



Course Syllabus

Course Code – Course Title: Issues in World Christianity
College Name: Wycliffe
Toronto School of Theology
Winter 2025

Instructor Information

Instructor: Victor I. Ezigbo, Professor
Office Location: Faculty office, second floor
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Office Hours: By appointment

Course Identification

Course Number: Course Code (WYP2661H)
Course Format: In-class/online
Course Name: Issues in World Christianity
Course Location: **TBD**
Class Times: Wednesdays, 7:00-9:00 p.m.
Prerequisites: None

Course Description

This course examines key ideas, themes, and trends that are shaping contemporary discourses in the field of world (global) Christianity. Examples of themes explored are the essential components of the phenomenon of world Christianity, the tectonic shifts that underscore the phenomenon of world Christianity, the translatability of the Christian faith, gospel-culture relations, diasporic forms of Christianity, interaction between the Christian faith and other religious traditions, and the ideas of a global Christian theological identity. The course attends to the role that indigenous Christianity has played in world Christianity. Focusing on specific case studies and using primarily a contextual theological method of inquiry, the course exposes students to the challenges and values for doing theology and Christian ministry in indigenous, multicultural, and intercultural contexts.

Course Resources

Required Course Text (for the list of supplementary readings, see pages 6-9).

Required reading

- Ezigbo, Victor I. "Contextual Theology: God in Human Context." In *Evangelical Theological Method: Five Views*, edited by Stanley E. Porter and Steven M. Studebaker, pp. 93-115. Downers Grove, IVP Academic, 2018.
- Pui-lan, Kwok and Zurlo, Gina A. "World Christianity and the Challenge of Interdisciplinarity." In *World Christianity: History, Methodologies, and Horizons*, edited by Jehu J. Hanciles, pp.75-96. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis, 2021.
- Robert, Dana L. "Shifting Southward: Global Christianity Since 1945." *International Bulletin of Missionary Research* 24 (April 2000): 50-54, 56-58.
- Sanneh, Lamin. *Whose Religion is Christianity? The Gospel beyond the West*. Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 2003.
- Terry LeBlanc, Terry. "New Old Perspectives: Theological Observations Reflecting Indigenous Worldviews." In *Global Theology in Evangelical Perspective: Exploring the Contextual Nature of Theology and Mission*, edited by Jeffrey P. Greenman and Gene L. Green, pp. 165-178. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 2012. (chapter 10).
- Melanchthon, Monica Jyotsna. "Dalit Women and the Bible: Hermeneutical and Methodological Reflections." In *Hope Abundant: Third World and Indigenous Women's Theology*, edited by Kwok Pui-lan, 103-122. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis, 2010.
- Walls, Andrew F. *The Cross-cultural Process in Christian History*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis, 2002.

Course Website(s)

- Quercus: <https://q.utoronto.ca/>

This course uses Quercus for its course website. To access it, go to the UofT Quercus login page at <https://q.utoronto.ca/> and login using your UTORid and password. Once you have logged in to Quercus using your UTORid and password, look for the **My Courses** module, where you'll find the link to the website for all your Quercus-based courses. (Your course registration with ACORN gives you access to the course website in Quercus.) Information for students about using Quercus can be found at: <https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10701> . Students who have trouble accessing Quercus should contact the registrar's office for further help.

Course Learning Objectives/Outcomes

College: Wycliffe

BD Level

Students who successfully complete this course will be able to:

- a. Demonstrate an understanding of the contexts (social, economic, political, religious, and cultural) and methodological approaches that are pertinent to the field of world Christianity.
- b. Engage key theological issues that are germane to the field of world (global) Christianity.

- c. Develop critical awareness of ministry-related issues that the phenomenon of world Christianity brings to the surface.
- d. Develop essential skills for engaging in Christian intercultural ministry in the multicultural context of the era of world Christianity.

Evaluation

Requirements

Basic Degree Students

The final grade for the course will be based on evaluations in three areas:

- 1) *Participation* (10%) – In addition to participating in the regular class activities, students are expected to read all assigned (required) texts and to discuss their key discoveries from the texts in their talking points.
- 2) *Talking Points* (50%) – Students are expected to submit papers for *all six* talking points. (See page 10 for more information on this assignment).
- 3) *Final research paper* (40%) – A substantial scholarly paper is an essential component of this course. (See page 10 for more information).

