

REGENT COLLEGE SUMMER 2015 ONE PAGE SYLLABUS

HIST 591: WORLD CHRISTIANITY, ca. 1900 to the present

Prof. Mark Noll

July 13-24, 8:30-11:00 am

2 or 3 graduate credit hours

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Almost no one in 1900 could have imagined how much the shape of world Christianity would change over the course of the twentieth century and into the twenty-first. Yet today the faith is expanding with extraordinary speed (and a good deal of chaos) in places like China, Korea, the Pacific Islands and sub-Saharan Africa where Christian communities were not long ago sparse on the ground. In Latin America, newer Pentecostal movements have burgeoned amidst the Catholic and syncretistic religion that once dominated this region. By contrast, the "Christian West" seems to be becoming steadily less and less Christian. This course presents basic historical information on these stunning changes. It draws on the rising tide of expert literature for individual parts of the world, as well as the work of acknowledged missiological experts (especially Andrew Walls, Lamin Sanneh, Dana Robert, and David Martin). Alongside a historical introduction, the course should also spur important questions about civilization, culture, social order, and especially biblical interpretation and theology.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES.

By the successful completion of the course, students should:

- 1) grasp that great changes have taken place in the shape of world Christianity over the last century;
- 2) understand in a preliminary way some of the most important of those changes for some of the major world regions;
- 3) begin to think about the theological implications of those changes;
- 4) be oriented to the proliferating bibliography for the recent history of Christianity around the world;
- 5) be equipped to guide discussions in local churches about these changes and what they mean for the Body of Christ in all locations.

CLASS OUTLINE

- Day 1** a) The New Shape of World Christianity (Orientation, Authorities); b) The Christian World in 1900
Day 2 a) Europe and the passing of Christendom; b) The American Factor in World Christianity
Day 3 a) The recent disruption of Latin American "Christendom"; b) Pentecostalism, Liberation, and Pope Francis I
Day 4 a) African Pioneers: D. George, T. Buxton, A. Crowther, W. Harris; b) The East African Revival, African Independent Churches
Day 5 a) Violence and Hope (Rwanda); b) Catholics and Protestants
Day 6 a) India: overview; b) P. Ramabai, S. Singh, V. S. Azariah
Day 7 a) The Pacific; b) The contrasting histories of Japan and Korea
Day 8 a) China: ancient history, modern history, struggle; b) China: "death" and resurrection
Day 9 a) Watchman Nee; b) Cardinal Ignatius Pinmei Kung
Day 10 a) Catch up; b) Wrap up

REQUIRED READINGS (ALL STUDENTS:

Walls, Andrew F. *The Missionary Movement in Christian History* (Orbis, 1996).

Robert, Dana Lee. *Christian Mission: How Christianity Became a World Religion* (Wiley-Blackwell, 2009).

Please note that the Regent College Bookstore offers a 20% discount on regularly priced books

A FULL SYLLABUS OUTLINING THE COURSE ASSIGNMENTS & SUBMISSION DEADLINES, DROP DEADLINES, AND POLICES, IS AVAILABLE ON MOODLE
moodle.regent-college.edu/login