

SYT 257i/STD 557i Ecumenism

Intersession 2017

Course Outline

Class Start Date & End Date

May 3rd to June 26th

Class Meeting Time, Location, and Room

Online

Instructors Name: Rev. Dr. Scott Sharman and Julien Hammond
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Course Description

History of the ecumenical movement. Ecumenical dialogue between the Roman Catholic and the Eastern, Anglican, and Protestant Churches. Ecumenical activities and dialogues in Canada. Models of Christian unity. Liturgical convergence.

Course Objectives

- Understanding of the biblical and theological principles which make Christian division a scandal and Christian unity an imperative.
- Appreciation for the gifts and distinctives of the various Christian traditions, and for the growing areas of convergence between them as a result of ecumenical dialogue.
- Ability to interact with a Christian tradition other than your own, and to speak about your own to others with maturity and sensitivity.
- Awareness of the possibilities for partnership in mission and social justice with other Christians.
- Cultivation of a spirituality of ecumenism.

Course Assignments and Evaluation

- Forum Discussions (25%) – Weekly
 - Students are expected to post weekly reflective commentary (250 words minimum) on some aspect of the lecture content for the week to the online discussion forum.
 - Students will also post a minimum of one comment and one question based on the primary source reading for the week, and are encouraged to engage in further discussion with their fellow students in the online discussion forum.

- Personal Reflection Essay (25%) – Due May 31
 - Students will write a 4-5 page (double spaced, 12 point font) reflection paper considering the applicability of the course content to their life and ministry. The paper will answer the question: How can/does/will ecumenism affect my life and ministry?
- Doctrinal Dialogue Research Essay (25%) – Due June 14
 - Students will write a research paper (undergraduates 5-7 pages; graduates 8-10 pages) exploring in greater detail one of the central theological issues that has been addressed in ecumenical dialogue between their own church and another partner church (for example: Christology, Justification, the Sacraments, the Church, the Papacy, Mary). They are expected to consult primary and secondary sources, and to include references throughout the essay. The paper will answer the following questions, and provide evidence for the answers: 1) What are the key issues involved in the dialogue on this issue, 2) What advancements do the dialogues enable?, and 3) What difference does this make for church relations and partnership going forward?
- Final Exam (25%) – June 28
 - Students will complete a 1 hour short essay style exam online. The exam questions will be based on topics covered in the course, and will be available later at exam time.

Textbooks

Links to various primary source readings will be posted weekly to the course website.

Walter Kasper, *A Handbook of Spiritual Ecumenism* (New City Press, 2007).

Recommended Reading

Thomas Ryan, *Christian Unity: How You Can Make A Difference* (Paulist Press, 2015)

Course Requirements

This course comprises 36 hours of instruction delivered in an online format through a combination of written and video recorded lecture materials and primary and secondary source readings. Students are expected to complete read, watch, and reflect on all of the weekly materials, and to post weekly reflections, comments, and questions in the online forums. The lectures, readings, and assignments are varied in form in order to facilitate learning and formation in ecumenical theology, the practice of ecumenical dialogue, an ecumenical approach to pastoral and social ministry, and personal and spiritual commitment to the ecumenical task.

Course Schedule

May 3-9: Introductions; A family history of Christianity

- Primary Source Reading: *John 17:20-26; The Nicene Creed*

May 10-16: Foundations and Origins of the Ecumenical Movement; Principles of Ecumenism; Models of Ecclesial Unity

- Primary Source Reading: *Unitatis Redintegratio; Unto the Churches of Christ Everywhere; The Chicago-Lambeth Quadrilateral*
- Optional group tutorial on Tuesday May 16 (in person or online)

May 17-23: The World Council of Churches

- Primary Source Reading: *Baptism, Eucharist and Ministry*

May 24-30: Bilateral Dialogues Part 1

- Primary Source Reading: *The Ravenna Document*

May 31-June 6: Bilateral Dialogues Part 2

- Primary Source Reading: *The Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification*
- Optional group tutorial on Tuesday June 6 (in person or online)

June 7-13: Ecumenism of Life

- Primary Source Reading: Various short readings TBA

June 14-20: Spiritual Ecumenism

- Primary Source Reading: *A Handbook of Spiritual Ecumenism*

June 21-28: Review for final exam

General Academic Information

Late Submission Policy.

