

ST/WR 320
Spring 2007
Wed. 10:00-11:50
Tutor: Sarah Anderson-Rajarigam

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Dealing with Diversity: Christian and Buddhist Perspectives

Goals of the course:

- To deepen awareness of the questions and challenges that religious diversity poses for any religious community and tradition.
- To critically survey Christian approaches to other religions and to interreligious dialogue.
- To study Buddhist perspectives on religious diversity and to engage in a “dialogue about dialogue” between Christians and Buddhists.
- To develop pastoral approaches and skills in aiding Christian congregations to deal with and engage other religious traditions.
- To foster the kind of “dialogue of cultures and religions” that will offset a “clash of civilizations.”

Required Texts:

- Abe, Masao. *Buddhism and Interfaith Dialogue*. Steven Heine. Ed. New York: Macmillan, 1995.
- Hill Fletcher, Jeannine. *Monopoly on Salvation? A Feminist Approach to Religious Pluralism*. New York: Continuum, 2005.
- Keown, Damien. *Buddhism: A Very Short Introduction*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1996.
- Knitter, Paul F. *Introducing Theologies of Religions*. Maryknoll: Orbis Books, 2002.
- _____. *Jesus and the Other Names: Christian Mission and Global Responsibility*. Maryknoll: Orbis Books, 1996.
- _____. *One Earth Many Religions: Multifaith Dialogue and Global Responsibility*. Maryknoll: Orbis Books, 1995.
- Packet of Readings for Buddhism.

Procedure and Expectations

- The basic format of the course will be class discussion based on assigned readings and on input from the teacher and from student Book Reviews.
 - We will divide the class into two periods: 10:00-11:10 and 11:10-11:50. The first will be for discussion of the assigned materials; the other for book reviews and discussion.

- Both class attendance and participation are expected. That doesn't mean you necessarily have to talk a lot, but I do want to hear from you.
- Position papers: This will help us prepare for class discussions. For each class, you are asked to put together a statement of where you stand on the main issues in the readings. No more than 300 words! To be submitted by 7:00 AM, Wednesdays, in the Discussion Forum for the day on Blackboard. (<http://fishersnet.blackboard.com>) These papers will be evaluated mainly on the basis of their punctuality. (If you miss two, your salvation is still in tact.)
- A Book Review of one of the books on the supplementary readings list (or one you would like to read, after an okay from me). These will be presented during the second part of class and will offer critical or divergent perspectives on the assigned readings.
 - The Book Review should provide first a broad summary of the book's contents and then your own views of the book's meaning for you and the course.
 - 6 to 9 pages, double-spaced. To be posted in the Book Review forum on Blackboard, by noon the day before class.
 - Everyone is expected to read these Reviews before class.
- A Final Paper that will consist of two parts: a) a reflective review of the course content (about 2/3 of the paper) and b) an articulation of your own theological/personal approach to religious diversity and dialogue. (about 1/3)
 - From 10 to 15 pages, double-spaced, one-inch margins.
 - Due: May 10. Bring a hard copy to our final class on that day.

Evaluation

- Participation in class discussions, showing knowledge of and critical reflection on the assigned readings: 20%
- Position papers: 20%
- Book Review: 20%
- Final Paper: 40%

COURSE OUTLINE AND CALENDAR

- Jan 31 **Introductions:** to the course and to each other.
- Knitter, *Introducing*, pp. 1-13.

I. CHRISTIANITY AND DIVERSITY

- Feb 7 **The Replacement and Fulfillment Models**
- *Introducing*, pp. 19-106.
- Feb 14 **The Mutuality Model**
- *Introducing*, pp. 109-169.
 - Book reviews:

- Benedict XVI, *Truth and Tolerance: Christian Faith and World Religions*. San Francisco: Ignatius Press, 2004.
- James L. Fredericks, *Faith among Faiths: Christian Theology and Non-Christian Religions*. New York: Paulist, 1999.

Feb. 21 **The Acceptance Model**

- *Introducing*, pp. 173-246.
- Book reviews:
 - S. Mark Heim. *Salvations: Truth and Difference in Religion*. Maryknoll: Orbis Books, 1995.
 - David Ray Griffin,. *Deep Religious Pluralism*. Louisville: Westminster/John Knox, 2005, pp. 1-66, 243-62.

March 7 **A Globally Responsible Dialogue**

- Knitter, *One Earth Many Religions*, Chapters 1, 4-9. (Chs. 2-3 recommended)
- Book reviews:
 - Anselm Min. *The Solidarity of Others in a Divided World: A Postmodern Theology after Postmodernism*. New York: T & T Clark International, 2004 (Focus on Part 2)
 - Jonathan Sacks. *The Dignity of Difference: How To Avoid the Clash of Civilizations*. New York: Continuum, 2002.

