Course Syllabus

TS 732 - THEOLOGIES FROM THE GLOBAL SOUTH
Conrad Grebel University College
Fall 2021

Instructor: Néstor Medina, Ph.D.
Email address: Netto.medina@uwaterloo.ca
Office Hours: I will be available for conversation 1 hour after class

Course Number: TS 732
Course Name: Theologies from the Global South
Course Location: Online via zoom
Class Times: Friday 11 am – 1:00 PM

Course Description
Introduction to the richly diverse theologies emerging in the Global South (Asia, Latin America, and Africa) and among the racialized and marginalized in the Global North. Exposure to some of the multiple theological discourses and methodologies that started to emerge around the second half of the twentieth century up to today, and which articulate the theological concerns of the various ethnocultural communities from the majority world. Special attention is given to central historical events, key figures, and important themes. The focus of this course is to gain insight into the main ideas, specific methodologies, and key authors involved in the development and proliferation of these diverse currents, and their relevance for the task of theology.

Course Resources

Required Course Texts / Books
(copies of these books have been placed on short term loan at the Milton Good Library)


Required Course Text / Articles:
(Most articles are available electronically; I will put copies of most of them in course page)

Althaus-Reid, Marcella. Indecent Theology: Theological Perversion in Sex, Gender and Politics. London; New York: Routledge. Chapters 3-4
Cone, James “Whose Earth is it Anyway?” Crosscurrents 50 No. ½ (Spring/Summer 2000): 36-46.


________ “Embracing a Millennia-Old Cosmovision” Sojourners (January 2021) 1-5


ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDED READINGS
(copies of these books have been placed on short term loan at the Milton Good Library)

Broesterhuizen, Marcel. “Deaf Liberation Theology and Deaf Teologia Indígena” Paper Presented at the University of Amsterdam, 2008.


Tracy, Jean. “*Jesus is an Aborigine.*” *Unlearning the Problem.* 2008.

**Course Learning Objectives**

Students successfully completing this course will be able to demonstrate the following learning outcomes.

**In respect of general academic skills**

- Demonstrate crucial and constructive skills in reading, writing and research skills in oral in-class presentation and written assignments

**In respect of the understanding of the content of one or more theological disciplines**

- Recall, name, describe, analyze and evaluate key theological thinkers and features while discussing aspects of the relationship between the sociopolitical context, theological task and the pastoral dimension, with special attention to the conditioning role of culture in the theological task.

**In respect of personal and spiritual formation**

- Develop and employ inter-cultural competency in personal practices and spirituality in the engagement of theological ideas from other cultural backgrounds

**In respect of ministerial and public leadership**

- Practice and apply inter-cultural skills and sensibilities in the reading, learning from and critically interacting with and reflecting upon the theologies from the Global South in oral and written forms.

**Religious Faith and Heritage**

- Identify and respect the diversity of theological viewpoints and practices within the richly diverse Christian tradition, with particular attention to context and cultural dimension.

**Culture and Context**

- Identify and employ diverse methods of contextual analysis in theological reflection, including liberative, gender and cultural perspectives.
- Give evidence of critical self-awareness with regard to their own cultural tradition and social location and that of others in relation to faith perspectives and practices.
Spiritual / Vocational Formation

- Display capacity for self-reflexive and spiritual practices within the richly ethnoculturally diverse communities of faith.

Ministerial and Public Leadership

- Show ability to integrate theory and practice in conversation with multiple cultural contexts and theological traditions.

Evaluation

Requirements
The final grade for the course will be based on evaluations in the following areas.

(1) Preparation, Participation and Reading 5%
All students are expected to participate in the class discussions of the issues and themes that emerge from the required readings and lectures.

(2) In-Class Presentation 15%
This is a seminar style course and students are required to present / introduce the class to the reading of the day. Each class, one student will take 10-15 minutes to initiate discussion both by broadly discussing the main themes that emerge from the required reading and providing a couple of leading questions to facilitate group discussion. Please feel free to go outside of the required reading for this assignment but make sure you remain within the boundaries of the issues discussed. Students will submit and make available to their peers a 2-page report and outline of the reading and their presentation.

