CANADIAN MENNONITE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION AT STEINBACH BIBLE COLLEGE
BTS-5700S TOPICS IN THEOLOGY: ANABAPTIST THEOLOGY
Three Credit Hours
COURSE SYLLABUS

Semester 2, 2014-15 Year B
January 5-April 17, 2015
Format: Online
Professor: Terry Hiebert Ph. D. (Baylor)
W. 326-6451 ext. 230 H. 346-0326
Email: thiebert@sbccollege.ca

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

COURSE DESCRIPTION
The Reformation produced a movement of Anabaptists with deep convictions about Christian discipleship and community. Focusing on the theological writings of early Anabaptists, this course traces the development of these convictions to the present. Topics including the centrality of Christ, biblical interpretation, discipleship, the church, ordinances, and peacemaking are considered in dialog with evangelicalism.

If history is the “search for a useable past” (Commager), then for an evangelical Anabaptist college, the study of Anabaptist theology becomes vital for our contribution to the Church. The Anabaptists of the 16th century demonstrated with their lives and their writings the radical discipleship inspired by the New Testament. This course will start by locating Anabaptist theology within the 16th century Roman Catholic and Protestant Reformation theologies. The Anabaptist focus on discipleship in its personal, communal, and missional dimensions will be explored from within a framework of Anabaptist convictions about Jesus, the Word & Spirit, and Kingdom & World. This model of Anabaptist theology will be developed in conversation with early confessions, and contemporary evangelical and Anabaptist writers.

COURSE OBJECTIVES
1. Know the main Anabaptist theological writers and confessions of faith.
2. Understand how theological movements of the 16th century compared and contrasted with the Anabaptists.
3. Explain the Biblical hermeneutics used to support evangelical Anabaptist theology.
4. Become skilled in translating evangelical Anabaptist theology into contemporary forms.
5. Apply the principles of Biblical pacifism to a realistic case study.
7. Formulate a coherent statement of essential Anabaptist theological convictions for today.
8. Express an appreciation for the Anabaptist theology of radical discipleship.

ASSIGNMENTS AND EVALUATION

1. Forum Posts (25%)

Each week, students will read assigned selections from Snyder, Klaassen, and Yoder along with supporting course notes, and media. Students will make a 400 word weekly posts to the forum by **Wednesdays at 10:00 pm** and 200 word thoughtful response posts to each other by **Friday 10:00 pm** of the same week. Posts and responses will demonstrate evidence of interaction with and integration of course materials using quotes and footnotes. Grade considerations will be given for continuing a discussion beyond the minimum requirements. See forum rubric for details.

2. Theological Confession Assignment (10%)

Purpose of the assignment is to communicate Anabaptist theology in forms that speak to people today. Read one of Schleitheim Confession (1527), Dordrecht Confession (1632), or the Catechism (1778) (see Populi for links). Develop a teaching outline and PowerPoint presentation to teach the theology for a 30 minute presentation to a study group ex. youth, young adult, or adult.

**Alternative:** Develop a creative way of communicating one of these documents. Projects could include: 1000 word paraphrase, contemporary catechism, 50-60 thematic Tweets, a YouTube video, dramatic reading, poetry, music, digital work of art etc.

3. Case Study on Pacifism (10%)

Part I: Read Arden Thiessen’s book, *God of Peace* (194 pages). Write a one paragraph definition of the meaning of pacifism. Write a one page scenario that poses a real-life challenge to a pacifist position. Create an annotated bibliography of 6-8 quality online sources that address pacifism in general and your topic specifically (Ex. Annotation=2-3 sentence descriptions of the article. (10 points)

Part II: Write a 500-750 word documented response to the case study informed by course texts and research materials. See rubric for details. (10 points)

4. Research Paper (30%)

Search online for a current theological or ethical issue discussed in *Christian Century*, *Christianty Today*, *Faith Today*, *Christian Week*, or your denominational magazines. Write a research paper analyzing the issue and presenting a response. The paper will compare and contrast biblical, Anabaptist, and evangelical perspectives on the issue. See rubric for details. **Length: 3000 words.**

5. Final Reflection Paper (25%)

This reflection paper will address questions related to the course objectives. The essay will reflect on areas of personal theological growth, development of an Anabaptist theological
confession, and the application of Anabaptist theology for today. See Rubric for details. **Length 1500 words.**