March 21 **A Christian Theology/Christology That Can Support a Globally Responsible Dialogue**

- Knitter, *Jesus and the Other Names*, Chapters 2-7 (you can omit the “Roman Catholic Inter-mission”) + the Afterword.
- Book reviews:
 - George R. Sumner. *The First and the Last: The Claim of Jesus Christ and the Claims of Other Religious Traditions*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2004.
 - Harold A. Netland. *Dissonant Voices: Religious Pluralism and the Question of Truth*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1991.

March 28 **A Feminist Approach to Pluralism and Dialogue**

- Hill-Fletcher, *Monopoly on Salvation?*
- Book reviews:
 - Maura O’Neill, *Women Speaking Women Listening: Women in Interreligious Dialogue*. Maryknoll: Orbis Books.1990.
 - Marjorie Hewitt Suchocki. *Divinity and Diversity: A Christian Affirmation of Religious Pluralism*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2003

II. BUDDHISM AND DIVERSITY

- ?? Optional Class on Buddhism
- Keown, *Buddhism: A Very Short Introduction*
- April 4 **The Contribution of Masao Abe**
- Abe, *Buddhism and Interfaith Dialogue*, pp. 1-62, 177-94, 223-43.
 - Book reviews:
 - John B. Cobb, Jr. and Christopher Ives, eds. *The Emptying God: A Buddhist-Jewish-Christian Conversation*. Maryknoll: Orbis Books, 1994.
 - Donald W. Mitchell. *Spirituality and Emptiness: The Dynamics of Spiritual Life in Buddhism and Christianity*. New York: Paulist Press, 1991.
- April 11 **Abe and Tillich**
- Abe, pp. 89-123.
 - Roger Corless, “The Mutual Fulfillment of Buddhism and Christianity in Co-inherent Superconsciousness,” in *Buddhist-Christian Dialogue: Mutual Renewal and Transformation*, Paul O. Ingram and Frederick J. Streng, eds. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 1986, pp. 115-136. (Packet)
 - Book reviews:
 - Paul Ingram and Sallie King, eds. *The Sound of Liberating Truth: Buddhist-Christian Dialogues*. Surrey, UK: Curzon Press, 1999 (Parts 2 and 3: “Ultimate Reality” and “Nature and Ecology”).
 - Ruben L.F. Habito. *Living Zen, Loving God*. Boston: Wisdom Publications, 2004.
- April 18 **Methodology: Where To Start?**
- David W. Chappell and Winston L. King, “Interreligious Dialogue” in *The Sound of Liberating Truth: Buddhist-Christian Dialogues*. Ingram, Paul and Sallie King, eds. Surrey, UK: Curzon Press, 1999, pp. 1-62. (Packet)
 - Christopher Ives, “Liberating Truth: A Buddhist Approach to Religious Pluralism,” in *Deep Religious Pluralism*. David Ray Griffin, ed. Louisville: Westminster/John Knox, 2005, pp. 178-192. (Packet)
 - Book reviews:
 - Paul Ingram and Sallie King, eds. *The Sound of Liberating Truth: Buddhist-Christian Dialogues*. Surrey, UK: Curzon Press, 1999 (Parts 4 and 5: “Social and Political Issues of Liberation” and “Ultimate Transformation and Liberation”).
 - Dalai Lama. *The Good Heart: A Buddhist Perspective on the Teaching of Jesus*. Boston, Wisdom Publications, 1996.
- April 25 **Buddhist Resources**
- John Makransky, “Buddhist Perspectives on Truth in Other Religions: Past and Present.” *Theological Studies*, 64 (2003) 334-61. (Packet)

- Ruben L.F. Habito, “Japanese Buddhist Perspectives and Comparative Theology: Supreme Ways of Intersection.” *Theological Studies*, 64 (2003) 362-87. (Packet)
- Richard P. Hayes, “Gotama Buddha and Religious Pluralism.” *The Journal of Religious Pluralism*, 1 (1991) 65-96. (Packet)
- Book Reviews:
 - Pierce, Brian J. *We Walk the Path Together: Learning from Thich Nhat Hanh and Meister Eckhart*. Maryknoll: Orbis Books, 2005.
 - King, Robert H. *Thomas Merton and Thich Nhat Hanh: Engaged Spirituality in an Age of Globalization*. New York: Continuum, 2001.