Grading System - Basic Degree Students

1000, 2000 and 3000 level courses use the following numerical grading scale (see section 11.2 of the BD Handbook):

90-100 (A+)	Exceptional
85-89 (A)	Outstanding
80-84 (A-)	Excellent
77-79 (B+)	Very Good
73-76 (B)	Good
70-72 (B-)	Acceptable
0-69 (FZ)	Failure

Late work (BD). Basic Degree students are expected to hand in assignments by the date given in the course outline. Under exceptional circumstances a student may request a short extension to be negotiated with the instructor. Instructors are not obliged to accept assignments that are late. If the instructor chooses to accept an assignment, where an extension has not been requested and approved before the due date, then **one percentage point per day will be deducted**. The absolute deadline for the submission of assignments is the examination day scheduled for the course or the last day of exam week for the semester in which the course is taught, whichever is sooner.

Students with documented medical or compassionate difficulties or exceptional reasons (e.g., a death in the family or a serious illness) who are unable to submit their work by the end of the term are requested to consult with their instructor and request an SDF. The form is available on our website at this link

<https://www.wycliffecollege.ca/sites/default/files/Basic%20Degree%20Request%20For%20Extension.pdf> or can be collected from the registrar's office. An SDF request must be submitted,

with instructor approval and with an agreed deadline, to the registrar's office no later than the last day of the exam week or the last day of class in which the course is taken. The SDF, when approved, will have a mutually agreed upon deadline that does not extend beyond one year. If a student has not completed work and has not been granted an SDF, a final mark will be calculated that reckons a grade of zero for that component of work that was not submitted.

Late work (Graduate). The prima facie deadline for the completion of work in a course is the last day of the examination week for the trimester in which the course is taken. Students are expected to meet the course deadlines of the instructor offering the course and are advised to plan their research projects accordingly. Students who find themselves unable to meet deadlines for completing coursework can, under certain conditions, receive extensions for completing the work after the dates set by the college in which the course is offered.

The authority to grant an extension for the completion of work in a course beyond the original TST or college deadline (whichever is earlier) for that course rests with the student's college Graduate Director, not the instructor of the course. Nevertheless, the instructor's signature is required for course extension requests to be processed. Students will petition their college Graduate Director for extensions, using a standard form provided by TST on its website. See Section 7.11 of the Conjoint Graduate Degree Handbook.

Course grades. Consistently with the policy of the University of Toronto, course grades submitted by an instructor are reviewed by a committee of the instructor's college before being posted to ACORN. Grades are not official until they are posted to ACORN. Course grades may be adjusted where they do not comply with University Assessment and Grading Practices Policy found at <https://governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/secretariat/policies/grading-practices-policy-university-assessment-and-january-26-2012>, policies found in the TST conjoint program handbooks, or college grading policy.

Policies

Accessibility. Students with a disability or health consideration, whether temporary or permanent, are entitled to accommodation. Students in conjoint degree programs must register at the University of Toronto's Accessibility Services offices; information is available at <http://www.studentlife.utoronto.ca/as> The sooner a student seeks accommodation, the quicker we can assist.

Plagiarism. Students submitting written material in courses are expected to provide full documentation for sources of both words and ideas in footnotes or endnotes. Direct quotations should be placed within quotation marks. (If small changes are made in the quotation, they should be indicated by appropriate punctuation such as brackets and ellipses, but the quotation still counts as a direct quotation.) Failure to document borrowed material constitutes plagiarism, which is a serious breach of academic, professional, and Christian ethics. An instructor who discovers evidence of student plagiarism is not permitted to deal with the situation individually but is required to report it to his or her head of college or delegate according to the TST *Basic Degree Handbook* and the Graduate program Handbooks linked from <http://www.tst.edu/academic/resources-forms/handbooks> and the University of Toronto *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters* <https://governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/secretariat/policies/code-behaviour-academic-matters->

[july-1-2019](https://www.trinity.utoronto.ca/library/research/theology/avoiding-plagiarism-in-theological-writing/). A student who plagiarizes in this course will be assumed to have read the document "Avoidance of plagiarism in theological writing" published by the Graham Library of Trinity and Wycliffe Colleges:

<https://www.trinity.utoronto.ca/library/research/theology/avoiding-plagiarism-in-theological-writing/>

Use of AI. Students are not to submit work generated by AI chatbots such as ChatGPT. If students are found to have done so, they will receive a mark of 'zero' for the assignment concerned.

