

T1044 Introduction to Liberation Theology

Episcopal Divinity School, Fall 2008

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I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

What is liberation theology? Who does it? Why is it important to the church? How do traditional theologians and critics respond to it? This introductory course will discuss the many strands of liberation theology from different global contexts. The focus will be on liberation theology's methodologies, its relation to the social context, and its challenges to the theological discipline.

II. SPECIFIC GOALS

The course is designed to:

1. introduce some of the classical texts of liberation theologies from different parts of the world and the works of a few key new critical thinkers.
2. analyze some of the newer challenges to liberation theologies: cultural hermeneutics, postcolonial criticism, and globalization.
3. develop the skills of contextual theological thinking and critique of traditional theology of the church and one's own faith.
4. equip students to learn and reflect on theology from an anti-racist and multicultural perspectives through both course contents and pedagogy.

III. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATION

1. Complete assigned readings and participate in class discussions and presentations.
2. Complete two reflection papers (7-8 pages) on assigned readings. Instructions will be given in class. Due: Oct 8 and Nov 12.
3. Final paper: topic and short bibliography submitted on Dec 3. Paper due Jan 5, 2009.

To be fair to all students, late assignments will receive lower marks.

Mini-course requirement

EDS students who are taking this as a mini-course do not need to write the final paper.

Pass/Fail option

Those who are taking this course Pass/Fail need to inform me. The Pass/Fail grading system is now:

Pass (B or better)

Marginal Pass (B-)

Fail (lower than B-)

D. Min Students

Course work for all Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.) students must demonstrate an advanced understanding of the nature and purposes of ministry, enhanced competencies in pastoral analysis and ministerial skills, and the integration of these dimensions into the theologically reflective practice of ministry. D.Min. students are encouraged to focus their course work on a particular subject germane to their anticipated thesis project.

IV. COURSE SCHEDULE

Sept 10	Introduction
Sept 17	The Global Context
Sept 24	Latin American Liberation Theology
Oct 1	Feminist Theology
Oct 8	Black Theology
Oct 15	Race, Ethnicity, and Theology
Oct 22	Gay and Lesbian Issues in the Global Church
Oct 29	Culture, Religion, and Liberation
Nov 5	Quiet Day (No classes at EDS)
Nov 12	Feminism and Ecology
Nov 19	Postcolonial Reality and Hermeneutics
Nov 26	Thanksgiving Holiday
Dec 3	Palestinian and Jewish Liberation Theology
Dec 10	Reflection and Celebration

V. READINGS**Texts:**

Ateek, Naim. *A Palestinian Christian Cry for Reconciliation*. Maryknoll: Orbis, 2008 (available in November).

Brown, Terry. *Other Voices, Other Worlds: The Global Church Speaks Out on Homosexuality*. New York: Church Publishing, 2006.

Cone, James. *God of the Oppressed*, rev.ed. Maryknoll: Orbis, 1997.

Dube, Musa W. *Postcolonial Feminist Interpretation of the Bible*. St. Louis: Chalice Press, 2000.

Fernandez, Eleazar and Fernando F. Segovia, eds. *A Dream Unfinished: Theological Reflections on America from the Margins*. Maryknoll: Orbis, 2001.

Gebara, Ivone. *Longing for Running Water: Ecofeminism and Liberation*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 1999.

Gutiérrez, Gustavo. *A Theology of Liberation*. 15th anniversary ed. Maryknoll: Orbis, 1988.

Russell, Letty. *Human Liberation in a Feminist Perspective—A Theology*. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1974.

Other articles in the course site in Blackboard (<http://fishersnet.blackboard.com>).

Weekly Readings:

Sept 17 The Global Context

Koshy, Ninan. "Socio-Political and Economic Concerns in Building Communities," *CTC Bulletin* 20:1 (April 2004): 37-48.

Sassen, Saskia. "Toward a Feminist Analysis of the Global Economy," in *Globalization and Its Discontents*. New York: New Press, 1998, 81-109.

Grandin, Greg. "Iraq Is Not Arabic for Latin America," in *Empire's Workshop: Latin America, the United States, and the Rise of the New Imperialism*. New York: Metropolitan Books, 2006, 223-37.

Heltzel, Peter Godwin, James O. Duke, Verity Jones, and William J. Nottingham, "Theology as Intercultural Conversation in an Age of Globalization," in *Chalice Introduction to Disciples Theology*, ed. Peter Godwin Heltzel. St Louis: Chalice, 2008, 10-19.

Sands, Kathleen M. "Public, Pubic, and Private: Religion in Political Discourse," in *God Forbid: Religion and Sex in American Public Life*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2000, 60-90.

Sept 24 Latin American Liberation Theology

Gutiérrez, Gustavo. *A Theology of Liberation*, Chs. 1,2,9,10,11,12,13.

Kwok, Pui-lan. "Liberation Theology in the Twenty-First Century," in *Opting for the Margins: Postmodernity and Liberation in Christian Theology*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2003, 71-88.

Oct 1 Feminist Theology

Russell, Letty. *Human Liberation in a Feminist Perspective*, Chs. 1,2,3,4,5.

Oct 8 Black Theology

Cone, James. *God of the Oppressed*.

Oct 15 Race, Ethnicity, and Theology

Fernandez, Eleazar and Fernando F. Segovia, eds. *A Dream Unfinished*, Chs. 2,3,7,9,11,13.

