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God and Globalization

TH222-3

Spring 2008

[CORE THEOLOGY COURSE]

TH, 6:00PM-8:50PM

Schlegel Hall 122

This online syllabus should be used to gain a better understanding of the content and focus of a course. The syllabus given out in the class may differ from this online version and its content supersedes that of the online syllabus.

Course Description

The purpose of this course is to explore the theological and ethical dimensions of globalization as a contemporary phenomenon marked by a massive expansion of global economic and technological networks. The course seeks to engage in a critical reflection and analysis of the theological, ethical, cultural, political, and economic impact of globalization in today's culture. Radical shifts from an industrially centered economy to an informational and technologically driven economy has signaled new theological realities that urge creative responses and approaches to questions of justice, reconciliation, public policy, domestic and international trade policy, and fundamental issues of identity and difference. Students will reflect on the ways in which globalization emerges as a religious reality with its own distinctive rituals, practices, symbols, and deities. The class will also examine the church's teachings on economics and the persistent realities of poverty—from the ghettos of Chicago, New York, Los Angeles, and Detroit to the slums of Nairobi, Soweto, Tegucigalpa, Mexico City, the Chiapas, and the Balkans.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course participants should be able to do the following:

- Understand the meaning(s) of globalization
- Understand the historical development and contemporary expansion of globalization
- Reflect theologically on the concept of a global economy
- Identify the implications of a global economy for societies
- Assess the implications of globalization for the Church
- Use critical resources from political theology, liberation theology, and theological ethics to evaluate globalization
- Understand how to access the campus library and internet resources to keep abreast of a rapidly developing field.

Academic Honesty

All work you submit in God and Globalization is expected to be yours. Any quotations of the words of others must be clearly indicated, and all direct indebtedness must be acknowledged by citation of author and source. Students unfamiliar with issues related to academic honesty or general citation procedures can find help from the staff in the Academic Support Center and should make use of the available resources at an early date, since violations of Seminary policy on academic honesty can lead to a failing grade for the course.

Inclusive Language

The use of inclusive language in course work is a policy of Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary. In your writing, avoid language for people that leave out part of the population or perpetuate stereotypes. Avoid gender specific pronouns when gender is unknown. Gender specific pronouns should generally be avoided when referring to God unless you are quoting from a theological text or a translation of the Bible that uses them.

Requirements

- (1) Attendance and informed participation (10%), including one in-class presentation on a specific assigned reading from the course. The in-class presentation will be a 1-2 pages (single spaced) paper delivered to the class that reflects the students ability to analyze and critique the author's argument while bringing to bear the student's own distinctive voice in relation to the materials.
- (2) Write two short papers (7-10 pages, double spaced) (40%) that critically reflect and integrates core themes of the course to the point in which the paper is due. The paper should not simply be an exposition or outline of the reading (s). Rather, it should demonstrate your

understanding of the reading, paying close attention to the key arguments, methodologies, and illustrations used. Paper #1 due: March 6th; Paper #2 due: April 3rd.

(3) Final Paper (30%). Students will write a final paper (12-15 pages, double spaced) integrating the readings, and bringing together both the theological and ethical dimensions of the subject or theme covered. In the final papers, students are expected to build on the readings, conduct research, and identify a contemporary theological/ethical challenge regarding the intersection between God and economics in today's world. Due no later than May 15th at noon (May 12th at noon for seniors).

(4) Student Presentation (20%). Students will give a 15-20 minute oral presentation on the research that they are doing for their final paper. Presentations can include audio visual aids. After the presentation, students will answer questions from the class for an additional 10-15 minutes. Both the presentation itself and the student's ability to field questions are included in the grade for this assignment.

Required Texts:

- (1) Rebecca Todd Peters, *In Search of the Good Life: the Ethics of Globalization* (NY: Continuum, 2004)
- (2) Kwok Pui-Lan, Don H. Compier, and Joerg Rieger, *Empire and The Christian Tradition* (Fortress Press, 2007), Item No: 978-0-8006-6215-8
- (3) Max Stackhouse, Peter Paris, *God and Globalization: Religion and the Powers of the Common Life* (Theology for the 21st Century) (Trinity Press International, 2000) ISBN-10: 156338311X
- (4) Daniel G. Groody, Peter C. Phan, *Globalization, Spirituality, and Justice: Navigating the Path to Peace (Theology in Global Perspective)* (Orbis, 2007), ISBN-10: 1570756961
- (5) Pamela K. Brubaker, Rebecca Todd Peters, and Laura A. Stivers, ed., *Justice in a Global Economy: Strategies for Home, Community, and World* (Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox, 2006).

Recommended Texts:

- (1) Max Stackhouse, Peter Paris, *The Spirit and the Modern Authorities: God and Globalization*, Vol. 2 (Trinity Press International, 2001) ISBN-10: 1563383306
- (2) Vincent A. Gallagher, *The True Cost of Low Prices: The Violence of Globalization* (Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2006).

