

115.22

Postmodernity and Globo-religion

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Overview:

An introduction to Postmodern philosophy and globalization with an interest to where and how they intersect with religion. Special attention will be given to the Christian faith.

Objectives:

At the end of this course students will:

- Be able to outline and describe the principle contours of postmodernity and globalization
- Be able to differentiate between Modern and Postmodern
- Be able to recognize and interpret postmodern forays into the Christian church and into religion in general.
- Be able to identify personal post-modern influences on faith and practice

Required Texts:

- Caputo, John D. *What Would Jesus Deconstruct? The Good News of Post-modernism for the Church*, ed. James K. A. Smith, Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2007.
- Raschke, Carl. *GloboChrist: The Great Commission Takes a Postmodern Turn*. Ed. James K. A. Smith, Grand Rapids, Baker Academic, 2008.
- Smith, James. *Who's Afraid of Post Modernism?* Grand Rapids: Baker Academic: Grand Rapids, 2006.

Requirements:

1. Blog.

Students will participate in a group blog through WordPress.com called Globopomo. The assignment is intended as a study and exercise of postmodernity. Students will be divided into groups. A week in advance a group will be assigned a topic and several blogs to monitor by the professor. On Monday of the following week a leader from the group will then post a blog that reflects the views and observations of the group while creating space for further dialogue on the topic in question. The rest of the class will then respond to this new posting and to each other. Grades for the blog will be determined by the quality and quantity of student participation. An interim grade will be assigned every four weeks.

Milestones:

Blog weekly Assignments

Test #1 Who's Afraid of Postmodernism: February 8th

Test #2 What Would Jesus Deconstruct: March 15th

Test #3 GloboChrist: April 14th

Research: March 31st

2. Tests.

Three tests will be given out over the course of the semester based on the three required texts. The test will consist of one or two long answer questions reflecting notes in class and the textbook at hand.

3. Attendance.

Attendance and participation is expected. While attendance will not be taken absenteeism will have a significant negative impact on the final grade.

4. Field Research

Drawing on everything gleaned from class, in groups of two, students will visit one of the following churches listed below and evaluate ways that postmodernity and/or globalization have impacted this church. In some cases, the church may be trying to distance itself from postmodern thought, in other cases it may be openly embracing it. Students are required to do whatever is necessary to the relevant data for the completion of this project. This may include but is not limited to interviews, printed reports and eye-witness accounts.

The final paper should be between 1800 and 2000 and consist of any necessary bibliographic formatting.

St Benedict's Table; St. Margaret's, Faith Covenant, Soul Sanctuary, The Bridge, Southland Community Church (Steinbach). For the adventurous Solomon's Porch or Spirit Garage (Minneapolis). Students may choose another church but need to seek approval from myself.

Evaluation:

■ Blog	20%
■ Tests	45% (3x15)
■ Attendance	10%
■ Research	25%

Grade Summary

A+	90-100	A	85-89	A-	80-84
B+	77-79	B	73-76	B-	70-72
C+	67-69	C	63-66	C-	60-62
D+	57-59	D	53-56	D-	50-52
F	less than 50				

Outline:

- Postmodernity
- Introduction
 - Definitions
 - Postmodern
 - Globalization
 - Deconstruction
 - Straw men and a renewed Fight for Truth
- A Short History : From There to Here: Premodern, Modern, Postmodern
- French Philosophers
 - Jacques Derrida: Nothing Outside the text
 - Michel Foucault: Power is Knowledge
 - Jean Francois Lytoard: Incredulity Toward Metanarratives
 - Jean Baudrillard: Simulacra: End of Reality
 - Roland Barthes: Textual Jouissance
 - Emmanuel Levinas: The Face of the Other
- A Short Guide to Deconstruction
 - Jesus Deconstructs
 - Deconstructing the Church
 - The Church Deconstructs
- Globalization
 - Economic, Ecological, Political, Cultural, Religious
 - Missional and Incarnational
 - Embracing the other
 - The Clash of the Other
 - A view From the End
 - After Postmodernism
- A Doorway to Radical Orthodoxy

Policies

Full text to the academic policies, procedures and regulations of Providence College can be found online in the Student Handbook (http://www.providencecollege.ca/college/student_life/) and the College Academic Calendar (http://www.providencecollege.ca/college/programs/registrars_office/calendar/).

1. Late Assignment Policy

A late Research paper will receive a maximum grade of C+. There is no minimum grade.

As a group failure to present a discussion observation on their assigned date will result in a full letter grade reduction for everyone in the group

2. Plagiarism

Issues of academic integrity will be dealt with according to the policies outlined in the Academic Conduct section of the Student Handbook (http://www.providencecollege.ca/college/student_life/), the Providence College document entitled “Academic Dishonesty: The Problem of Plagiarism in Academic Writing,” in the Providence College Academic Formation Guide available in the Bookstore. Students are strongly encouraged to familiarize themselves with the policies and with the consequences attached to their violation.