### COURSE SCHEDULE

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Week 1</strong></td>
<td><strong>Welcome to the Course</strong></td>
<td>Snyder Klaassen Thiessen Yoder</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Reading/Listening: Stuart Murray, <em>Cutting Edge Anabaptism: Theology or Tradition</em> Session 1</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Forum #1: Wed 10 pm, Fri 10 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Week 2</strong></td>
<td><strong>Medieval Context: Roman Catholic Roots of Anabaptist Theology</strong></td>
<td>Snyder Klaassen Thiessen Yoder</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Reading: Course Notes</td>
<td>13-30 290-301 -- 76-88</td>
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<td>Forum #2: Wed 10 pm, Fri 10 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Week 3</strong></td>
<td><strong>Reformation Context: Reformation Theologies and Anabaptist Theology</strong></td>
<td>Snyder Klaassen Thiessen Yoder</td>
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<td>Reading: Course Notes</td>
<td>31-94 302-15 -- 193-211</td>
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<td>Forum #3: Wed 10 pm, Fri 10 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Week 4</strong></td>
<td><strong>Anabaptist Theological Frameworks &amp; Confessions</strong></td>
<td>Snyder Klaassen Thiessen Yoder</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Reading: Course notes Schleitheim Confession, Dordrecht Confession, The Catechism. Theology Communication Assignment Due Friday, 10 pm</td>
<td>95-166; 185-231 -- -- --</td>
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<td><strong>Week 5</strong></td>
<td><strong>Theological Conviction I: Jesus Christ the Center</strong></td>
<td>Snyder Klaassen Thiessen Yoder</td>
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<td>Reading: Stassen, <em>Thicker Jesus</em> chapter 10 “Love: The Sermon on the Mount as Realistic Deliverance” (175-95) (PDF)</td>
<td>375-92 23-40 -- 93-111</td>
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<td>Theological Conviction II: Anabaptist Hermeneutics</td>
<td>231-56 72-84, 140-61 --</td>
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<td>Reading: Stuart Murray, <em>Biblical Interpretation in the Anabaptist Tradition</em> (73-81) (PDF)</td>
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<td>Forum #4: Wed 10 pm, Fri 10 pm</td>
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<td>Week 6</td>
<td>Theological Conviction III: Kingdom and World</td>
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<td>Reading: Greg Boyd, “Does God Expect Nations to Turn the Other Cheek?” (PDF)</td>
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<td>Forum #5: Wed 10 pm, Fri 10 pm</td>
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<th>Week 7</th>
<th>The Case of Pacifism</th>
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<td>Reading/Listening: Walter Wink, Non-Violence for the Violent #1-5 on YouTube</td>
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<td>Assignment: Case Study on Pacifism Paper Due Friday @ 10 pm</td>
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<th>Week 8</th>
<th>Personal Dimension: Salvation as Discipleship</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Reading: Tripp York, “A Faith Worth Dying For: A Tradition of Martyrs Not Heroes” (PDF)</td>
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<td>Forum #6: Wed 10 pm, Fri 10 pm</td>
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<th>Week 9</th>
<th>Corporate Dimension I: A Believers Church</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Reading: Stassen, Thicker Jesus chapter 2 “The Three Dimensions of Incarnational Discipleship” (16-41) (PDF)</td>
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<td>Forum #7: Wed 10 pm, Fri 10 pm</td>
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<tr>
<th>Week 10</th>
<th>Corporate Dimension II: A Visible Church</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Reading /Listening: Stuart Murray, Cutting Edge Anabaptism: Leadership Session 4</td>
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<td>Assignment: Research Paper Due Friday, 10 pm</td>
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<th>Week 11</th>
<th>Missional Dimension: A Church in Holistic Mission</th>
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<td></td>
<td>Reading /Listening: Stuart Murray, Cutting Edge Anabaptism: Being an Answer Session3</td>
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<td>Forum #8: Wed 10 pm, Fri 10 pm</td>
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<th>Week 12</th>
<th>Reflections on the Anabaptist Vision</th>
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Academic Policies

1. Assignments
Assignments will be submitted to the instructor on the due date and time specified in the syllabus. Assignments submitted late will receive one letter grade deduction per week to a maximum of two weeks. Assignments submitted more than two weeks after the due date will not be accepted. All assignments must be in by the last day of exams at 4:30 p.m.

2. Format
All assignments are formatted in Times New Roman 12 point and using the SBC Style Guide (found under SBC101 in Populi) unless otherwise noted. The college requires the use of inclusive language when referring to people in general. This practice includes both written and oral communication.

3. Populi
The course will require the use of the learner management system called Populi. If you are enrolled in the course you already have access. Populi will provide a place for you to check your grades. You may also be requested to submit assignments electronically. Please make sure that all electronic submissions are in Microsoft Word format. Check Populi for further assignment information, discussion forums, reports, tests, etc. To access the class, login at https://sbcollege.populiweb.com/index.php and follow the links to your course.

4. Academic Integrity
Academic honesty requires proper documentation of sources. Academic dishonesty involves inadequate documentation, substantial plagiarism without documentation, complete plagiarism or copying, direct quotations and borrowed ideas without citations, cheating on exams, writing a paper for another student, and submitting the same paper for two courses. Consequences for academic dishonesty range from verbal warnings to expulsion from college. See your instructor for details.

5. Attendance
Online forum participation is required because learning in a community enhances your college education. Students will keep up with their assignments as a sign of full engagement in the course.

6. Course Changes
Note Students may change courses for full refund and without grade penalty until Tuesday, September 17. If a student drops the course by Tuesday, October 1 a grade of W is issued and 60% of the tuition is refunded. A student may withdraw from the course by Tuesday, November 5 with a grade of W and no refund. After that date, a course withdrawal results in a failure.
BIBLIOGRAPHY

Journals: Online and SBC Library


Anabaptist Theology


**Theology of Peace**