Reserve Readings

- (1) Max Stackhouse, Diane Obenchain, *God and Globalization: Christ and the Dominions of Civilizations*, Vol. 3 (Trinity Press International, 2002).

- (2) Max Stackhouse, Justo Gonzales, *God and Globalization: Globalization and Grace*, Vol. 4, (Continuum International Publishing Group, October 2007)
- (3) Jung Mo Sung (Author), Marcella Althaus-Reid (Editor), Ivan Petrella (Editor), *Desire, Market, Religion (Reclaiming Liberation Theology)* (SCM Press, 2007) ISBN-10: 0334041414
- (4) Jonathan Sacks, *The Dignity of Difference: How to Avoid the Clash of Civilizations* (Continuum Publishing, 2003).
- (5) Max Stackhouse, Peter Paris, *The Spirit and the Modern Authorities: God and Globalization*, Vol. 2 (Trinity Press International, 2001) ISBN-10: 1563383306
- (6) Vincent A. Gallagher, *The True Cost of Low Prices: The Violence of Globalization* (Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2006).

E Reserve (Blackboard)

- (1) *Alternative Globalization: Addressing Peoples and Earth (AGAPE)*, A Background Document
- (2) *Resolution on Just Globalization: Justice, Ownership, and Accountability*, document of the 217th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), 2006
- (3) Martin Luther King, Jr., "The World House" in *Where Do We Go From Here: Chaos or Community?* (Eugene, Oregon: Wipf and Stock Publishers, 1991). Originally published in 1963.
- (4) Leonardo Boff, *Liberation Theology and Globalization* (1999)

Bibliography¹

Samir Amin: *Capitalism in the Age of Globalization: The Management of Contemporary Society* (London, Zed Books, 1997)

Richard Barnet and John Cavanagh: *Global Dreams: Imperial Corporations and the New World Order* (New York, Simon & Schuster, 1994)

Zygmunt Bauman: *Globalization: The Human Consequences* (Cambridge, Polity Press, 1998)

Oliver Boyd-Barrett and Terhi Rantanen: *The Globalization of News* (London, Sage, 1998)

Sandra Braman and Annabelle Sreberny-Mohammadi: *Globalization, Communication and Transnational Civil Society* (New Jersey, Hampton Press, 1996)

¹ Global Policy Forum, <http://www.globalpolicy.org/globaliz/bibliog.htm>

Jeremy Brecher and Tim Costello: *Global Village or Global Pillage: Economic Reconstruction From the Bottom Up* (Boston, South End Press, 1994)

Lowell L. Bryan and Diana Farrell: *Market Unbound: Unleashing global capitalism* (New York, John Wiley, 1996)

Michel Chossudovsky: *The Globalisation of Poverty: Impacts of IMF and World Bank Reforms* (London, Zed Books, 1997)

Ian Clark: *Globalization and Fragmentation: International Relations in the Twentieth Century* (Oxford, Oxford University Press, 1997)

Susan E. Clarke: *The Work of Cities* (Minneapolis, University of Minnesota Press, 1998)

William Greider: *One World, Ready or Not: The Manic Logic of Global Capitalism* (New York, Simon & Schuster, 1997)

Satya Dev Gupta: *The Political Economy of Globalization* (Boston, Zed Books, 1997)

Jeff Haynes: *Religion, Globalization, and Political Culture in the Third World* (New York, St. Martin's Press, 1999)

Andrew Herod, Gearoid O Tuathail, and Susan M. Roberts: *An Unruly World? : Globalization, Governance, and Geography* (New York, Routledge, 1998)

Ankie M.M. Hoogvelt: *Globalization and the Postcolonial World: The New Political Economy of Development* (Baltimore, Johns Hopkins University Press, 1997)

R.J. Holton: *Globalization and the Nation-State* (New York, Macmillan press, 1998)

Jeffrey James: *Globalization, Information Technology and Development* (New York, St. Martin's Press, 1999)

Ray Kiely and Phil Marfleet: *Globalisation and the Third World* (New York, Routledge, 1998)

Mark Lewis: *The Growth of Nations: Culture, Competitiveness, and the Problem of Globalization* (England, Bristol Academic Press, 1996)

Priyatosh Maitra: *The Globalization of Capitalism in Third World Countries* (Westport, Praeger, 1996)

James H. Mittelman: *Globalization: Critical Reflections* (Boulder, Lynne Rienner Publishers, 1996)

Zdravko Mlinar: *Globalization and Territorial Identities* (Vermont, Avebury, 1992)

Proshanta K. Nandi and Shahid M. Shahidullah: *Globalization and the Evolving World Society* (Boston, Brill, 1998)

Roland Robertson: *Globalization: Social Theory and Global Culture* (London, Sage, 1992)

Saskia Sassen: *Globalization and Its Discontents* (New York, New Press, 1998)

Victor Segesvary: *From Illusion to Delusion: Globalization and the Contradictions of Late Modernity* (San Francisco, International Scholars Publications, 1999)

Gary Teeple: *Globalization and the Decline of Social Reform* (New Jersey, Humanities Press, 1995)

Caroline Thomas and Peter Wilkin: *Globalization and the South* (New York, St. Martin's Press, 1997)

Malcolm Waters: *Globalization* (New York, Routledge, 1995)

Globalization and Social Justice²

Abreu Hernández, Viviana M. "Globalization, Neoliberalism, and Popular Resistance: the Case of Latin America." Diss. Purdue University, 2002.

