TMM2257 Christianity and Inter Faith Engagement
Friday 24th June – Sunday 26th June, 2016

Module Tutor: Ray Gaston
Accompanying tutor: Jane Craske

AIMS
- To give students a critical overview of Christian approaches to religious plurality in theology, biblical interpretation and spiritual practice.
- To enable students to have significant experiences of other faith traditions and to explore the impact of inter faith engagement upon their own Christian self-understandings.
- To enable students to explore critically the theology, spirituality and practice of Christian inter faith practitioners from historical and contemporary contexts.

CONTENT
- Christian theology, the Bible and religious pluralism.
- Christian spirituality in encounter with other faith traditions.
- Opportunities to engage in guided reading of the sacred texts of at least one faith tradition.
- Exploration of the theology, spirituality and practice of significant Christian inter faith practitioners from historical, contemporary, local, national and/or international contexts

Learning Outcomes:
By the end of this module students will be able to

Subject Knowledge [SSK 3]
- Demonstrate a thorough knowledge of Christian theological, ecclesiological and spiritual approaches to religious plurality and inter faith engagement and the questions to which they give rise.

Subject Skills [SSS 3]
- Analyse and evaluate the possibilities for spiritual enrichment through engagement with different faith traditions and communicate this effectively.
- Reflect critically on their own practice of Christian discipleship, ministry and mission in the light of their encounter with, and learning about, another faith tradition.

Key Skills [KS 1, 2, 3]
- Identify, gather, analyse and evaluate textual source materials for a range of purposes, and communicate their findings with clarity and fairness.
- Undertake a critical analysis of information and arguments, communicating these effectively, showing critical awareness of their own beliefs, commitments and prejudices.
• Take responsibility for a task that involves independent inquiry; the management of time, resources and use of IT; meeting deadlines, evaluating the task and learning from it.

**Timetable**

**Friday 24th June**

8am Breakfast

8.45 Morning Prayer (Student led)

9.15 **Introduction to the Module** – The methodology, the visits, entering the experience and form of assessment

10.15 Break

10.45 *‘Faith, Hope and Love’ – Exploring Christian theology of religions & theologies of dialogue*
   A session exploring the Christian theology of religions, this will be an opportunity for us all to explore more deeply ‘what is my theology in relation to other faiths?’

12.45 Break

1pm Lunch

2.00pm-4pm **Visits to Faith Communities** places of Worship organised by the Faith Encounter Programme [http://www.faithencounter.org.uk/](http://www.faithencounter.org.uk/) (see separate document)

6pm Dinner

7pm – 8.30 **Dialogue vs.Witness? Exploring Missiology in a Multi Faith World**
   Are dialogue and witness diametrically opposed? How might engaging with our multi faith context help us embrace more fully our own diversity as a tradition and learn from each other’s strengths to enable dialogue and witness in our multi faith context

**Saturday 25th June**

8am Breakfast

8.45 Morning Prayer (Student led)

9.15 **Exploring Scripture in a Religiously Plural World**
   **The Bible and Religious Pluralism**
   How does bringing to our reading of the Bible a consciousness of our multi faith context open up fresh perspectives and challenge us to rethink interpretations of the past and
how do we engage with others reading and interpreting what we perceive as ‘our’ scriptures?

10.40 Coffee

11.00 **Exploring Scripture in a Religiously plural World – Reading others ‘sacred texts’**

1pm Lunch

2.00pm-4pm **Visits to Faith Communities** places of Worship organised by the Faith Encounter Programme [http://www.faithencounter.org.uk/](http://www.faithencounter.org.uk/) (see separate document)

6pm Dinner

7pm – 8.30pm **Structured Group Reflection on visits**

**Sunday 26th June**

8am Breakfast

8.45 Morning Prayer (student led)

9.15 **Christian Spirituality in a Multi Faith World – Inter Faith Engagement as a ‘Means of Grace’**

10.40 Coffee

11.00 **An Invitation from a Mosque – A Case Study in Inter Faith Engagement**

1pm Lunch

2.00pm -3.00pm Service of Holy Communion

3.15 pm Feedback and closing session

4pm Close

**Guidance for student-led worship (From Mark Earey)**

Worship should consist of a short, simple service (in the morning without a sermon). We suggest that you might base it on *The Methodist Worship Book* (use Prayer in the Morning, pp. 5ff). You can use an alternative simple service if you wish.

Aim for a service of no longer than 20 minutes. This is an opportunity to hone your skills at worship leading, for a service which you haven’t had to plan from scratch (though, of
course, you may choose hymns or songs). If you need to have preaching experience for your portfolio please ensure this is at Evening Prayer.

