

Department of Religions & Theology

MODULE DESCRIPTION

Semester B:

World Christianities: Africa and Asia: BCRE22 (HE2336)

ECTS: 5

Contact hours: 22 Lecture hours

Lecturer(s): Dr Patrick Claffey (pclaffey@tcd.ie/ext. 1297)

Module Description:

This module will give students an insight into Christianity away from its European centres on the peripheries in Africa and Asia. It will look at traditional 'indigenous' Christianities dating back to the third century: Coptic Christianity in North Africa and the Syrian Orthodox, Syro-Malabar, the Syro-Malankara and other rites in India. There will be an examination of both the 16th and 19th century missionary movements and finally a look at more recent developments in Africa Initiated Christianity and the wider Pentecostal development on both continents. The course will look at some of the theological and pastoral issues emerging: healing, deliverance and faith gospel, the place of Christ in salvation, subaltern theologies, and the importance of inter-religious dialogue.

Learning Outcomes: On successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Identify several different strands in world Christianity in Africa and Asia
- Appreciate the differences in theology and in praxis
- Understand the social significance of Christianity in these parts of the world
- Have a knowledge of the significant theological debates in these areas
- Be aware of the challenges this poses for world Christianity

Recommended Reading:

Hastings, Adrian, *A History of African Christianity 1950-1975* (Cambridge: CUP, 1979).

--, *The Church in Africa 1450-1950* (Oxford: Clarendon, 1993).

Phan, Peter (ed.), *Christianities in Asia* (Chichester: Wiley-Blackwell, 2011), 9-35.

King, Archdale, *The Rites of Eastern Christendom* (New Jersey: Gorgias Press, 1948/2009), Vol. I2, Ch. IX, 'The Syro-Malabar Rite' Corten, Andre/ Fratani-Marshall, Ruth (eds.), *Between Babel and Pentecost: Transnational Pentecostalism in Africa and Latin America* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press).

Hick, John & Knitter, Paul F. (eds.), *The Myth of Christian Uniqueness: Toward a Pluralistic Theology of Religions* (Oregon: Wipf & Stock, 1987).

Dupuis, Jacques, *Toward a Christian Tradition of Pluralism* (Orbis: New York, 2001).

Methods of Assessment: Essay 3000 words, deadline Fri. April 7, 2017.