

COURSE SYLLABUS
SS CYRIL AND METHODIUS SEMINARY
ORCHARD LAKE, MICHIGAN 48324

ST 851: ECUMENISM AND INTERRELIGIOUS DIALOGUE

WINTER SEM.'18

Fr. Louis Madey

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T 10:00 – 12:00

CAC 108 2CR

COURSE DESCRIPTION

In a world of many religions, how do Christians understand other religions in light of Christ? Key to the investigation will be the exegesis of scriptural passages on the uniqueness of Christ, the history of the dictum “outside the Church there is no salvation,” attempts at a universal theology of religions, and contemporary theologies of exclusivism, inclusivism and pluralism. Present-day discussions among Christians, Jews, Muslims, and religions of the East.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

To understand the nature of religion as such in the context of cultural anthropology and the Church’s mission “ad gentes.” Natural and supernatural meaning of religion.

To come to know and to understand the religions of the world and the foundation of their interrelationship.

To understand the importance of interreligious dialogue and ecumenism. Why religion matters to every human person.

To grasp the history of Magisterial teaching and theological reflection on other religions and other Christians.

To gain insight into contemporary theologies and interreligious dialogue and ecumenism.

To explicate and critique one's own theological position on other religions and other Christians.

To be capable of entering into interreligious and ecumenical dialogue with respect and understanding for every human person. Any coercion and violence is contrary to an authentic religion.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Vatican II:

Dei Verbum

Gaudium et spes

***Unitatis redintegratio*

Ad gentes divinitus

Nostra aetate

***Dignitatis humanae*

Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith: ***Dominus Jesus*

Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue and the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples: *"Dialogue and Proclamation: Reflections and Orientations on the Interreligious Dialogue and the Proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ."*

Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity: *"Directory for the Application of Principles and Norms on Ecumenism."*

Pope Paul VI: *Evangelii nuntiandi*

Pope John Paul II: *Redemptor hominis*

Redemptoris missio

Ecclesia in Asia

Ecclesia in America

Secretariat for Non-Christians: “*The Attitude of the Church Toward the Followers of Other Religions: Reflections and Orientations on Dialogue and Mission.*”

May 10, 1984

Instruction on *Varietates legitimae* (Vatican Document)

International Theological Commission: **“*Christianity and the World Religions.*”
Origins 27, No. 10 (August 14, 1997): 149-166.

Czeslaw Stanislaw Bartnik, *Apologetyka Ekumeniczna?* Lublin (Tow. Nauk. KUL)
1973

Jacques Dupuis, S. J., ***Toward a Christian Theology of Religious Pluralism.*
Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 1997.

Walter Kasper. ***Harvesting the Fruits: Basic Aspects of Christian Faith in Ecumenical Dialogue.* NY: Continuum, 2009.

Lawrence S. Cunningham, Editor, *Ecumenism, Present Realities and Future Prospects.* (Papers read at the Tantur Ecumenical Center, Jerusalem, 1997) Notre Dame, Indiana, University of Notre Dame Press, 1998.

Ludwik Madej, *Ekumenizm We Wspolczesnych Publikacjach Polskich*, KUL
Library (Manuscript), Lublin 1968

Jeffrey Gros, FSC, Eamon McManus, Ann Riggs, *Introduction to Ecumenism.* NY:
Paulist Press, 1998.

Huston Smith, *The World Religions.* NY: HarperCollins, 1991.