May 2

What Christians Might Learn from Buddhists

- Rita M. Gross, “Excuse Me, But What’s the Question? Isn’t Religious Diversity Normal?” in *The Myth of Religious Superiority: A Multifaith Exploration*. Paul F. Knitter, ed. Maryknoll: Orbis Books, 2005, pp. 75-87. (Packet)
- Sallie King, “A Pluralistic View of Religious Pluralism,” in *The Myth of Religious Superiority*, pp. 88-103. (Packet)
- Joseph S. O’Leary, “Toward a Buddhist Interpretation of Christian Truth,” in *Many Mansions? Multiple Religious Belonging and Christian Identity*. Catherine Cornille, ed. Maryknoll: Orbis Books, 2002, pp. 29-43. (Packet)
- Book Reviews:
 - Roy C. Amore. *Two Masters, One Message*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1978.
 - J.K. Kadowaki. *Zen and the Bible*. Maryknoll: Orbis Books, 2002.

May 10

Wrap-up SessionFinal Papers Due

SELECTED READINGS

Supplementary Sources – Christian Approaches to Religious Diversity

- Barnes, Michael. *Theology and the Dialogue of Religions*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2002.
- Benedict XVI, *Truth and Tolerance: Christian Faith and World Religions*. San Francisco: Ignatius Press, 2004.
- Cornille, Catherine, ed. *Many Mansions? Multiple Religious Belonging and Christian Identity*. Maryknoll: Orbis Books, 2002
- Griffin, David Ray. *Deep Religious Pluralism*. Louisville: Westminster/John Knox, 2005.
- Griffiths, Paul J. *Problems of Religious Diversity*. Malden, MA: Blackwells, 2001.
- Fredericks, James L. *Faith among Faiths: Christian Theology and Non-Christian Religions*. New York: Paulist, 1999.
- Heim, S. Mark. *The Depth of Riches: A Trinitarian Theology of Religious Ends*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2001.
- _____ . *Salvations: Truth and Difference in Religion*. Maryknoll: Orbis Books, 1995.
- Kärkkäinen, Veli-Matti. *Introduction to the Theology of Religions: Biblical, Historical and Contemporary Perspectives*. Downers Grove, IL: Intervarsity Press, 2003.
- Knitter, Paul F. ed. *The Myth of Religious Superiority: A Multifaith Exploration*. Maryknoll: Orbis Books, 2005
- McDaniel, Jay. *Gandhi's Hope: Learning from Other Religions as a Path to Peace*. Maryknoll: Orbis Books, 2005.
- Min, Anselm. *The Solidarity of Others in a Divided World: A Postmodern Theology after Postmodernism*. New York: T & T Clark International, 2004.
- Netland, Harold A. *Dissonant Voices: Religious Pluralism and the Question of Truth*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1991.
- Sacks, Jonathan. *The Dignity of Difference: How To Avoid the Clash of Civilizations*. New York: Continuum, 2002.
- Stackhouse, John G. ed. *No Other Gods before Me? Evangelicals and the Challenge of World Religions*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2001.
- Sumner, George R.. *The First and the Last: The Claim of Jesus Christ and the Claims of Other Religious Traditions*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2004.
- Suchocki, Marjorie Hewitt. *Divinity and Diversity: A Christian Affirmation of Religious Pluralism*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2003

Supplementary Readings: Buddhist Approaches to Religious Diversity

- Bowers, Russell H. Jr. *Someone or Nothing? Nishitani's Religion and Nothingness as a Foundation for Christian-Buddhist Dialogue*. New York: Peter Lang, 1995.
- Harris, Elisabeth J.. "Double Belonging in Sri Lanka: Illusion or Liberating Path?" in *Many Mansions*, pp. 76-92.

- Ingram, Paul. *The Modern Buddhist-Christian Dialogue: Two Universalistic Religions in Transformation*. Lewiston, PA: Edwin Mellen Press, 1988, Chapters 3, 9, and 10.
- Kennan, John. (1996). "Emptiness as a Paradigm for Understanding World Religions." *Buddhist-Christian Studies* 16 (1996) 57-64.
- Sugunasiri, S.H.J. "Spiritual Interaction Not Interfaith Dialogue: A Buddhistic Contribution." *Buddhist-Christian Studies* 16 (1996) 143-168.
- Van Bragt, Jan. "Multiple Religious Belonging of the Japanese People," in *Many Mansions? Multiple Religious Belonging and Christian Identity*. Catherine Cornille, ed. Maryknoll: Orbis Books, 2002, pp. 7-19.