Armbruster-Sandoval, Ralph. *Globalization and Cross-Border Labor Solidarity in the Americas: The Anti-Sweatshop Movement and the Struggle for Social Justice*. New York: Routledge, 2005.

² Cornell University ILR School, Globalization and the Workplace Project,
<http://www.ilr.cornell.edu/globalPortal/SocialJustice/JusticeBibliography.html>

Lommerud, Kjell Erik, Frode Meland, and Odd Rune Straume. *Globalization and Union Opposition to Technological Change*. London: Centre for Economic Policy Research, 2005.

Jakobsen, Kjeld A.; Howells, B. W., transl. "Rethinking the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions and its Inter-American Regional Organization." *Antipode* [Great Britain] 2001 33(3): 363-383.

Mandle, Jay. "The Anti-Sweatshop Movement: Limits and Potential." In Ferleger, Lou., and Mandle, Jay R., eds., *Dimensions of Globalization*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, 2000.

Méndez, Jennifer Bickham. *From the Revolution to the Maquiladoras: Gender, Labor, and Globalization in Nicaragua*. Durham: Duke University Press, 2005.

Schalit, Joel. *The Anti-Capitalism Reader: Imagining a Geography of Opposition*. New York: Akashic Books, 2002.

Quaranta, Luke. "Globalization and its opposition." Diss. Warren Wilson College, 2001.

Munck, Ronaldo. *Labour and Globalisation: Results and Prospects*. Liverpool: Liverpool University Press, 2004.

Bandy, Joe, and Jackie Smith. *Coalitions Across Borders: Transnational Protest and the Neoliberal Order*. Lanham, Md: Rowman & Littlefield, 2005.

Batliwala, Srilatha, and L. D. Brown. *Transnational Civil Society: An Introduction*. Bloomfield, CT: Kumarian Press, 2006.

Berg, John C. *Teamsters and Turtles?: U.S. Progressive Political Movements in the 21st Century*. Lanham, Md.; Oxford, England: Rowman & Littlefield, 2003.

Brooks, David, and Jonathan Fox. *Cross-Border Dialogues: U.S.-Mexico Social Movement Networking*. La Jolla, Calif: Center for U.S.-Mexican Studies, University of California, San Diego, 2002.

Duchrow, Ulrich, and World Alliance of Reformed Churches (Presbyterian and Congregational). *Faith Communities and Social Movements Facing Globalization: International and Interfaith*

Colloquium 2000 on Faith-Theology-Economy. Geneva: World Alliance of Reformed Churches, 2002.

John, Steve, and Stuart Thomson. *New Activism and the Corporate Response*. Houndmills, Basingstoke, Hampshire; New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2003.

Munck, Ronaldo. *Globalisation and Labour: The New "Great Transformation"*. London; New York: Zed Books, 2002.

Nielsen, Kai. *Globalization and Justice*. Amherst, NY: Humanity Books, 2003.

Opel, Andy, and Donnalyn Pompper. *Representing Resistance: Media, Civil Disobedience, and the Global Justice Movement*. Westport, Conn: Praeger, 2003.

Course Outline and Themes

February

God, Globalization and Empire

7 *Empire and the Christian Tradition (ECT), 1-10*

14 ECT, 11-15; *God and Globalization (GG), 1-3*

21 ECT, 16-22; GG, 4-6

28 ECT, 23-32

March

Globalization and the Justice of God

6 *Globalization, Spirituality, and Justice (GSJ), 1-2*

13 GSJ, 3-4

20 GSJ, 5-6
****No class for Easter Recess. Keep up with the reading.****

27 GSJ, 7-9
****No class for Research and Study break. Keep up with the reading.****

April

Ethics of Globalization

3 *Justice in a Global Economy (JGE), 1-2; In Search of the Good Life (ISGL), Part I*
****Meet Angela Morris at the White Library at 6pm and return to class after her presentation****

10 JGE, 3-5, ISGL, 3
Lecture from 6pm-7pm and student presentations from 7pm -8:30pm

- 17 JGE, 6-7; ISGL, 4
Lecture from 6pm-7pm and student presentations from 7pm-8:30pm
- 24 JGE, 8-12, ISGL, 5
Lecture from 6pm-7pm and student presentations from 7pm-8:30pm
- May
- 1 ISGL, 6; *Resolution on Just Globalization* (document of the General Assembly, PCUSA). Lecture from 6pm-7pm and student presentations from 7pm-8:30pm
- 8 King, "The World House"; *AGAPE* document
Lecture from 6pm-7pm and student presentations from 7pm-8:30pm.
Final class session.
- 12 Seniors submit final papers by noon
- 15 Final papers due by noon