Religious Studies 325 • Christianity • Fall 2003
M W • 3:30-4:45 p.m. • 3 credits
Storm Hall 136
Dr. Moore, 4226 Adams Humanities, 619-594-6252
Email: remoore@mail.sdsu.edu Website: http://www-rohan.sdsu.edu/~remoore

Office Hours
MW 11 a.m.-12:00 noon; Tuesday 2:00-3:45 p.m. in 4226 AH, and by appointment. Please knock if you see the door closed. Despite appearances, I may be inside. If you need accommodation due to a disability, please let me know.

Course Description
Religion 325, Christianity, looks at both the historical development of Christian traditions and at the major issues confronting contemporary Christianity today. It covers a variety of beliefs and practices important to Christian self-understanding. We will examine these beliefs and practices within their historical, doctrinal, and cultural contexts, including the role of women and non-western forms of the faith. We will also study modern questions being debated inside Christianity, such as the authority of the Bible, accommodation to modern scientific discoveries and challenges, and the issue of Christianity's relationship with non-Christian religions. Course methods include group discussions, lectures, videos, and readings from a textbook, the Bible, a collection of Readings, and from Internet sources or sources on reserve in the library. The rich diversity of thought and belief within Christianity will become apparent by the end of the semester.

Goals of the Course
What I would like you to learn...
the rich complexity of Christian beliefs and traditions
how Christianity responds to cultural, economic, and political developments
how and why Christians may sincerely disagree with one another

What I would like you to be able to do...
read primary sources from the history of Christianity with comprehension
articulate key themes, beliefs, and practices in Christianity
use the vocabulary of Christian history and theology with ease

Texts
Bible, any translation (Oxford Study Bible recommended)
Preliminary Schedule (subject to amendment)

Always bring your Workbook to class!

3 Sept  
Introduction

8 Sept  
Hermeneutics
Peterson 2-7; Workbook: Books of the NT Canon, Infancy Gospel of Thomas, Gospel of Mary

10 Sept  
Jesus and Judaism
Peterson 7-23; Bring Bible to class

15 Sept  
Jesus and Paul
Peterson 30-51; Gospel of Mark; Bring Bible to class

17 Sept  
Martyrdom
Peterson 25-29, 52-65; Workbook: Perpetua and Felicity

22 Sept  
Gnosticism and Other Heresies
Peterson 74-77; Workbook: Gospel of Thomas
Review for Test # 1

24 Sept  
Test # 1

29 Sept  
Church of Empire : Beliefs
Peterson 64-68, 77-87; Workbook: Creeds

1 Oct  
Church of Empire : Practices
Peterson 87-97; Workbook: Sacraments of the Early Church

6 Oct  
Monasticism
Peterson 68-73, 99-132; Workbook: Rule of St. Benedict

8 Oct  
Scholasticism
Peterson 136-156, 164-183; Workbook: Thomas Aquinas

13 Oct  
Martin Luther and the Lutheran Reformation
Peterson 185-206

15 Oct  Luther, cont.
        Workbook: Martin Luther

20 Oct  Swiss and Calvinist Reformations
        Peterson 206-217; Start reading John Calvin in the Workbook

22 Oct  Calvin, cont.
        Workbook: John Calvin
        Review for Test # 2

27 Oct  Test # 2

29 Oct  English Reformation
        Peterson 219-224, 252-263

3 Nov   Radical Reformation
        Peterson 224-230; Workbook: Ulrich Stadler

5 Nov   Catholic Reformation
        Peterson 230-243; Workbook: Canons on Justification

10 Nov  The Enlightenment
        Peterson 246-252, 263-273

12 Nov  The Modern Era
        Peterson 278-298
        Review for Test # 3

17 Nov  Test # 3

19 Nov  The Twentieth Century
        Peterson 301-321; Workbook: Voices for the Future

24 Nov  No Class. Teacher attending American Academy of Religion
        Workbook: Dietrich Bonhoeffer letters; Christians and Jews;
        Nostra Aetate
        Write 1-2pp summary of each reading. Due 1 December

26 Nov  The Ecumenical Movement
Workbook: Ecumenical Movement; World Council of Churches and Dogmatic Constitution

1 Dec
Global Christianity
Peterson 322-333; Workbook: Global Christianity; David Yonggi Cho
Written Reading Summaries due today