(3) Book Reviews 2 X 20% = 40%
Each student will write two book reviews of 5 pages (double space, 12 pt. font Times New Roman) each. It should aim at critically engaging the author’s central concerns, highlighting the main argument put forth by the author(s), as well as pointing to particular strengths and weaknesses in her/his/their argument. The book reviews should not aim at merely summarizing the content of the book but to engage its proposal critically for its implications to the task of theology. See list of potential books for review below.
Due Dates: Book review #1 due September 24; Book review #2 October 29

READING AHEAD: This is an intensive course, and it is recommended for students to read ahead as much as they can. It is also recommended that students write at least one book review before classes begin in order to focus on the material for each day.

Final Paper 40%
A substantial scholarly paper (15-18-pages in length, double space, 12 pt. font, Times New Roman) critically exploring a specific theological theme as discussed by the theologies in the global South. Choose a theological topic arising from the lectures or the assigned reading, and
identify one or two related contemporary issues. You are expected to elaborate your response and reflections in writing. As you prepare to write this paper, keep in mind the following:

(a) identify the main theological issue you wish to engage;
(b) discuss what are some of the connections you see between the theological issue and the contemporary questions you choose to discuss;
(c) Discuss systematically how you connect theological issues with contemporary reality, and some of the pastoral recommendations you see appropriate.

Due Date: December 3

Grading System

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<tr>
<th>Percentage Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tr>
<td>90-100%</td>
<td>A+</td>
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<tr>
<td>85-89%</td>
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<td>80-84%</td>
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<td>77-79%</td>
<td>B+</td>
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<td>73-76%</td>
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<td>70-72%</td>
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<td>67-69%</td>
<td>C+</td>
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Numeric grades on a scale from 0 - 100 are used. There is no official scale that correlates a numeric grade with a letter grade. However, the system in use prior to 2001 is referred to as a guide. See the University of Waterloo grading guidelines here. A grade less than 70% for graduate studies indicates work that is unsatisfactory. A grade of 90% or higher signifies exceptional achievement. In the MTS program students must achieve an average of 75% to graduate.

Late Work
Students are expected to hand in assignments by the date given in the course outline. A penalty of 5 points of the assignment per day will apply to all written assignments. This penalty is not applied to students with medical or compassionate difficulties; students facing such difficulties please contact the course instructor. If a student has not completed work but has not been granted an extension, a final mark will be submitted calculating a zero for work not submitted.

Policies

Academic Integrity: In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility.
Arts: Academic Integrity website University of Waterloo: Academic Integrity Office

Discipline: A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about “rules” for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course professor, academic advisor, or the Undergraduate Associate Dean.
When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under Policy 71 – Student Discipline. For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students should refer to Policy 71 - Student Discipline.

**Grievance:** A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances, Section 4.

**Appeals:** A student may appeal the finding and/or penalty in a decision made under Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances (other than regarding a petition) or Policy 71 - Student Discipline if a ground for an appeal can be established. Read Policy 72 - Student Appeals.

**Academic Integrity website**
**Academic Integrity Office website**

**Plagiarism Software (Turnitin)**

**Turnitin.com:** In exceptional cases, Plagiarism detection software (Turnitin) may be used to screen assignments in this course. This is being done to verify that use of all material and sources in assignments is documented. In the first week of the term, details will be provided about the arrangements for the use of Turnitin in this course.

**Access Ability Services - Accommodation for Students with Disabilities**
The University of Waterloo and Grebel share a commitment to support the participation and access to university programs, services, and facilities by persons with disabilities. For more information, please visit their website.

**For students with disabilities**
Contact the Office of Accessibility Services at 519-888-4567 ext. 35082 or visit Needles Hall 1132. Book an appointment to meet with an advisor to discuss the available services and supports. The Office collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the Office at the beginning of each academic term.

**Accommodation Due to Illness**
From time to time students become ill or have ongoing medical conditions that prevent them from meeting academic obligations. The University is committed to assisting students who are ill and has established the following policy.

**Documentation**
Students in on-campus course who are ill and unable to meet assignment due dates or write a term test or final examination should seek medical treatment and provide confirmation of the illness to the instructor(s) within 48 hours by submitting a completed UWaterloo Verification of Illness Form to support requests for accommodation due to illness. Students in Online Learning courses must also provide confirmation of the illness but submit it to the Centre for Extended
Learning Office. The UWaterloo Verification of Illness Form is normally the only acceptable medical documentation and is available on line at: http://www.healthservices.UWaterloo.ca/Health_Services/verification.html

Students who consult their physician or use the services of an off-campus walk-in clinic must provide this form to the attending physician for completion. Doctor’s notes and forms created by the physician or clinic are normally not acceptable. Although not compelled to do so, instructors may accept medical documentation that contains the same information specified on the UWaterloo Verification of Illness Form. Health Services charges a $10 fee for completing the University of Waterloo Verification of Illness Form, which is not covered by OHIP/UHIP. Fees for this service levied by off-campus practitioners are the student’s responsibility.