Recording Policy. Students may not create audio or video recordings of classes with the exception of those students requiring an accommodation for a disability (as identified by the Accessibility Services). These students should speak to the instructor in advance of the class.

If a course is to be recorded (either by a student or the instructor), the following guidelines apply:

- Students must be given notice that lectures or a lecture will be recorded, preferably well before the recorded class. Consent forms are available from the Registrar's office.
- Students must be given the option to opt out of recorded classes without penalty. Students who wish to remain anonymous in a recorded lecture will not be penalized for this choice – if, for example, participation is a required component of the course, students will be given another option to earn participation credit that will not be recorded.

Students creating unauthorized audio and/or video recording of lectures violate an instructor's intellectual property rights and the Canadian Copyright Act. Students violating this agreement will be subject to disciplinary actions under the Code of Student Conduct.

Other academic offences. TST students come under the jurisdiction of the University of Toronto *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters*
<https://governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/secretariat/policies/code-behaviour-academic-matters-july-1-2019>.

Back-up copies. Please make back-up copies of essays before handing them in.

Obligation to check email. At times, the course instructor may decide to send out important course information by email. To that end, all students in conjoint programs are required to have a valid utoronto email address. Students must have set up their utoronto email address which is entered in the ACORN system. Information is available at www.utorid.utoronto.ca. The course instructor will not be able to help you with this. 416-978-HELP and the Help Desk at the Information Commons can answer questions you may have about your UTORid and password. Students should check utoronto email regularly for messages about the course. **Forwarding** your utoronto.ca email to a Hotmail, Gmail, Yahoo or other type of email account is not advisable. In some cases, messages from utoronto.ca addresses sent to Hotmail, Gmail or Yahoo accounts are filtered as junk mail, which means that emails from your course instructor may end up in your spam or junk mail folder. Students in non-conjoint programs should contact the Registrar of their college of registration.

Email communication with the course instructor. The instructor aims to respond to email communications from students in a timely manner. *All email communications from students in conjoint programs must be sent from a utoronto email address.* Email communications from other email addresses are not secure, and the instructor cannot readily identify them as being legitimate emails from students. The instructor is not obliged to respond to email from non-utoronto addresses for students in conjoint programs. Students in non-conjoint programs should only use the email address they have provided to their college of registration.

Course Schedule

Week 1

Wed, 1/8/25

Course Introduction

Lecture (I): *The Phenomenon of World Christianity*

Week 2

Wed, 1/15/25

Lecture (II): *Tectonic Shifts in the Landscape of Christianity*

Required reading

- Lamin Sanneh, *Whose Religion is Christianity: The Gospel beyond the West* (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2003), pp. 1-30 [**Introduction, chapter one: part I, & part II: questions 1-14**]
- Robert, Dana L. "Shifting Southward: Global Christianity Since 1945." *International Bulletin of Missionary Research* 24 (April 2000): 50-54, 56-58.

Supplementary reading (not required)

- Bühlmann, Walbert. *The Coming of the Third Church*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 1977.
- Dana L. Robert, *Christian Mission: How Christianity Became a World Religion* (Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell, 2009).
- Andrew F. Walls, *The Cross-cultural Process in Christian History*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis, 2002.
- Emma Wild-Wood, Carlos F. Cardoza-Orlandi, and Dyson Daughrity, "World Christianity: History, Conception, and Interpretation," in *World Christianity: History, Methodologies, and Horizons*, edited by Jehu J. Hanciles (Maryknoll, NY: Orbis, 2021), pp. 23-43.

Week 3

Wed, 1/22/25

Talking Points (1)

Topic: Dialectics of Recession & Resurgence in World Christianity

Required reading

- Andrew F. Walls, *The Cross-cultural Process in Christian History* (Maryknoll, NY: Orbis, 2002), **chapter 2**.

Supplementary reading (not required)

- Lalsangkima Pachuau, *World Christianity: A Historical and Theological Introduction* (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2018).
- Lamin Sanneh, *Disciples of All Nations: Pillars of World Christianity* (New York: Oxford University, 2008).

- Andrew F. Walls, *Crossing Cultural Frontiers: Studies in the History of World Christianity* (Maryknoll, NY: Orbis, 2017).

