

Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary
THEO 540 Global Christianity In an Interfaith World
Spring 2020

Instructor:

Hendrik R. Pieterse, D.Phil.
Office: Stead Hall, Office 202
Tel: 847-866-3892
Email: hendrik.pieterse@garrett.edu

Course Description

The course offers an introduction to Christianity as a worldwide movement in the context of a religiously plural world. We study factors that contributed to and sustain Christianity's current shape, reach, and impact and examine key cultural, ethical, and theological challenges facing mission and ministry in a world church. The course fulfills the Basic Graduate Theological Studies requirement for United Methodist ordination.

Course Objectives

- Understand the scope, texture, and identity of global Christianity today as a polycentric, increasingly non-Western movement.
- Appreciate the complex impact of the Western missionary movement and of Western colonial expansion on Christianity's current configuration.
- Examine key theological challenges raised by Christianity's global reach, such as globalization and the integrity of Christian witness; culture, context, and Christian identity; and religious pluralism.
- Identify biblical and theological elements appropriate to mission and ministry in a world church today.

Required Texts

Bevans, Stephen B. and Roger P. Schroeder, *Constants in Context: A Theology of Mission for Today*. Orbis, 2005. ISBN: 978-1570755170. List price: \$34.00
Kim, Sebastian and Kirsteen Kim. *Christianity as a World Religion: An Introduction*. Second Edition. Bloomsbury Academic, 2016. ISBN: 978-1472569349. List price: \$29.95
Küster, Volker, *The Many Faces of Jesus Christ: Intercultural Christology*. Orbis, 2001. ISBN: 978-1570753541. List price: \$25.70