Obligation to check email. At times, the course instructor may decide to send out important course information by email. To that end, all students are required to have a valid UWaterloo email address. Students should check your UWaterloo email regularly for messages about the course. Forwarding your email to a Hotmail, Gmail, Yahoo or other type of email account is not advisable. In some cases, messages from UWaterloo addresses sent to Hotmail, Gmail or Yahoo accounts may be filtered as junk mail, which means that emails from your course instructor may end up in your spam or junk mail folder.

Email communication with the course instructor. The instructor aims to respond to email communications from students in a timely manner, in no more than 48 hours. All email communications from students should be sent from a valid UWaterloo email address. Email communications from other email addresses are not secure, and also the instructor cannot readily identify them as being legitimate emails from students. The instructor is not obliged to respond to email from non-UWaterloo addresses.

Course Schedule & Content

Part I: The Changing Tides of History

September 10

Objectives: provide an overview of multiple historical social, political, economic, and religious changes, conditions, and factors that contributed to the emergence of the theologies of the South

Theme: Local Changes and Global Reconfigurations

The peoples of the world recover their voice and reclaim their cultural traditions: WWII, The emergence of a “New Empire,” Independence in Africa, Cultural and Sociopolitical Revolutions (Cuba, China, and Nicaragua), Vatican II, WCC, EATWOT, World Theological Forum

September 17: The Hermeneutical Privilege of the Poor: Latin American Liberation

7
Theology

Theme: From Economic to Theological Liberation

September 24: The Evil of Racism: Black Liberation Theology
Theme: Racism, Slavery, Segregation, & Social Marginalization: Racialization of Theology.
Read: James Cone, The Cross and the Lynching Tree.
Book review # 1 due

October 1: Gender Construction; Women’s Discrimination; Critiques to White Feminism
Theme: Women as Producers of Theological Knowledge, but Not All Women are Created Equal: Womanist, Asian women, Latinas, and Mujeres Latinoamericanas
Read: Gloria Schaab, “Feminist Theological Methodology;” Atola Longkumar, “Doing Asian Women’s Theology,”

Part II: Proliferation of Liberation Theologies

October 8
Theme: Queering God
Read: Marcella Althaus-Reid, Indecent Theology: Theological Perversion in Sex, Gender and Politics. London; New York: Routledge. Chapters 3-4

October 15 Reading Week

October 22:
Theme: From Preferential Option for the Poor to Preferential Option for Culture
Read: Néstor Medina, Mestizaje, Chapters 1-2

October 29: Liberation Theology, the Exodus Story, and the Indigenous Peoples of the Americas
Theme: First Nations, Native Americans, and Teología India
Read: Robert Warrior, “Canaanites, Cowboys, and Indians” and Vine Deloria, God is Red
Book Review # 2

November 5
Theme: Liberation Seen from the Underside
Read: Naim Stifan Ateek, A Palestinian theology of Liberation. Ch.2-5, 7-8,10

November 12
Theme: Decolonial Thinking and Theology
Read: Néstor Medina, “A Decolonial Primer,” Andrea Smith, “Decolonizing Theology”; Medina and Whitla, “Another Canada is Possible.”
November 19
Theme: A Communist Revolution, and Theology
Read: Fernández Albán, Ary, *Decolonizing Theology in Revolution*, Pages 81-117

November 26
Theme: Global Warming, The peoples of the global South, and Theology

December 03
Theme: Connecting the Dots: The peoples of the global South, Geopolitics, the environment, and Theology

Suggested Books for Review
For your book reviews, you can choose any one of the required books as well as from the list below. You will need prior approval to review any other book not listed here.


Soong-Chan Rah, *The Next Evangelicalism: Releasing the Church from its Western Cultural Captivity* (Intervarsity Press, 2009)

Mitri Raheb, *Faith in the Face of Empire: The Bible Through Palestinian Eyes* (Maryknoll: Orbis, 2014)