3 Dec
Liberation Theology in North America
Workbook: Liberation Theology and Martin Luther King, Jr.

8 Dec
Liberating the Planet
Workbook: Liberating the Planet and Sallie McFague
Review for Test # 4

10 Dec
Test # 4

16 Dec
“What is Christianity?” paper due in 4226 AH by 12:00 noon

Grading and Assignments

You will be graded on the following assignments, tests, and projects

Four Tests @ 20 pts each, lowest grade will be dropped on one 60
“What Is Christianity?” 4-5 pp reflection paper 20
Field Project: Christianity in San Diego 50
Written Reading Summaries 10
Participation 10
TOTAL 150

The following percentage grading scale will be used:

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<th>Grade</th>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
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<td>F</td>
<td>59% or less</td>
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To calculate your standing in the class at any time simply take the number of points currently available, divide this figure into the number of points you have earned, and look at the percentage chart above to see what your grade is.

Grading Criteria (from 2002-2003 University Catalog, p 421)

Grade of A = outstanding achievement; available only for the highest accomplishment
Grade of B = praiseworthy performance; definitely above average
Grade of C = average; awarded for satisfactory performance; the most common
undergraduate grade
Grade of D = minimally passing; less than the typical undergraduate achievement
Grade of F = failing

The Fine Print

Late Papers: I encourage you to turn in all papers, late if necessary. You must know, however, that there is a penalty for submitting assignments late. The reason should be obvious: regardless of the reason for being late, you have an unfair advantage over those students who have prepared, done the work, and completed it within the limits and guidelines of the assignment. Therefore, I am happy to accept late assignments, but know that there is a 10 percentage point penalty (per assignment) for doing so, no matter what the reason (health, death in the family, computer crisis, etc.). This is to discourage you from procrastinating or otherwise missing deadlines, and to encourage you to do your work in a timely fashion. You have one week to turn in a late assignment. No exceptions!

Academic Honesty: If I suspect you of cheating on a test, or of presenting a paper as your own which you have not written, I will confront you with my suspicions and ask you to provide documentary evidence that either you have not cheated (e.g. complete set of notes) or that the paper is your own (e.g. a rough draft, notes, evidence of original work.) If you are caught cheating you will receive a zero on the assignment/test and I will forward my suspicions and evidence for them to the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities for them to handle. There will be no opportunity to do make-up work on such assignments. Please read the guidelines on academic honesty, and the consequences of cheating by looking at my website, http://www-rohan.sdsu.edu/~remoore/honesty.html.

Assignments

1. Four Tests
There will be four tests, worth 20 points each. All tests will follow an identical format of including definitions, short answer, and essay questions. These are not multiple-choice exams, so no Scantron is needed. Sample questions, study guides, and class discussion will help you to prepare for the exams. They are not cumulative. The lowest score on any one test will be dropped. Tests are scheduled for 24 Sept, 27 Oct, 17 Nov, and 10 Dec. (60 points)

2. "What Is Christianity?"
This 4-5 pp reflection paper (as opposed to research paper) integrates what you have learned over the course of the semester about Christianity. In your own words you will express your own thoughts in answer to the definitional question "what is Christianity?" You may take a number of different approaches. The key elements, however, will be your insights into what Christianity is, based on class readings, lectures, discussions, and
fieldwork. Papers should be typed, double-spaced, in 12 point Times Roman. Due 16 December. (20 points)

3. Christianity in San Diego (Field Project)
To better understand the diversity of Christian beliefs it helps to talk to actual believers. You are thus required to research a Christian denomination, attend the worship service of that denomination, and produce some sort of final project on the denomination, paying attention to the particulars of a local congregation. A step-by-step assignment sheet will help make the process clear. We will closely examine a limited number of denominations and their congregations located in the campus area. Working in groups you will look at denominational and congregational websites, attend at least one worship service, interview the pastor/priest, and become thoroughly acquainted with a branch of Christianity unknown to you previously. Although many students groan when they see this assignment, the fact is that 90-95% of those who do this assignment, especially the site visit, have a good experience and learn a lot from it. An assignment sheet will give you due dates for a very structured approach to the project. (50 points) N.B. If you are a Christian, you may not study the church or denomination to which you belong.

4. Written Reading Summaries
These two, short 1-2 pp papers summarize readings completed while the instructor is attending a conference. Due 1 December (5 points each, for 10 points total)

5. Participation
The success of this course, as well as what students get out of it, depends heavily upon student initiative and involvement. We are all teachers and learners together. Thus it is important that students come to class having completed assigned readings and bringing their workbooks with them in order to discuss difficult readings and topics. Participation is evaluated on short, in-class assignments, work in discussion groups, presence in class, and willingness to contribute to group discussions.