

Course Syllabus
TRT3631H Global Christianity, Mission and Sexuality
Trinity College
Toronto School of Theology
Fall 2016

Instructor Information

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Course Identification

Course Number: TRT3631H
Course Name: Global Christianity, Mission and Sexuality
Course Location: Trinity College, Room TBA.
Class Times: Thursdays, 11 am – 1 pm,
Prerequisites: None

Course Description

This course will explore the relation between the emerging *Mission Dei* theology of contemporary Christian missiology and current global and local ecumenical understandings of sexuality/sexualities, in terms of biblical studies, history, theology, ecclesiology, ethics, social sciences and pastoral practice. Students will be expected to become familiar with and reflect thoughtfully on current issues in this area. The primary goal of the course is to explore how *Missio Dei* missiology, exemplified by the Reformed theologian David Bosch and Pope Francis, might constructively address the many complex global sexualities in a way that respects both God's mission in Jesus Christ and the local situations. The course does not aim at a single view of these issues but rather to assist students to clarify and deepen their understanding of these issues. Teaching will be through lectures, readings, research and discussion. Evaluation will be based on two reflection papers (10% each) and the research paper (80%).

Course Resources

Required Course Texts

- David J. Bosch, *Believing in the Future: Towards a Missiology of Western Culture* (Harrisburg: Trinity Press International, 1995).
- Anders Nygren, *Agape and Eros* (first English translation 1932, many editions) **OR** C.S. Lewis, *Four Loves* (London, 1960, many editions) **OR** Pope Benedict XVI, *Deus Caritas Est* (Vatican City, 2005).
- Terry M. Brown, ed., *Other Voices, Other Worlds: The Global Church Speaks out on Homosexuality* (London: DLT, 2006).

- Philip Groves, ed. *The Anglican Communion and Homosexuality: a resource to enable listening and dialogue* (London: SPCK, 2008.)
- Policy statements on sexuality by at least two churches or denominations, preferably not in agreement.

Selected Bibliography

- James Alison, *Faith Beyond Resentment, Fragments Catholic and Gay* (New York: Crossroad, 2001).
- Robert Aldrich, *Colonialism and Homosexuality* (London and New York: Routledge, 2003).
- Andrew Barrow, *The Flesh is Weak: An Intimate History of the Church of England* (London, Hamish Hamilton, 1980.)
- David J. Bosch, *Transforming Mission: Paradigm Shifts in the Theology of Mission* (Maryknoll: Orbis, 1991.)
- John Boswell, *Christianity, Social Tolerance and Homosexuality* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1980).
- Alan Bray, *The Friend* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2003).
- *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1992 (available online).
- Mark Chapman, S. Clarke and M. Percy, eds., *The Oxford Handbook of Anglican Studies* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2015).
- Sarah Coakley, *The New Asceticism: sexuality, gender and the search for God* (London/New York: Bloomsbury/Continuum, 2015).
- Roger Coleman, ed., *Resolutions of the twelve Lambeth Conferences 1887-1988* (Toronto: Anglican Book Centre, 1992).
- Commission on the Marriage Canon of the Anglican Church of Canada, “‘This Holy Estate’”. 2015 (online).
- Susannah Cornwall, *Controversies in Queer Theology* (London: SCM Press, 2011).
- Pope Francis, Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium* (Vatican City, 2013).
- Kathy L. Gaca, *The Making of Fornication: Eros, Ethics, and Political Reform in Greek Philosophy and Early Christianity* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2003).
- Paul Gibson, *Discerning the Word: The Bible and Homosexuality in Anglican Debate* (Toronto: Anglican Book Centre, 2000).
- Miranda Hassett, *Anglican Communion in Crisis: how Episcopal dissidents and their African allies are reshaping Anglicanism* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2007).
- Gilbert H. Herdt, ed., *Third Sex, third gender: beyond sexual dimorphism in culture and history* (New York: Zone Books. 1994).
- Gilbert H. Herdt, ed., *Ritualized Homosexuality in Melanesia* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1984; paperback, 1993).
- David Hilliard, “UnEnglish and unmanly: Anglo-Catholicism and homosexuality”, *Victorian Studies*, Vol. 25(2) (1982), pp. 181-210.
- House of Bishops Group, *Some Issues in Human Sexuality* (London: Church House Publishing, 2003).
- Jonathan Ned Katz, *Love Stories: Sex between men before homosexuality* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2001).