**General Information**

The emergency telephone number will be as for residential weekends – 07747 496093

**Assignments**

Assignment deadline: **18th July 2016**

**Component 1 Written Assignment** – Drawing upon the arguments of at least two theologians outline your own preference for a theology of religions drawing upon either the typology and/or other models critical of it. (2000 words) (70%)

**Assessment Guidance for Component 1**

https://www.dur.ac.uk/resources/common.awards/AssessmentGuidelines-EssaysandOtherWrittenAssignments.pdf

**Component 2 Reflective Journal** – Reflect using the Gifts, Challenges and Questions and Inter, Intra, Inner methodology on the experience of the course drawing upon classroom engagement, visits, engagement with other scriptures and wider reading. Date individual entries and annotations, but ensure that there is an overall coherence. (1000 words) (30%)

**Assessment criteria for reflective journal**

**Description and analysis:**
- Is the description clear with appropriate detail?
- Is there an analysis of the subject matter (experience or learning) that shows your ability to think critically and to ask good questions?

**Reflection, reflexivity and integration:**
- Is there good and relevant engagement with biblical and theological sources?
- Does your journal give evidence that your learning has affected your own inner world?
- Have you integrated different areas of learning effectively and appropriately?

**Presentation**
- Is the journal well organised, showing the chronology of your reflections persuasively.

**Assessment guidance for Component 2:**

https://www.dur.ac.uk/resources/common.awards/AssessmentGuidelines-ReflectiveLearningJournals.pdf

**Assessment criteria for Level 5:**

https://www.dur.ac.uk/resources/common.awards/AssessmentCriteriaLevel5.pdf
CORE TEXTS

The following two books operate as core texts for the course.

Alan Race & Paul M Hedges (Eds) Christian Approaches to Other Faiths (SCM 2008)

Alan Race & Paul M Hedges (Eds) Christian Approaches to Other Faith – A Reader (SCM 2009)

A third book is also significant for the course

Catherine Cornille The Im-Possibility of Interreligious Dialogue (Crossroad 2008)

A wider reading list is available at the end of this handbook. However, the books on preparatory reading below and core texts above and the preparatory preparation for each session on Moodle should provide you with significant resources for completing the course successfully.

PREPARATORY READING

Read one of:

Ray Gaston, A Heart Broken Open Radical Faith in an Age of Fear (Wild Goose Publications 2009)

Klaus Klostermaier, Hindu and Christian in Vrindaban (SCM 2009 reissue)

Elizabeth J Harris Buddhism for a Violent World (SCM 2012)

And one of

Richard Sudworth, Distinctly Welcoming – Christian Presence in a Multi-faith Society (Scripture Union 2007)

Andrew Wingate Celebrating Difference, Staying Faithful: How to Live in a Multi-faith World (DLT 2005)

Structured Scriptural Reading

You might like to engage with the scripture of another tradition during the course and in the period after leading up to writing the assessment. The following are some guidelines for this reading, if you so wished to include this as part of your exploration. The aim is to assist you in being able to engage constructively with the texts of other traditions.
The following are the recommended texts to choose from:

For engaging with Jewish interpretation of the Tanakh see resources on [http://lightoftorah.net/](http://lightoftorah.net/) and use a Jewish translation and ordering of the bible such as the Jewish Publication Society’s *The Jewish Bible* or *The Jewish Study Bible* or engaging with the weekly commentaries on the Parashah (Torah portion) from Rabbi Jonathan Sacks at [http://www.rabbisacks.org/](http://www.rabbisacks.org/)

For engaging with the Qur’an use one of the following:

For engaging with Sikh Scripture use one of the following:  
*Selections from the Sikh Scriptures The Guru Granth Sahib*

An accessible Buddhist text would be:  
*Dhammapada* (British Buddhist Society) but also consider adopting Buddhist meditation practice for the length of the course. A basic introduction such as Thich Nhat Hanh’s *The Miracle of Mindfulness* (Rider 2008) would be a good place to start.

And from the Hindu tradition the suggestion is  
Geoffrey Parrinder *The Bhagavad Gita: A Verse Translation* (One World 2013)

**GENERAL READING LIST**
(This is not an exhaustive reading list you are encouraged to browse our growing library collection on the subjects covered in this module.)

