UNDERGRADUATE COURSE DESCRIPTION

Term: Fall 2011
Instructor: Tom Harrington
Course #: THEO 2410
Section: 102 and 103
Course Title: Christian Faith in Cultural Contexts
Course Sub-Title: Christianity in the “Global South”

Description:

This course will examine the Christian faith in two primary contexts: (1) Western culture at the border of modernity and postmodernity and (2) contemporary Christianity in the “Global South.”

In the first half of the course, we will, largely from a Western perspective, look at various modern and postmodern approaches to conceiving of culture and its relationship to theological understanding. We will reflect on some of the theological implications of the so-called “linguistic turn.” In particular, we will consider the notion that our thought about God and our world occurs within the languages of the communities in which we dwell.

In the second half of the course, we will look at the growth of Christianity in the “Global South” (Latin America, Africa, South Asia, and the Pacific Rim). And, we will explore some representative strands in the myriad of developments in world Christianity over the last century.

Students will be graded according to class participation and the completion of several mid-length analysis papers on required texts.