

THE CONTENT OF THIS DESCRIPTION IS NOT A LEARNING CONTRACT AND THE INSTRUCTOR IS NOT BOUND TO IT. IT IS OFFERED IN GOOD FAITH AND INTENDED AS A HELPFUL GUIDE TO THE STUDENT.

TITLE: World Christianity

TERM: Summer 2026-2027

PROFESSOR: Ryan Ramsey

CREDIT HOURS: 3

REGISTRATION: LIMITED TO: _____
AUDITORS: _____

UNLIMITED _____
NO AUDITORS _____

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course explores World Christianity as an academic field of study by examining the histories of Christian communities in particular parts of the world. The course provides both broad overviews of regional histories as well as focused studies of particular Christian communities curated to demonstrate their diversity and ingenuity. Students will also engage key thinkers and ideas from scholars of World Christianity.

CLASS OBJECTIVES:

- Students will develop a general working knowing of World Christianity as a field of study, attending to the field's development, key ideas, and current challenges.
- Students will describe and narrate broad overviews of the history of Christianity in Africa, Asia, and Latin America.
- Students will carefully examine the work of non-Western theologians, exploring how their theologies both arise from their contextual concerns and how they may speak to students' own contexts.
- Students will articulate a research agenda in World Christianity, attending to a particular focused area that builds on the driving questions of the field.

PREREQUISITES: None

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS/READING:

- Klaus Koschorke, *A Short History of Christianity Beyond the West* (Leiden: Brill, 2024). **Freely available Open Access.**
- Others assigned readings will be available on Canvas as PDFs.

ASSIGNMENTS & GRADING:

- Three short (3-4 pp.) papers on each geographic area (Africa, Asia, and Latin America)
- One research proposal (3-4 pp.) on a subject of study of interest to student and relevant to course topic; revised throughout the course. Of special interest to those interested in applying for doctoral programs, fellowships (esp., Valentour), or planning an MTS or MAPS final project or thesis.
- Grading divided between participation (synchronous and asynchronous), three papers, and research proposal.

ATTENDANCE:

- Required (Online Zoom)
 - Six meetings from June 9-25 (Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6:30-9:15 PM)
 - Two meetings in July (tentatively July 21 and 23, 6:30-9:15 PM; subject to schedules of students and faculty)
- Asynchronous work before June 9; asynchronous and research proposal between June 25 and late July