

Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary

THEO 680 Doing Theology Interculturally: World Christianity as Context for Doing Theological Reflection Today

Fall 2023

Instructor:

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Modality: Hyflex (in-person and/or synchronous online)

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

As a worldwide movement, Christianity is experienced, understood, lived, and propagated in thousands of cultures, myriad languages, and diverse socio-religious contexts today. Christian faith, and the contexts in which Christians seek to reflect on God today, is marked by *cultural-religious pluralism*.

This intercultural ecumenical context challenges North American and European theologians to critically examine customary Western approaches to the theological task, actively seek out dialogue with theologies in diverse contexts around the world, and embrace an intercultural approach to theology. This means that theologians should adopt an intercultural approach to theology not as optional *but as a necessary dimension of every theology that seeks to be relevant and credible in today's global context*.

Employing World Christianity studies, cultural studies, and intercultural theology as conceptual frame, this course (1) explores the hermeneutical, methodological, and theological demands of doing theology interculturally today, (2) actively engages the diversity of ways of doing theology in the world church, and (3) cultivate and practice the virtues and skills of intercultural theological reflection in our own contexts.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES:

At the end of the course, the student should:

1. Have a thorough understanding of the transformation of Christianity into a worldwide movement over the course of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.
2. Have a substantive grasp of the hermeneutical, methodological, and theological challenges involved in engaging theologically across cultures.
3. Be able to evaluate the contribution of intercultural theology as a theological approach well suited to doing theology in a diverse world church.
4. Have cultivated and actively practiced the orientation and basic skills of employing an intercultural approach to doing theology.

5. Have gained experience in practicing intercultural theology through a close dialogue with selected emerging theologies and theologians around the world.

REQUIRED COURSE TEXTS:

Field, David N. *Bid Our Jarring Conflicts Cease: A Wesleyan Theology and Praxis of Church Unity*. Nashville: Foundery Books, 2017. ISBN: 978-0938162247. List price (Amazon): \$39.99

Hanciles, Jehu J. (ed). *World Christianity: History, Methodologies, Horizons*. Maryknoll, New York: Orbis Books, 2021. ISBN: 978-1626984486. List price (Amazon): \$45.00

Wrogemann, Henning. *Intercultural Hermeneutics*. Intercultural Theology, vol. 1. Trans. Karl E. Böhmer. IVP Academic, 2016. ISBN: 978-0830850976. List price (Amazon): \$45.00

Primary readings will be provided on OneDrive.