**General Introductions**

Huston Smith the *World’s Religions - Our Great Wisdom Traditions* Revised edition (Harper 1999)


Paul F Knitter *Introducing Theologies of Religions* (Orbis 2004)

Veli-Matti Karkkainen *An Introduction to the Theology of Religions – Biblical, Historical and Contemporary Perspectives* (IVP 2003)


Alan Race and Paul M Hedges (Eds), *Christian Approaches to Other Faiths* (SCM 2008)

**Christian Theology in Dialogue**

Paul F Knitter *Introducing Theologies of Religions* (Orbis 2004)

Veli-Matti Karkkainen *An Introduction to the Theology of Religions – Biblical, Historical and Contemporary Perspectives* (IVP 2003)

Alan Race and Paul M Hedges (Eds), *Christian Approaches to Other Faiths* (SCM 2008)

Paul Hedges, *Controversies in Interreligious Dialogue and the Theology of Religions* (SCM 2010)


Amos Young, *Beyond the Impasse, Toward a Pneumatological Theology of Religions* (Paternoster 2003)

Harold Netland and Gerald McDermott, *A Trinitarian Theology of Religions – An Evangelical Proposal* (OUP 2014)


Michael Barnes, *Theology and the Dialogue of Religions* (CUP 2002)


Catherine Cornille, *The Im-possibility of Interreligious Dialogue* (Herder &Herder 2008)

Jacques Dupuis, *Christianity and the Religions – From Confrontation to Dialogue* (Orbis 2002)


Gerald McDermott, *Can Evangelicals learn from World Religions* (IVP 2005)

**Christian Spirituality in Dialogue**
Catherine Cornille, *The Im-possibility of Interreligious Dialogue* (Herder & Herder 2008)

Catherine Cornille and Christopher Conway (eds) *Interreligious Hermeneutics* (Cascade 2010)

Catherine Cornille (Ed) *Criteria of Discernment in Interreligious Dialogue* (Cascade 2009)


John B Cobb and Ward M McAfee (eds) *The Dialogue Comes of Age – Christian Encounters with Other Faith Traditions* (Fortress 2010)


David H Jensen *In the Company of Others – A Dialogical Christology* (Pilgrim Press 2001)

Duncan S Ferguson, *Exploring the Spirituality of the World Religions – The Quest for Personal, Spiritual and Social Transformation* (Continuum 2010)

Jacob Nauser & Bruce Chilton (Eds) *The Golden Rule – The Ethics of Reciprocity in World Religions* (Continuum 2008)

Wayne Teasdale, *Bede Griffiths – An Introduction to his Interspiritual Thought* (SLP 2003)


Beverly J Lanzetta, *The Other Side of Nothingness – Toward a Theology of Radical Openness* (SUNY 2001)


Frithjof Schuon *The Transcendent Unity of Religions* (Quest 1993)

**Scripture in Dialogue**


Clark H Pinnock, A Wideness in God’s Mercy – The Finality of Jesus Christ in a World of Religions (Zondervan 1992)

Wilfred Cantwell Smith, What is Scripture?: A Comparative Approach (SCM 1993)

Jonathan Magonet, A Rabbi Reads the Bible (SCM 2004)


Pamela Eisenbaum, Paul Was Not a Christian: The Original Message of a Misunderstood Apostle (Harper 2009)

David F Ford & C C Pecknold (Eds), The Promise of Scriptural Reasoning (Blackwell 2006)

Michael Lodahl, Claiming Abraham- Reading the Bible and the Qur’an Side by Side (Brazos 2010)

John Kaltner, Ishmael Instructs Issac – An Introduction to the Qur’an for Bible Readers (Liturgical Press 1999)

John Kaltner, Inquiring of Joseph – Getting to Know a Biblical Character through the Qur’an (Liturgical Press 2003)


Harold Coward, Experiencing Scripture in World Religions (Orbis 2000)

Harold Coward, Scripture in the World Religions: a short introduction (One World 2000)


John Parry, The Word of God is not Bound (Centre for Contemporary Christianity 2009)

**Judaism**

**Scripture Reading**

*Tanakh: The Jewish Bible* (Jewish Publication Society 1991)

The Jewish Study Bible (OUP 2004)

Abraham Heschel, Heavenly Torah : As Refracted Through The Generations (Continuum 2007)

Barry Holtz, Back to the Sources – Reading the Classic Jewish Texts, (Simon & Schuster 1986)
**Introductions to Judaism**

Steven Leonard Jacobs *The Jewish Experience – An Introduction to Jewish History and Jewish Life* (Fortress 2010)


Alan Goshen – Gottstein and Eugene Korn (Eds) *Jewish Theology and World Religions* (Littman 2012)

Steven T. Katz, Shlomo Biderman and Gershon Greenberg (eds) *Wrestling with God: Jewish theological responses during and after the Holocaust* (OUP 2007)