Supplementary Readings: Buddhist-Christian Dialogue

- Abe, Masao. *Zen and Western Thought*. Williams R. LaFleur, ed. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 1985.
- Amore, Roy C. *Two Masters, One Message*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1978.
- Buri, Fritz, *The Buddha-Christ as the Lord of the True Self: The Religious Philosophy of the Kyoto School and Christianity*. Macon: GA, Mercer University Press, 1997.
- Cabezon, J.I.. "Jesus Christ through Buddhist Eyes." *Buddhist-Christian Studies*, 19 (1999) 51-100.
- Chetwynd, Tom. *Reflections on the Tradition of Mediation in Christianity and Zen Buddhism*. Boston: Wisdom Publications, 2001.
- Cobb, John B. Jr. and Christopher Ives, *The Emptying God: A Buddhist-Jewish-Christian Conversation*. Maryknoll: Orbis Books, 1994.
- Cowan, John. *Taking Jesus Seriously: Buddhist Meditation for Christians*. Collegeville: Liturgical Press, 2004.
- Dalai Lama. *The Good Heart: A Buddhist Perspective on the Teaching of Jesus*. Boston, Wisdom Publications, 1996.
- D'Costa, Gavin. "The Near Triumph of Tibetan Buddhist Pluralist-Exclusivism," Chapter 3 of *The Meeting of Religions and the Trinity*. Maryknoll: Orbis Books, pp. 72-98.
- Dunne, Carrin. *Buddha and Jesus: Conversations*. Springfield, IL: Templegate, 1975.
- Feldmeier, Peter. *Christianity Looks East: Comparing the Spiritualities of John of the Cross and Buddhaghosa*. New York: Paulist Press, 2006.
- Fredericks, James L. *Buddhists and Christians: Through Comparative Theology to Solidarity*. Maryknoll: Orbis Books, 2004.
- Gross, Rita M. and Terry C. Muck, eds. *Christians Talk about Buddhist Meditation /Buddhists Talk about Christian Prayer*. New York: Continuum, 2003.
- Habito, Ruben L.F. *Living Zen, Loving God*. Boston: Wisdom Publications, 2004.
- Ingram, Paul and Sallie King, eds. *The Sound of Liberating Truth: Buddhist-Christian Dialogues*. Surrey, UK: Curzon Press, 1999 (Parts 2 to 6).
- Ingram, Paul. *The Modern Buddhist-Christian Dialogue: Two Universalistic Religions in Transformation*. Lewiston, PA: Edwin Mellen Press, 1988, Chapters 3, 9, and 10.

- Ives, Christopher, ed. *Divine Emptiness and Historical Fullness: A Buddhist-Jewish-Christian Conversation with Masao Abe*. Valley Forge, PA: Trinity Press International, 1995.
- J.K. Kadowaki. *Zen and the Bible*. Maryknoll: Orbis Books, 2002.
- Keel, H.S. "Jesus the Bodhisattva: Christology from a Buddhist Perspectives." *Buddhist-Christian Studies* 16 (1996) 169-184.
- King, Robert H. *Thomas Merton and Thich Nhat Hanh: Engaged Spirituality in an Age of Globalization*. New York: Continuum, 2001.
- Lefebure, Leo D. *The Buddha and the Christ: Explorations in Buddhist and Christian Dialogue*. Maryknoll: Orbis Books, 1993.
- Lefebure, Leo D. *Life Transformed: Meditations on the Christian Scriptures in Light of Buddhist Perspectives*. Chicago: Acta Publications, 1989.
- Mitchell, Donald W. *Spirituality and Emptiness: The Dynamics of Spiritual Life in Buddhism and Christianity*. New York: Paulist Press, 1991.
- Mitchell, Donald W. ed. *Masao Abe: A Zen Life of Dialogue*. Boston: Charles E. Tuttle Co. 1998.
- Pierce, Brian J. *We Walk the Path Together: Learning from Thich Nhat Hanh and Meister Eckhart*. Maryknoll: Orbis Books, 2005.
- Pieris, Aloysius, *Prophetic Humour in Buddhism and Christianity: Doing Inter-Religious Studies in the Reverential Mode*. Colombo, Sri Lanka: Ecumenical Institute for Study and Dialogue, 2005.
- Schmidt-Leukel, Perry, ed. *Buddhism, Christianity and the Question of Creation*. Burlington, VT: Ashgate, 2006.
- Schmidt-Leukel, Perry, ed. *Buddhism and Christianity in Dialogue*. London: SCM Press, 2003.
- Schmidt-Leukel, Perry and Thomas Josef Götz, eds. *Buddhist Perceptions of Jesus*. St. Ottilien: EOS Verlag, 2001.
- Walker, Susan, ed. *Speaking of Silence: Christians and Buddhists on the Contemplative Way*. New York: Paulist Press, 1987.