

**BTS-4720/5820 CONTEMPORARY THEOLOGICAL THEMES**  
**CHURCH AND WORLD**  
 SYLLABUS--WINTER 2017-2018  
 CANADIAN MENNONITE UNIVERSITY

Professor Karl Koop, Ph.D. University of St. Michael's College/University of Toronto  
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 Schedule: Wednesdays 2:30 to 5:15pm; Location: C244  
 Last day for voluntary withdrawal from course without academic penalty: March 16

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** Throughout the ages Christians have struggled with the question of the church's identity and place in the world. Some Christian traditions have advocated nonconformity and have been drawn to the maxim that the church is "in the world but not of it." Other traditions have almost fully integrated into mainstream culture. What place do Christians have in the world and how distinctive or separated should they be? In the realm of nature, Christian attitudes have also varied. Some Christians have demonstrated a tendency to shun nature, or to view it as theologically irrelevant. Others have determined that the material world is sacramental--a realm in which God's grace is mediated and experienced. What role does the created order play in Christian experience? And, in a time of environmental crisis, what does it mean for Christians to live in responsible and faithful ways? These and other questions will be explored with a view of developing a theology of church and world.

**FORMAT:** This course is in seminar format and will be discussion-based; lectures will be few and mostly supplemental in nature.

**READING MATERIALS:** Students will be reading essays from a wide range of authors. A significant portion of the readings will need to be accessed through the student portal, or through electronic sources made available through the CMU library, particularly the ATLA Religion Database. In addition, students will be required to purchase two volumes: James K. A. Smith, ed., *After Modernity? Secularity, Globalization & the Re-Enchantment of the World* (Baylor University Press, 2008), and Jürgen Moltmann, *The Spirit of Life: A Universal Affirmation* (Fortress Press, 1992).

**OFFICE HOURS:** Students may drop in for very brief conversations on most days. Serious conversations are best planned by appointment.

#### SUMMARY OF COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Attendance and Class Participation	10%	
Class Presentation	20%	(TBD)
Term Essay	50%	(March 28)
Summative Essay	20%	(April 4)

#### COURSE REQUIREMENTS

**ATTENDANCE AND CLASS PARTICIPATION:** It is expected that students will have studied the assigned readings for each class. It is also imperative that students have access to the relevant readings of the day while the class is in session. This portion of the student's grade will be based on attendance and ability to engage with the readings and class discussions each week. It is recommended that students prepare notes in preparation for each class so that they are able to summarize the main arguments and critically engage the readings.

**CLASS PRESENTATION:** At some point in the semester (to be determined at the first class) students will be responsible for presenting a reading reflections which will be made available to the rest of the class. The first half of the reflection should summarize the contents of the reading, highlighting in particular its main argument and how it is developed. The second half of the presentation give attention to questions, further issues, problems, or highlights. The reflection should be about 1,000 words in length and submitted as an attached Word Document. Note the formatting: maximum two pages; no title page but appropriate heading on the first page; single-spaced; double-spaced between paragraphs; one-inch margins; 10-12 point font as appropriate; contents should be thoroughly

referenced using parenthesis. The presentation must be submitted via email no later than 24 hours prior to Wednesday's class.

**TERM ESSAY:** Students will write an essay that will give attention to a particular author, theme or issue related to the course. It is strongly recommended that students consult with the professor prior to the mid-term break before embarking on their research and writing. The essay must have a purpose or thesis statement. The essay will be evaluated on the basis of form and content. It is expected that the essay will provide documentation according to the University of Chicago style with the use of footnotes (not parenthetical referencing--MLA or APA style etc.). The undergraduate student essay should be about 3500-4500 words in length; the graduate student essay should be about 4500-6000 words in length (word-count includes footnotes)

**SUMMATIVE ESSAY:** Students will write an essay (max. 2000 words) based on a question, or set of questions, supplied in advance.

**POLICY FOR LATE SUBMISSIONS:** Late submissions may only receive minimal feedback. The professor reserves the right to reduce the grades of any assignments that are handed in late.

