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MW 775 Christian Witness and Other Faiths

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ASBURY THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY  
Fall 2005

MW775  Christian Witness and Other Faiths  
Thursday 2:30 – 5:00

Room:  
Instructor:  Terry C. Muck  
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Office Hours:  Wednesday 2:00 – 4:00 or by appointment

Required Texts:  
David Bosch.  A Spirituality of the Road.  
Paul Hiebert.  Missiological Implications of Epistemological Shifts.  
Readings as assigned by instructor, including Wesleyan approach to pluralism.

Requirements:  
1.  Attendance and participation in all classes.  
2.  Reading of assigned texts and articles.  
3.  Write a response paper on each class’s assigned readings.  Six from Plantinga, one each from Bosch, Hiebert, and Wesley.  Due at class discussion of texts.  
4.  A final examination.  Form to be determined by class.  

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 paper outlining their approach to an aspect of pluralism.

Course Objectives:  
1.  Students will develop bibliographic skills in the study of religion.  
2.  Students will articulate their biblical/theological/personal approach to people of other religious traditions, and the missiological implications of that approach.  
3.  Students will be able to compare and contrast the way Christians do mission with the way other religious traditions do mission.  
4.  Students will be able to devise mission strategies to other religions depending on the nature of the competition in discrete contexts.  
5.  Students will master the history of Christian approaches to people of other religious traditions.
Class Schedule

September 8: Context

September 15: Bible
    Reading: Plantinga, pp. 1-25

September 22: Theology
    Reading: Hiebert, pp. 1-116

September 29: NO CLASS

October 6: Personal
    Reading: Bosch, pp. 9-90

October 13: Practices
    Reading: Plantinga, pp. 29-89
    Missiological approach paper due

October 20: Practices
    Reading: Plantinga, pp. 93-125

October 27: NO CLASS

November 3: Practices
    Reading: Plantinga, pp. 19-165
    Annotated bibliography due

November 10: Practices
    Reading: Plantinga, pp. 169-266

November 17: Practices
    Reading: Plantinga, pp. 267-370

November 24: NO CLASS

December 1: Giftive Mission I
    Reading: Wesleyan pluralism articles

December 8: Giftive Mission II

Final Examination