing” (The rubric which will be used for the grading of your papers)). Given the close time frame for distributing the papers to all participants there will be a grade reduction for lateness.

All work must be submitted electronically via course commons. **NOTE:** include your last name as the first word in the file name. Please submit your work as soon as you complete it so as to avoid the accumulation of work (and stress) at deadline dates. If you have any questions or concerns, please let me know.

GRADING PROCEDURE

Final grades will be assigned according to the following calculations:

General class participation	10%
Sire book review	10%
Hiebert/Shaw book review	10%
Farhadian and Noss/Grangaard comparison paper	15%
World Religion presentation	20%
Final Project	<u>35%</u>
Total	100%

***NOTE: Professor reserves the right to modify course requirements and grading percentages if deemed necessary.**

GRADING SCALE

A+ (10)	publishable	A (96)	100-94	A- (93)	93-90
B+ (89)	89-87	B (86)	86-84	B- (83)	83-80
C+ (79)	79-77	C (76)	76-74	C- (73)	73-70
D+ (69)	69-67	D (66)	66-64	D- (63)	63-60
F	59 or below				

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Ayisi, Eric O. *An Introduction to the Study of African Culture*, 2nd ed. Nairobi: East African Educational Publishers, 1992.

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