Week 4

Wed, 1/29/25

Talking Points (2)

Topic: Studying World Christianity: Methods and Trajectories

Required reading

- Kwok Pui-lan & Gina A. Zurlo, “World Christianity and the Challenge of Interdisciplinarity,” in *World Christianity: History, Methodologies, and Horizons*, edited by Jehu J. Hanciles (Maryknoll, NY: Orbis, 2021), pp. 75-96.

Supplementary reading (not required)

- Dorottya Nagy, “World Christianity as a Theological Approach: A Reflection on Central and Eastern Europe,” in *Relocating World Christianity: Interdisciplinary Studies in the Universal and Local Expressions of the Christian Faith*, edited by Joel Cabrita, David Maxwell, and Emma Wild-Wood (Leiden: Brill, 2017), pp. 143-161.
- Joel Cabrita and David Maxwell, “Relocating World Christianity,” in *Relocating World Christianity: Interdisciplinary Studies in the Universal and Local Expressions of the Christian Faith*, edited by Joel Cabrita, David Maxwell, and Emma Wild-Wood (Leiden: Brill, 2017), pp. 1-44.

Week 5

Wed, 2/5/25

Lecture (III): Christianity as a Translated and Translating Faith

Required reading

- Lamin Sanneh, *Whose Religion is Christianity: The Gospel beyond the West* (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2003), pp. 31-93 [**Introduction, chapter one: part II: questions 14-90**]

Supplementary reading (not required)

- Lamin Sanneh, *Translating the Message: The Missionary Impact on Culture* (Maryknoll, NY: Orbis, 1989).
- Walls, Andrew F. *The Missionary Movement from the West: A Biography from Birth to Old Age*, edited by Brian Stanley. Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans, 2023.
- Jeffrey P. Greenman and Gene L. Green, eds., *Global Theology in Evangelical Perspective: Exploring the Contextual Nature of Theology and Mission* (Downer Grove, IL: IVP, 2012).
- Jehu J. Hanciles, ed., *World Christianity. History, Methodologies, and Horizons* (Maryknoll, NY: Orbis, 2021).

Week 6

Wed, 2/12/25

Talking Points (3)

Topic: The indigenous Factor and the Translatability of the Christian Faith

Required reading

- Lamin Sanneh, *Whose Religion in Christianity? The Gospel beyond the West* (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 2003), pp. 95-130. [**Chapter two**]

Supplementary reading (not required)

- Philip Jenkins, *The New Faces of Christianity: Believing the Bible in the Global South*. New York (Oxford University Press, 2006).
- David Lindenfeld, *World Christianity and Indigenous Experience: A Global History, 1500-2000* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2021).
- Lamin Sanneh, “The Significance of the Translation Principle,” in *Global Theology in Evangelical Perspective: Exploring the Contextual Nature of Theology and Mission*, edited by Jeffrey P. Greenman and Gene L. Green (Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 2012), chapter 2 [pp.35-49].

Week 7

Wed, 2/26/25

Talking Points (4)

Topic: Beyond Christendom: the Rediscovery of Christianity’s Multicultural Character, & the impact of Migration on the Christian faith.

Required reading

- Andrew F. Walls, *The Cross-cultural Process in Christian History* (Maryknoll, NY: Orbis, 2002), **chapters 3 & 4**.

Supplementary reading (not required)

- Afe Adogame, *The African Christian Diaspora: New Currents and Emerging Trends in World Christianity* (New York: Bloomsbury, 2013).
- Jonathan D. James. “‘I Still Call Australia Home:’ Indian Christians Negotiate Their Faith in Australia,” in *Diaspora Christianities: Global Scattering and Gathering of South Asia Christians*, edited by Sam George, 143-157 (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2018).
- Andrew F. Walls, *The Missionary Movement in History: Studies in the Transmission of Faith* (Maryknoll, NY: Orbis, 1996), chapters 1-3.

Week 8

Wed, 3/5/25

Lecture (IV): On Contextual Theologizing

Supplementary reading (not required)

- Stephen B Bevens, *Models of Contextual Theology*, rev. & exp ed. (Maryknoll, NY: Orbis, 2002).
- Stephen B. Bevens and Katalina Tahaafe-Williams, eds., *Contextual Theology in the Twenty-First Century* (Eugene, OR: Pickwick, 2011).
- Victor Ezigbo, *The Art of Contextual Theology: Doing Theology in the Era of World Christianity* (Eugene, OR: Cascade, 2021).