- J03 Introduction to the Course
- J10 Klassen-Wiebe, "In the World but Not of the World: A Johannine Perspective on the Church-World Relationship," 9-20; John H. Yoder, "The Otherness of the Church," *The Mennonite Quarterly Review* 35, no. 4 (October 1961): 286-296 (See ATLA); Reimer, *Toward an Anabaptist Political Theology: Law, Order, and Civil Society*, 1-17
- J17 Smith, *After Modernity*, Part I and II
- J24 Smith, *After Modernity*, Part III
- J31 Smith, *After Modernity*, Part IV
- F07 Tarnas, *The Passion of the Western Mind*, 98-105, 138-154; Gregory, *The Unintended Reformation*, 25-73
- F14 Schwartz, *Sacramental Poetics*, 3-17; Martha Kirkpatrick, "'For God So Loved the World:'" An Incarnational Ecology," *Anglican Theological Review* 91, no. 2, 191-212, (ATLA); McFague, *The Body of God*, 1-25.
- F21 Reading Week
- F28 Moltmann, *Spirit of Life*, Introduction and Part I
- M07 Participation in the Mennonite Muslim Dialogue Conference; Harry Huebner, "Mennonite-Shi engagement: Proclamation, Friendship, Peacebuilding," *Direction: A Mennonite Brethren Form* 45, no. 1 (Spring 2016): 47-59. (ATLA)
- M14 Moltmann, *Spirit of Life*, Part II
- M21 Moltmann, *Spirit of Life*, Part III
- M28 Essay Reporting and Review

## Select Bibliography

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- Berry, Wendell. *The Art of the Commonplace: Agrarian Essays of Wendell Berry*, edited and introduced by Norman Wirzba (Washington, DC: Counterpoint, 2002)
- Burrell, David. *Original Peace: Restoring God's Creation*. Mahwah, NJ: Paulist Press, 1997.
- Cavanaugh, William T. *Migrations of the Holy: God, State, and the Political Meaning of the Church*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2011.
- Davis, Ellen F. *Scripture, Culture, and Agriculture: An Agrarian Reading of the Bible*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2009.
- Doerksen, Paul G. and Karl Koop, *The Church Made Strange for the Nations: Essays in Ecclesiology and Political Theology*. Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock Publishers, 2011.
- Eptein, Ethan. "What Catastrophe? MIT's Richard Lindzen, the unalarmed climate scientist." *The Weekly Standard*. Vol. 19, No. 17, January 13, 2014.
- Gauchet, Marcel. *The Disenchantment of the World*. Translated by Oscar Burge. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1997.
- Gregory, Brad S. *The Unintended Reformation: How a Religious Revolution Secularized Society*. Cambridge and London: The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 2012.
- Huebner, Harry. "Mennonite-Shi engagement: Proclamation, Friendship, Peacebuilding." *Direction: A Mennonite Brethren Form* 45, no. 1, Spring 2016, 47-59.
- Janzen, Waldemar. "John Howard Yoder's Ecclesiology: As Seen by an Appreciate Critic." In Paul Doerksen and Karl Koop, eds. *The Church made Strange for the Nations: Essays in Ecclesiology and Political Theology*. Eugene, OR: Pickwick Publications, 2011, 36-51.
- Kirkpatrick, Martha. "For God so loved the World; An Incarnational Ecology." *Anglican Theological Review* 91, no. 2, 191-212.
- Klassen-Wiebe, Sheila. "In the World but Not of the World: A Johannine Perspective on the Church-World Relationship." In Paul Doerksen and Karl Koop, eds. *The Church made Strange for the Nations: Essays in Ecclesiology and Political Theology*. Eugene, OR: Pickwick Publications, 2011, 9-20.
- Koop, Karl. "Migrations of Enchantment in the Radical Reformation: The Undoing of a Material and Natural World." In *Radicalizing Reformation: North American Perspectives*, vol. 6, eds. Karen L. Bloomquist, Craig L. Nesson, Hans G. Ulrich. Berlin: LIT Verlag, 2016, 243-264; also published in *Liberation from Violence for Life in Peace*, Radicalizing Reformation vol. 4, eds. Ulrich Duchrow and Craig Nesson. Berlin: LIT Verlag, 2015, 223-43.
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- McFague, Sallie. *The Body of God: An Ecological Theology*. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 1993.
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- Ollenburger, Ben C. and Gayle Gerber Koontz eds. *A Mind Patient and Untamed: Assessing John Howard Yoder's Contributions to Theology, Ethics, and Peacemaking* (Telford, PA: Cascadia Publishing House, 2004), 205-220.
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- A. James Reimer, *Toward an Anabaptist Political Theology: Law, Order, and Civil Society*, ed. Paul G. Doerksen. Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock Publishers, 2014.
- Rogers, Eugene F. Jr. *After the Spirit: A Constructive Pneumatology from Resources outside the Modern West*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2005.
- Ruther, Rosemary Radford. *Sexism and God-Talk: Toward a Feminist Theology*. Boston, MA; Beacon Hill, 1983.
- Schememann, Alexander. *The World As Sacrament*. London: Darton, Longman & Todd, 1966.
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