

## Christianity in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries

**Goals:** This course seeks to accomplish three tasks -- to obtain an impressionistic overview of Christian thought in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries (including its major currents or movements); to become acquainted with several outstanding theologians and their writings; and to identify key issues of discourse among Western Christian scholars from 1820 to 1970.

**Approach:** We shall attempt to reach these goals by reading and discussing a number of important theological works and a survey textbook.

**Texts:** Students are asked to read the survey by William E. Hordern (*A Layman's Guide to Protestant Theology*, rev. ed.) and one significant work by each of Karl Barth (*The Humanity of God*), Paul Tillich (*Dynamics of Faith*), and Harvey Cox (*The Secular City*). For their theological reports, students will each choose one additional book from the theologians listed below.

**Videos:** A video on American evangelicalism and a video depicting the life and thought of Dietrich Bonhoeffer constitute important and integral parts of the course. Questions concerning each video will appear on the corresponding examination.

**Biographical Report:** Students are asked to present a ten-minute oral report on the life and work of one of the following theologians: Horace Bushnell, Friedrich Schleiermacher, Albrecht Ritschl, Adolf Harnack, Albert Schweitzer, P. T. Forsyth, or Walter Rauschenbusch. Students should prepare a one-page printed summary to share with the class. (For this Biographical Report, Internet sites may be used but should not be abused.)

**Theological Report:** Students are asked to write and to present orally to the class a five-page library-research paper analyzing a published book by one of the following theologians: Soren Kierkegaard, Rudolf Otto, Emil Brunner, Friedrich Gogarten, Rudolf Bultmann, John Gresham Machen, E. J. Carnell, Reinhold Niebuhr, H. Richard Niebuhr, Karl Rahner, John Howard Yoder, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Hans Küng, Gustaf Aulen, or John Cobb, Jr.

Each report will involve reading one important book by the theologian and consulting at least five printed secondary sources (no Internet sites). The written report should be carefully documented (at least six printed sources, no Internet sites) and should conform to recognized standards for footnoting, punctuation, structure, grammar, style, spelling, etc. (Plagiarism or Internet-only sources will receive no credit.)

Definition of a "good" (i.e., a "B" or, in this course, 80%) paper or essay: With Professor Steve Naragon I agree that a good paper "should involve at least the following basics: a concise and engaging thesis paragraph supported by a list of paragraphs (each of which contains a single thought, typically with a topic sentence at its front-end), followed by a conclusion which adds nothing new in the way of information but perhaps draws-out latent inferences from the paper's arguments." In addition a good paper should have "clarity of expression, proper punctuation, proper and relevant use of quotations (where attempted), proper and consistent citation (where relevant), impeccable spelling, and at least a tiny amount of grammatical grace."

**Examinations:** There will be two examinations, each combining essay and "objective" (multiple-choice, true-false, matching) kinds of questions. Students will have opportunity to prepare in advance several possible essay topics on the assigned material. Each examination will cover one part of the course.

**Grade:** Each student's course grade will be based on the total number of points accumulated during the semester. Points needed for a course grade of "A-" 1750; "B-" 1500; "C-" 1250; "D-" 1000. The maximum number of points awarded are as follows:

Examination One:	500
Examination Two:	700
Biographical Report:	300
Theological Report:	500
Active Class Participation:	100

**Extra Credit:** In addition to the above activities, 10 points may be obtained each time for attending a Religion & Philosophy Department symposium or similar event. 20 points may be obtained each time for watching and analyzing a course-related video on reserve at Funderberg Library (other than the two required videos). No more than one video report may be accepted each class session.

**Attendance:** An attendance record will be kept. To have a worthwhile experience in this course, you should plan to be at every class session.

**Additional Help:** Feel free to talk with your instructor at his office, A 201; to telephone him there (ext 5348); to send him an e-mail message; or to stop him after class to arrange a meeting time. His regular office hours, when you can be sure to find him in, will be announced.

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Schedule**

<u>Half Week</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Assignment</u>
August	30	Introduction
September	04	(continued)
September	06	Orthodoxy
September	11	(continued)
September	13	Conservatism
September	18	(continued)
September	20	Liberalism
September	25	German Liberalism
September	27	Review
October	02	<b>Examination One</b>
October	04	Neo-Orthodoxy
October	09	(continued)
October	11	Karl Barth
October	16	Karl Barth
October	18	Fall Semester Break
October	23	Karl Barth (continued)
October	25	American Neo-Orthodoxy
October	30	Neo-Orthodox or Neo-Liberal?
November	01	Paul Tillich
November	06	(continued)
November	08	Biblical Studies and Theology
November	13	(continued)
November	15	Worldly Christianity
November	20	Professional Meeting
November	22	Thanksgiving Break
November	27	Secular Christianity
November	29	Harvey Cox
December	04	(continued)
December	06	Review
Finals Wk		<b>Examination Two</b>