Week 9

Wed, 3/12/25

Talking points (5)

Topic: The roles of context in Christian theological Imagination

Required reading

- Victor Ezigbo, “Contextual Theology: God in Human Context,” in *Evangelical Theological Method: Five Views*, edited by Stanley E. Porter and Steven M. Studebaker (Downers Grove, IVP Academic, 2018), pp. 93-115.

Supplementary reading (not required)

- Shobana Shankar, ““Worlding” Christianity: Approaches to the Making and Breaking of Confessionary Boundaries,” in *World Christianity: History, Methodologies, and Horizons*, edited by Jehu J. Hanciles (Maryknoll, NY: Orbis, 2021), chapter 6 [pp. 97-115].
- Andrew Walls, “The Rise of Global Theologies,” in *Global Theology in Evangelical Perspective: Exploring the Contextual Nature of Theology and Mission*, edited by Jeffrey P. Greenman and Gene L. Green (Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 2012), chapter 1 [pp.19-34].

Week 10

Wed, 3/19/25

Talking Points (6)

Case study: Doing Christian theology in the Native American Context

Required reading

- Terry LeBlanc, “New Old Perspectives: Theological Observations Reflecting Indigenous Worldviews,” in *Global Theology in Evangelical Perspective: Exploring the Contextual Nature of Theology and Mission*, edited by Jeffrey P. Greenman and Gene L. Green (Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 2012), **chapter 10 [pp.165-178]**.

Supplementary reading (not required)

- Richard Twiss, *One Church many Tribes* (Ventura, CA: Regal, 2000).

Week 11

Wed, 3/26/25

Lecture (V): *Dalit Christian Theology: Caste and Theological Anthropology*

Required reading

- Monica Jyotsna Melanchthon, “Dalit Women and the Bible: Hermeneutical and Methodological Reflections,” in *Hope Abundant: Third World and Indigenous Women’s Theology*, edited by Kwok Pui-lan (Maryknoll, NY: Orbis, 2010), pp. 103-122.

Supplementary reading (not required)

- James Massey, *Downtrodden: The Struggle of India’s Dalits for Identity, Solidarity, and Liberation* (Geneva: WCC, 1997).
- Sathianathan Clark, Deenabandhu Manchala, and Philip Vinod Peacock, eds. *Dalit Theology in the Twenty-first Century: Discordant Voices, Discerning Pathways* (New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2014).

Week 12

Wed, 4/2/25

Research Seminar

(Details will be provided in class).

Course Assignments: Schedule and Descriptions

Talking Points

Write a 500-word reflection paper on the required readings (see pages 6-9).

Guidelines

- **Interaction:** Describe and examine one of the main themes in the reading. Explain your points of agreement and disagreement with the author's (or authors') discussion on the theme. (250 words)
- **Application:** Contextualize and apply the theme or an aspect of the theme to a specific issue in your community's context. Explain how the theme has impacted or expanded your understanding of world Christianity as a phenomenon or an academic field of study. (200-230 words)
- **Discussion question:** Include at least a discussion question that can prompt a deeper engagement with the reading. You may ask the question in class during discussion.
- **Class participation:** You are expected to share your reflection on the readings in class.

Research paper

Write a 3000-word scholarly paper on a topic that is pertinent to the issues explored in the course.

Guidelines

- **Topic ideas:** (1) Indigenous agency in world Christianity, (2) the social impact of diasporic ecclesial communities, (3) the role of context in Christian theological imagination, (4) the impact of culture on the transmission of the Christian faith, and (5) the Christian idea of imago Dei and the Dalit experience. (**Note:** you may write on other topics).
- **Structure:** Your paper should have a title (state this in the title page), an introduction (include a description of the subject matter, research questions, and thesis), a detailed exploration of the subject matter (converse with key relevant works), a conclusion, and a list of cited works (bibliography).
- **Approach:** You may adopt a constructive, descriptive, or comparative approach (or a combination of these approaches).
- **Sources:** Converse with at least a primary source on your paper's subject matter. You are expected to use a minimum of 4 books and 4 peer-reviewed articles in scholarly journals.
- **Referencing style:** Use any of the most recent versions of Turabian.
- **Word count:** 3000 (excluding the title page and bibliography).
- **Due date:** April 9 (submit only an electronic copy of your paper in a PDF format).