Please do not ask for extensions except in the case of genuine emergency. Late assignments will be assessed a penalty of a full letter grade per day, up to a maximum of five days.

Course Attendance

No credit will be given for a course if the student has been absent, for any reason whatever, from one-third or more of the lectures and/or seminars scheduled for the term. Likewise, no credit will be given if term assignments or other assignments are or remain incomplete.

Leave of Absence and Policy for Incompletes

Extensions to an incomplete grade may be granted in extenuating circumstances, but may not exceed 16 weeks following the end of the course. Students who fail to complete course work by the agreed deadline will have a grade assigned which is based on work completed.

Academic Integrity

Acts of academic dishonesty (plagiarism, cheating, etc.) are subject to an appropriate penalty. The grade "F" may be assigned to a student guilty of such acts by the professor of the course in which the infraction occurred. A second offense against academic integrity renders the student liable to automatic dismissal from NTC. Further details are available in the Student Handbook in the Academic Misconduct Policy.

Academic Grievances

Students may appeal grades received; the procedure is outlined in the Student Handbook in the Grade Appeal Policy. For other grievances, students will refer to the Student Grievances Policy also outlined in the Student Handbook.

NOTE: The GPA is computed on the basis of cumulative grade point (letter) values, not percentage values. All courses are included in this calculation except those exceeding degree requirements and/or received as transfer credits from other recognized institutions.

Grading System

Undergraduate Studies C.Th., Dip.Th., B.Th.			Graduate Studies M.T.S., M.Div., M.Th., G.C.C.S.A., M.R.E.		
Grade Meaning	Grade	Grade Point	Grade Meaning	Grade	Grade Point
Excellent	A+	4.0	Excellent	A+	4.0
	A	4.0		A	4.0
	A-	3.7		A-	3.7
Good	B+	3.3	Good	B+	3.3
	B	3.0		B	3.0
	B-	2.7		B-	2.7
Adequate	C+	2.3	Adequate	C+	2.3
	C	2.0		C	2.0
	C-	1.7		C-	1.7
Marginal	D+	1.3			
	D	1.0			
Fail	F	0.0	Fail	D+	1.3
				D	1.0
				F	0.0

Written Assignments - Style and Format

Newman Theological College requires that all written work be submitted in acceptable academic format and style. Please note the following regulations:

Regulations

Research papers, book reports, article summaries, reflection papers, and essays should be double-spaced, printed on one side only, and submitted on white, 8.5" x 11" paper.

A standard type style, such as Times New Roman, with a 12-point font size, must be used. The instructor will specify the most recent edition of the style manual to be used:

1. Kate Turabian, "A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations" (Chicago: University of Chicago Press).
2. Joseph Gibaldi & William Ahters, eds., "MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers" (New York: Modern Language Association of America).
3. American Psychological Association "Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association" (Washington: APA Publications).

Copies of these standard references may be purchased in the NTC bookstore.

Ignorance of standard form is not considered an acceptable excuse for deviation from required standards of format and style.

Academic Regulations

The following Academic Regulations are located in the Academic Calendar for your reference:

- Changes in Registration: Add/Drop/Withdraw Notice
- Course Work
- Final Examination Schedule
- Incomplete Grade Policy
- Inclusive Language

Related Academic Matters

The following Related Academic Matters are located in the Academic Calendar for your reference:

- Grade Reports & Posting
- Glossary of Academic Terms

Other Related Policies

The following policies are located in the Student Handbook for your reference:

- Academic Misconduct Policy
- Grade Appeal Policy

Recording of Lectures

Audio or video recording of lectures, seminars or any other teaching environment by students is allowed only with the prior consent of the instructor. Recorded material is to be used solely for personal study, and is not to be used or distributed for any other purpose without prior written consent from the content author(s).

Student Accessibility Services:

If you have special needs that could affect your performance in this class, please let me know during the first week of the term so that appropriate arrangements can be made. If you are not already registered with Student Services, contact Doreen Bloos at 780-392-2450 ext. 2212; Email doreen.bloos@newman.edu.

Bibliography

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