- Dairmaid MacCulloch, *Silence: A Christian History* (New York: Viking 2013).
- Herbert Marcuse, *Eros and Civilization* (Boston: Beacon Press, 1966).
- Oliver O'Donovan, *The Gay Controversy and the Anglican Communion* (London, SCM, 2009).
- *The Official Report of the Lambeth Conference 1998* (Harrisburg: Morehouse Publishing, 1999).
- Philosophical Percolations (website), "A Transgender Theology Primer".
<http://www.philpercs.com/2015/10/a-transgender-theology-primer.html>
- Michael P. Regele, *Science, Scripture and Same-Sex Love* (Nashville: Abingdon, 2014).
- Stephen Reynolds, "The Word of God and the word of God and their proper relationship", in John Simons, ed., *The Challenge of Tradition* (Toronto: Anglican Book Centre, 1997).
- Eugene F. Rogers, ed., *Theology and Sexuality: Classic and Contemporary Readings* (Oxford: Blackwell, 2002).
- Robert Song, *Covenant and Calling: Towards a Theology of Same-Sex Relationships* (London: SCM, 2014).
- Truth and Reconciliation Commission, *A Knock on the Door: The Essential History of Residential Schools* (Winnipeg: University of Manitoba Press, 2016).
- Michael Vesey, *Strangers and Friends: A New Exploration of Homosexuality and the Bible* (London: Hodder and Stoughton, 1995).
- Rowan Williams, *The Body's Grace* (London: Gay and Lesbian Christians, 2nd ed. 2002).

Course Website(s)

- Blackboard <https://weblogin.utoronto.ca/>

This course uses Blackboard for its course website. To access it, go to the UofT portal login page at <http://portal.utoronto.ca> and login using your UTORid and password. Once you have logged in to the portal using your UTORid and password, look for the **My Courses** module, where you'll find the link to the website for all your Blackboard-based courses. (Your course registration with ROSI gives you access to the course website at Blackboard.) Note also the information at <http://www.portalinfo.utoronto.ca/content/information-students>. Students who have trouble accessing Blackboard should ask [xxx] for further help.]

Course Learning Objectives

Trinity College

(A) IN RESPECT OF GENERAL ACADEMIC SKILLS: The student will be expected to become familiar with current thinking on the issues of the course, across a wide variety of theological disciplines and global contexts. She/he will also be expected to become familiar with the current ecumenical *Missio Dei* theological tradition and its relation to local contexts sometimes in conflict with one another.

(B) IN RESPECT OF THE UNDERSTANDING OF THE CONTENT OF ONE OR MORE THEOLOGICAL DISCIPLINES: Emphasis will be upon integrating the disciplines of biblical studies (especially hermeneutics), the history of the church, theology (*Missio Dei* and Christian anthropology), Christian ethics and pastoral practice.

(C) IN RESPECT OF PERSONAL AND SPIRITUAL FORMATION: While not intrusive, the student will be encouraged to reflect on her/his own views of sexuality and its relation to the student's personal spirituality.

(D) IN RESPECT OF MINISTERIAL AND PUBLIC LEADERSHIP: The course is intended to assist the student to give pastoral care and public leadership in this area with intelligence and sensitivity, whatever her/his views; and also to have respect for those with other views.

Evaluation

Requirements

The final grade for the course will be based on evaluations in two areas.

- (1) Two reflection papers, at the beginning and end of the course (1,000 words each) (10% each)
- (2) Research paper on a subject pertinent to the course (5,000 words) (80%)
- (3) Final paper (40%) – A substantial scholarly paper (25 pages or so)...

Grading System

- A+ (90-100)
- A (85-89)
- A- (80-84)
- B+ (77-79)
- B (73-76)
- B- (70-72)
- Failure

Please see the appropriate handbook for more details about the grading scale and non-numerical grades (e.g. SDF, INC, etc).

Late work (BD). Basic Degree students are expected to hand in assignments by the date given in the course outline. [The instructor should stipulate the penalty for late work.] This penalty is not applied to students with medical or compassionate difficulties; students facing such difficulties are kindly requested to consult with their faculty adviser or basic degree director, who should make a recommendation on the matter to the instructor. The absolute deadline for the course is the examination day scheduled for the course. Students who for exceptional reasons (e.g., a death in the family or a serious illness) are unable to complete work by this date may request an extension (SDF = “standing deferred”) beyond the term. An SDF must be requested from the registrar’s office in the student’s college of registration no later than the last day of classes in which the course is taken. The SDF, when approved, will have a mutually agreed upon deadline that does not extend beyond the conclusion of the following term. If a student has not completed work but has not been granted an SDF, a final mark will be submitted calculating a zero for work not submitted.