Huston Smith, *Why Religion Matters*. NY: HarperCollins, 2001

COURSE THEMES

1. Religion and its nature. The religious dimension of the human person. Interreligious dialogue. Ecumenical dialogue. The major religions of the world. Natural and supernatural religions. Conviction and faith. Truth and falsehood in religion. A-personal and personal divinity. Election, vocation and salvation. The religious meaning of time and history. Culture and religion. Science and religion. Secularism and transcendence.
2. Writing-to-learn method. Topics assignment.
3. Hinduism and the Light of Christ.
4. Buddhism and the Light of Christ.
5. Taoism and the Light of Christ.
6. Confucianism and the Light of Christ.
7. Mid-Term Exam
8. Judaism and its Monotheism.
9. Islam and its Prophet Mohammed.
10. Christ, Christianity and its Branches.
11. Term-Paper Due.
12. History of Ecumenism and the Ecumenical Dialogue.
13. Catholic Principles of Interreligious Dialogue.
14. Catholic Principles of Ecumenical Dialogue.
15. Engaging the Modern World its Secularism and the Political and Ideological “substitutes” for authentic religion.
16. Self-knowledge, the Principle of Transcendence and the on-going need for conversion – the essence of the interreligious and ecumenical dialogue.
17. FINAL COMPREHENSIVE EXAM.

GRADE REQUIREMENTS

1. Regular attendance, attentiveness and active participation in class discussion.
2. Intelligent note taking.
3. Term/Research paper and its public defense.
4. Mid-term Exam
5. Written review of the studied material.
6. Final Comprehensive Exam.

Research paper ought to present:

1. Student's academic research abilities with the use of library resources.
2. Independent reasoning oriented toward an intellectual discovery.
3. Moral intellectual integrity and honesty (No Plagiarism).
4. Ability to apply the Generalized Empirical Method (Lonergan) for the paper's inner order and conclusion orientation.
5. Depth of understanding.
6. Student's written language that leads to effective communication.

Grading method follows the Seminary Catalogue.

Grade Interpretation

Grade	Honor Points	Percent	Interpretation
A	4.0	100-94	Exceptional/Outstanding performance
A-	3.7	93-90	Superior
B+	3.3	89-87	Very Good
B	3.0	86-83	Good/Graduate level performance
B-	2.7	82-80	Average
C+	2.3	79-76	Below Average/Below graduate performance
C	2.0	75-70	Minimum Acceptable
C-	0	69 and below	Fail
F	0		Failing - In Pass/Fail courses no honor points
P	0		Passing - In Pass/Fail courses; no honor points
W	0		Withdrawal - No credit or honor points
I	0		Incomplete - No credit or honor points

Incomplete Grades - An Incomplete, "I," grade is given in exceptional situations to a student whose course work has been satisfactory, but who because of illness or other unforeseen

circumstances has been unable to complete all course requirements. The student must request the “I” from the instructor before the final class of the course. *A Petition for an “I” Grade* is filed with the Academic Dean’s Office and Registrar’s Office. The work is to be completed no later than eight weeks from the end of the term. If an “I” is not removed by the final designated date, it automatically becomes an “F.”

Drop/Add Withdrawal - A student may drop, add or withdraw from this course only after having complied with all the procedures outlined in the current Catalog.

General Guidelines

Guidelines for Academic Study - Students are expected to devote at least 2-3 hours of study per week, per credit. A normal reading load is about 500 pages per credit and research writing of about 5 pages per credit.

Standards for Written Assignments - Class assignments must be submitted electronically and in hard copy, unless otherwise indicated by the instructor, and proofread for proper grammar, spelling, punctuation, and form. In preparing research papers requiring documentation, students are to follow the guidelines in Kate L. Turabian’s *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, (latest edition). The manual is available in the Campus Bookstore and Library. Students are required to reference the *Student Writing Guide* posted on the Seminary Web Site. The Writing Center is available to aid students in preparing written and/or oral assignments. Non native English speaking students must use the Writing Center located in the Campus Academic Center, Room 107.

Disabilities Accommodation – Students enrolled in this course who have documented disabilities should contact the professor at the first class session. Reasonable accommodations will be made to ensure that students with disabilities have access to course materials and interaction in modes in which they can receive them.

Class recording – Prior permission to record class lectures must be obtained. A signed affidavit may be required. Consult the professor before any recording takes place.