Eugene Korn *The Jewish Connection to Israel, the Promised Land – A Brief Introduction for Christians* (Jewish Lights 2008)

**Christian – Jewish Relations & Dialogue**

James Carroll, *Constantine’s Sword – The Church and the Jews* (First Mariner 2002)

Michael S. Kogan, *Opening the Covenant: A Jewish Theology of Christianity.* (OUP 2007)

Marilyn J Salmon *Preaching Without Contempt – Overcoming Unintended Anti-Judaism* (Fortress 2006)

Edward Kessler *An Introduction to Jewish-Christian Relations* (CUP 2010)


Mary C Boys (Ed) *Seeing Judaism Anew – Christianity’s Sacred Obligation* (Rowman & Littlefield 2005)

Darrell Jodock (Ed) *Covenantal Conversations – Christians in Dialogue with Jews & Judaism* (Fortress 2008)


See also Amy Jill Levine and Pamela Eisenbaum above in *Scripture in Dialogue*
Islam

Scripture Reading


*The Qur’an* translated by M. A. S. Abdel Haleem (OUP 2005)


Introductions to Islam


Ziauddin Sardar, *Desperately Seeking Paradise – Journeys of a Skeptical Muslim* (Granta 2005)


Carl W. Ernst, *Following Muhammad – Rethinking Islam in the Contemporary World* (Chapel Hill 2003)

Christian-Muslim Relations and Dialogue

Ovey N Mohammed S.J. *Muslim-Christian Relations – Past, Present, Future* (Orbis 1999)

Bennett. Clinton *In Search of Muhammed*, (Continuum 1998)

Kenneth Cragg, *The Call of the Minaret* (One World 1985 revised Edition)


Hugh Goddard, *Christians & Muslims – From Double Standards to mutual Understanding* (Curzon Press 1995)


Irfan A. Omar (ed) *A Muslim View of Christianity – Essays on Dialogue* by Mahmoud Ayoub (Orbis 2007)

Christian Troll, *Dialogue and Difference: Clarity in Christian-Muslim Relations* (Orbis 2009)


Miroslav Volf (Ed) *A Common Word: Muslims and Christians on Loving God and Neighbour* (Eerdmans 2009)


See also various books on Bible and Qur’an in *Inter Faith Hermeneutics – Scripture in a World of Faiths* above.

**Buddhism**

**Scripture Reading**

Dhammapada (British Buddhist Society)

**Introductions to Buddhism and Meditation**

Walpola Rahula, *What the Buddha Taught* (One World 1997)

Nyanaponika Thera, *The Heart of Buddhist Meditation* (Red Wheel 1996)

Thich Nhat Hanh, *Old Path White Clouds* (Full Circle 2003)

Thich Nhat Hanh, *The Miracle of Mindfulness* (Rider 2008)

Christmas Humphreys, *Concentration and Meditation* (Watkins 1959)

Geshe Gedun Lodro, *Calm Abiding and Special Insight* (Snow Lion 1996)

**Christian – Buddhist Dialogue**


Janice Dean Willis, *Dreaming Me: Black, Baptist and Buddhist: One Woman's Spiritual Journey* (Wisdom 2008)


Ross Thompson, *Buddhist Christianity: A Passionate Openness* (O Books 2010)


Paul F. Knitter, *Without Buddha I Could Not be a Christian* (One World 2009)


Leo Lefeebure and Peter Feldmeier, *The Path of Wisdom – A Christian Commentary on the Dhammapada* (Eerdmans 2011)

**Sikhism**

**Scripture Reading**


*Selections from the Sikh Scriptures The Guru Granth Sahib*

**Introductions to Sikhism**


Jagbir Jhutti-Johal, *Sikhism Today* (Continuum 2011)

W Owen Cole *Teach Yourself Sikhism* (Hodder and Stoughton 2003)


W H McLeod *Sikhs and Sikhism* (OUP 1999)


**Sikhism and Christianity**


John Parry, *The Word of God is not Bound* (Centre for Contemporary Christianity 2009)

**Hinduism**

**Scripture Reading**


Geoffrey Parrinder *The Bhagavad Gita: A Verse Translation* (One World 2013)

**Introductions to Hinduism**

Klaus Klostermaier, *Hindu Writings: A Short Introduction to the Major Sources* (One World 2000)

Klaus Klostermaier, *Hinduism: A Short History* (One World 2000)

Deepak Sarma, *Hinduism: A Reader* (Blackwell 2008)

J E Llewellyn *Defining Hinduism: A Reader* (Equinox 2005)


**Christian – Hindu Dialogue**