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. Course grades may be adjusted where they do not comply with University grading policy (<http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/grading.htm>) or college grading policy.

Policies

Accessibility. Students with a disability or health consideration are entitled to accommodation. Students must register at the University of Toronto's Accessibility Services offices; information is available at <http://www.accessibility.utoronto.ca/>. 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* (linked from <http://www.tst.edu/content/handbooks>) and the University of Toronto *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters* <http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/AssetFactory.aspx?did=4871>. A student who plagiarizes in this course. Students will be assumed to have read the document "Avoidance of plagiarism in theological writing" published by the Graham Library of Trinity and Wycliffe Colleges (http://www.trinity.utoronto.ca/Library_Archives/Theological_Resources/Tools/Guides/plag.htm).

Other academic offences. TST students come under the jurisdiction of the University of Toronto Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters <http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm>).

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 are required to have a valid utoronto email address. Students must have set up a utoronto email address which is entered in the ROSI 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.

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 should be sent from a utoronto email address.* Email communications from other email addresses are not secure, and also 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.

Course Schedule

Week 1

Aims and expectations of course and introduction to the issues

Week 2

Topic: The Bible, hermeneutics and sexuality

Readings: Bosch, *Believing in the Future* OR Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium*; Lewis, *Four Loves* OR Nygren, *Agape and Eros* (portions) OR Pope Benedict, *Deus Caritas Est*; Reynolds, "The Word of God and the word of God and their proper relationship"; Gibson, *Discerning the Word*; Vesey, *Strangers and Friends*.

Week 3

Topic: Sexuality and Christian Tradition/traditions

Reading: Boswell, *Christianity, Social Tolerance and Homosexuality* (portions); Coakley, *The New Asceticism* (portions); Gaca, *The Making of Fornication* (portions); Bray, *The Friend*; Hilliard, "UnEnglish and unmanly..."; MacCulloch, *Silence*; Rogers, ed., *Theology and Sexuality*; Philosophical Percolations (website), "A Transgender Theology Primer" <http://www.philpercs.com/2015/10/a-transgender-theology-primer.html>

Week 4

Topic: Sexuality and culture(s)

Reading: Groves, ed., *The Anglican Communion and Homosexuality* (portions); Brown, *Other Voices* (portions). Herdt, ed., *Third Sex, Third Gender*.

Week 5

Topic: Social and theological analyses of terms defining the debate

Reading: Groves, ed., *The Anglican Communion and Homosexuality* (portions); Katz, *Love Stories*; Brown, *Other Voices* (portions); Regele, *Science, Scripture and Same-Sex Love*.

Week 6

Topic: Survey of global Christian churches and their theologies of sexuality today

Reading: *The Catholic Catechism*; Groves, ed., *The Anglican Communion and Homosexuality* (portions); House of Bishops Group, *Some Issues in Human Sexuality*; policy statements of various denominations.

Week 7

Topic: Emergence of new churches/denominations based on alternatives to the perceived western tradition of Christian sexuality.

Reading: Brown, *Other Voices*, selected chapters; Alison, *Faith beyond Resentment*; publications and websites of the new churches/denominations,

Week 8

Topic: Emergence of "traditional" churches/denominations/jurisdictions that have broken away from their historic churches over issues of sexuality.

Reading: O'Donovan, *The Gay Controversies and the Anglican Communion*; Hassett, *Anglican Communion in Crisis*; publications and websites of the new churches/denominations.

Week 9

Topic: Attempts to find common ground.

Reading: Groves, ed., *The Anglican Communion and Homosexuality* (portions); Brown, *Other Voices* (portions); statements and communiqués of the various denominational consultations.

Week 10

Topic: Presentation of student papers and discussion

Week 11

Topic: Ongoing and new theological debates on sexuality.

Reading: Chapman et al, *Oxford Handbook of Anglican Studies* (portions); Coakley, *The New Asceticism*; Cornwall, *Controversies in Queer Theology*; ACC Commission on Marriage Canon, "This Holy Estate", and similar documents by other churches and denominations; Brown, *Other Voices* (portions).

Week 12

Topic: Review, summary, evaluation.

Reading: Continuation of previous week's readings.

Exam Week No exam

Note: Please see attached detailed course outline. I am still working on the readings for the details mentioned in the detailed course outline.