Class Attendance – Seminarians are required to be punctual and regularly in attendance at class sessions. Non-seminarian students enrolled in online courses may chose, at their discretion, to attend classes in person or online in real time or time shifted. At the opening of a term, instructors will inform students of any specific policies governing attendance. Frequent absences may result in an academic penalty and/or failure in the course. Students should confer with the instructor concerning foreseen absences.

Inclement Weather - Students are expected to exercise good judgment and precaution in determining the safety of travel from their areas. Classes that have resident faculty and students exclusively will meet.

Academic Integrity - Students are expected to maintain personal honesty and professional integrity in examinations, assigned papers, and research projects. Source materials and citations used in the preparation of papers are to be indicated by proper documentation. Copyright laws should be honored when duplicating materials. Plagiarism and cheating are a breach of academic integrity. Plagiarism is defined as: “to steal and pass off (the ideas or words of another) as one's own: use (a created production) without crediting the source: to commit literary theft: present as new and original an idea or product derived from an existing source” (*Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary 9th ed*, Springfield, MA: Merriam, 1981, p. 870). Violations in this area are considered a serious offense. If a student is suspected of plagiarism, the following procedure is to be followed:

1. When the instructor *suspects* a student has plagiarized an assignment, the instructor may confront the student.
2. If the instructor has *evidence* that a student has plagiarized an assignment, the instructor should confront the student with the evidence. The student has an opportunity to explain what happened.
3. If the instructor is convinced that plagiarism has occurred, the instructor may suggest a course of action: e.g. rewrite the assignment and receive a grade or the student may take a “0” for the assignment and not rewrite the assignment.
4. The Academic Dean should be informed of the outcome of this discussion and a note will be placed in the student’s file. The respective formation mentor is informed by the Academic Dean.
5. If there are repeated offenses, the student will fail the course.
6. The student who fails a required course must repeat it.
7. A student who plagiarizes or cheats consistently in the academic program will be dismissed from the program.
8. For dismissal from the academic program, a board consisting of the Rector, Academic Dean, the student’s mentor, the faculty member(s) affected by the student’s plagiarism and a faculty member of the student’s choosing will be convened and a decision rendered. This decision will be communicated to the student by the Rector.

Cheating is defined as “to deprive of something valuable by the use of deceit or fraud; to influence or lead by deceit, trick, or artifice; to elude or thwart by or as if by outwitting <cheat death>*intransitive verb*: to practice fraud or trickery; to violate rules dishonestly <cheat at cards><cheating on a test> (“cheat.” Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary. 2010. Merriam-Webster Online. 5 May 2010 <http://www.merriamwebster.com/dictionary/cheat>). In short, “cheating is defined as the intentional act of breaking the rules, or attempting to achieve personal gain through fraud or deceit. With children, cheating usually refers to academic fraud, such as

copying answers from another student while taking an exam, or breaking the rules in a game” (Dianne K. Daeg de Mott, Thomson Gale, Detroit, Gale Encyclopedia of Childhood and Adolescence,1998).

Examples of cheating in an academic setting include, but are not limited to:

- a. copying answers for an exam from another student;
- b. writing out the answers to an exam beforehand and turning them in at the time of the exam;
- c. obtaining the answers to an exam prior to the exam and using them during the exam in some way;
- d. having another person take an exam or write a paper for you;
- e. continuing to write answers to an exam after the time has expired (timed examinations);
- f. obtaining copies of an exam or answer key to aid in studying for the exam or preparing an assignment;
- g. passing notes to another student during an exam;
- h. asking another student for help during the writing of an exam;
- i. using another person’s paper, presentation, reflection, etc. and handing it in as your own work;
- j. using electronic devices such as computers or mobile phones to obtain answers during an exam.

(The term “exam” may be substituted with “quiz,” “paper,” or “presentation” as the case may be.)

Notice of Change

The information in this syllabus is subject to change. The professor reserves the right to make any necessary changes.