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MW 775 Christian Witness and Other Faiths

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I. COURSE DESCRIPTION: In a world becoming more and more religiously plural, all Christians are faced with the challenge of identifying and articulating an appropriate theological/missiological response to those of other religious traditions. This course looks at key issues in the encounter between Christianity and other religions and raises the questions students need to answer in developing a theological/missiological approach to religious pluralism. Students write a concluding paper outlining their approach to an aspect of pluralism.

II. READINGS
Wesley Pluralism Packet

III. ASSIGNMENTS
1. Class attendance and participation in discussion of assigned texts.
2. Write a response paper on the assigned readings. Form provided. Due at class discussion of text. (Six from Plantinga, one each from Hiebert, Bosch, and Wesley)
3. A final examination.
5. Paper on your biblical/theological approach to people of other religions. Twenty type-written pages (double spaced). Due: October 7, 2004
IV. SCHEDULE

Sept. 2 - The Challenge of Religious Pluralism

Sept. 7, 9 – Bible: Three Approaches - Read Plantinga, pp. 1-25

Sept. 14, 16 – Theology
   14: Denominational
   16: Personal - Read Hiebert, pp. 1-67

Sept. 21, 23 - Theology
   21: Philosophical Read Hiebert, pp. 68-116
   23: Wesleyan - Read Wesley Pluralism reading packet

Sept. 28, 30, Oct. 5 - NO CLASS: Writing Week
   Write paper on your approach to religious pluralism: Due Oct. 7

Oct. 7 - Practices - Read Plantinga, pp. 29-89
   7: The Apostle Paul

Oct. 12, 14 - Practices - Read Plantinga, pp. 93-125
   12: Patrick
   14: Methodius-Cyril

Oct. 19, 21 - Practices - Read Plantinga, pp. 129-165
   19: Aquinas
   21: Ricci

Oct. 26, 28 - Practices - Read Plantinga, pp. 169-266
   26: Carey
   28: Shepherd

Nov. 2, 4 - Practices - Read Plantinga, pp. 267-370
   2: Bartholome de la Casas
   4: Wesley

Nov. 9, 11 - Practices -
   9: Booth
   11: Theresa

Nov. 16 - Gift I - Read Bosch, pp. 9-90
   16: History of Gift

Nov. 18, 23, 25 - NO CLASS: Reading Week

Nov. 30, Dec. 2 - Gift II
   30: Gift as Missional Metaphor
   2: Exchanging Gifts: The Hermeneutical Circle

Wesley Pluralism Packet
LETTERS
“Letter to John Burton” October 10, 1735

SERMONS
Sermon 61: “The Mystery of Iniquity” (2 Thessalonians 2:7) March 7, 1783
Sermon 69-70: “The Imperfections of Human Knowledge: The Case of Reason Impartially Considered” (1 Corinthians 13:9) March 5, 1784; (1 Corinthians 14:20) July 6, 1781
Sermon 91: “On Charity” (1 Corinthians 13:1-3) October 15, 1784
Sermon 106: “On Faith” (Hebrews 11:6) April 9, 1788
Sermon 119: “Walking by Sight and Walking by Faith” (2 Corinthians 5:7) December 30, 1788
Sermon 122: “Causes of the Inefficacy of Christianity” (Jeremiah 8:22) July 2, 1789
Sermon 130: “On Living Without God” (Ephesians 2:12) July 6, 1790

COMMENTARY
Name _____________________________ Date ____

Chapter/Article/Page
#s __________________________

Evaluation: 1 (low) to 10 (high) _______

Summary/Key Idea:

What new insights have you gained from reading this material?

What are the missiological applications of these insights?

What are some issues, concerns, etc., that have been raised that you would like to discuss in our class?