Oct 22 Gay and Lesbian Issues in the Global Church

Brown, Terry. *Other Voices, Other Worlds*, Chs. 2,4,5,6,9,10,11,12,17,18,19

Oct 29 Culture, Religion, and Liberation

Pieris, Aloysius. "Speaking of God in Non-Christian Cultures," in *An Asian Theology of Liberation*. Maryknoll: Orbis, 1988, 59-65.

Martey, Emmanuel. "African Theology as Inculturation Theology," in *African Theology: Inculturation and Liberation*. Maryknoll: Orbis, 1993, 63-78.

Kanyoro, Musimbi, R. A. "Cultural Hermeneutics: An African Contribution," in *Other Ways of Reading: African Women and the Bible*. Geneva: World Council of Churches, 2001, 101-13.

Haddad, Beverley. "Choosing to Remain Silent: Links between Gender Violence, HIV/AIDS and the South African Church," in *African Women, HIV/AIDS and Faith Communities*. Pietermaritzburg: Cluster Publications, 2003, 149-67.

Kwok, Pui-lan. "A Postcolonial Reading," in *Engaging the Bible: Critical Readings from Contemporary Women*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2006, 21-33.

Nov 12 Feminism and Ecology

Gebara, Ivone. *Longing for Running Water*, Chs. 1,3,5,6.

Nov 19 Postcolonial Reality and Hermeneutics

Dube, Musa W. *Postcolonial Feminist Interpretation of the Bible*, Chs. 1,2,3,7,9.

Dec 3 Palestinian and Jewish Liberation Theology

Ateek, Naim. *A Palestinian Christian Cry for Reconciliation*, selections

Ellis, Marc. "Judaism," in *The Hope of Liberation in World Religions*, ed. Miguel De La Torre. Waco, Tex.: Baylor University Press, 2008, 65-89.

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY ON THIRD AND FOURTH WORLD THEOLOGIES

Ecumenical Association of Third World Theologians (EATWOT) in Chronological Order

Torres, Sergio, and Virginia Fabella, eds. *The Emergent Gospel: Theology from the Developing World*. Maryknoll: Orbis, 1978. (First EATWOT Conference, Dar es Salaam, 1976).

Appiah-Kubi, Kofi, and Sergio Torres, eds. *African Theology en Route*. Maryknoll Orbis, 1979. (Pan African Conference of EATWOT, Accra, Ghana, 1977)

Fabella, Virginia, ed. *Asia's Struggle for Full Humanity*. Maryknoll: Orbis, 1980. (Asian Theological Conference, Wennaappuwa, Sri Lanka, 1979)

Torres, Sergio, and John Eagleson, eds. *The Challenge of Basic Christian Communities*. Maryknoll: Orbis, 1981. (International Ecumenical Congress of Theology, São Paulo, 1980)

Fabella, Virginia, and Sergio Torres, eds. *Irruption of the Third World: Challenge to Theology*. Maryknoll: 1983. (Fifth International Conference, Delhi, 1981)

_____, and Sergio Torres, eds. *Doing Theology in a Divided World*. Maryknoll: Orbis, 1985. (Sixth International Conference, Geneva, 1983)

_____, and Mercy Amba Oduyoye, eds. *With Passion and Compassion: Third World Women Doing Theology*. Maryknoll: Orbis, 1988. (First Intercontinental Women's Conference, Oaxtepec, Mexico, 1986)

Abraham, K. C., ed. *Third World Theologies: Commonalities and Divergences*. Maryknoll: Orbis, 1990. (Second General Assembly, EATWOT, Oaxtepec, 1986)

Fabella, Virginia. *Beyond Bonding: A Third World Women's Theological Journey*. Manila: EATWOT, 1993.

K. C. Abraham, and Bernadette Mbuy-Beya, eds. *Spirituality of the Third World*. Maryknoll: Orbis, 1994. (Third General Assembly, EATWOT, Nairobi, 1992)

Mananzan, Mary John, et al. eds. *Women Resisting Violence: Spirituality for Life*. Maryknoll: Orbis, 1996. (Conference between Third World and First World Women, San José, Costa Rica, 1994)

Africa

De Gruchy, John W., and Charles Villa-Vicencio, eds. *Doing Theology in Context: South African Perspectives*. Maryknoll: Orbis, 1994.

Éla, Jean-Marc. *My Faith as an African*. Maryknoll: Orbis, 1988.

Gibellini, Rosino, ed. *Paths of African Theology*. Maryknoll: Orbis, 1994.

Kanyoro, Musimbi R. A. *Introducing Feminist Cultural Hermeneutics: An African Perspective*. Cleveland: Pilgrim, 2002.

_____, and Nyambura J. Njoroge, eds. *Groaning in Faith: African Women in the Household of God*. Nairobi: Acton Publishers, 1996.

Martey, Emmanuel. *African Theology: Inculturation and Liberation*. Maryknoll: Orbis, 1993.

Mbiti, John S. *African Religions and Philosophy*. New York: Praeger, 1968.

_____. *New Testament Eschatology in an African Background*. London: Oxford University Press, 1971.

Mofokeng, Takatso Alfred. *The Crucified among the Crossbearers: Towards a Black Christology*. Kampen: Uitgeversmaatschappij J. H. Kok, 1983.

Mosala, Itumeleng J. *Black Hermeneutics and Black Theology in South Africa*. Grand Rapids: W. B. Eerdmans, 1989.

_____, and Buti Tlhagale, eds. *The Unquestionable Right to Be Free: Black Theology from South Africa*. Maryknoll: Orbis, 1986.

Oduyoye, Mercy Amba. *Beads and Strands: Reflections of an African Woman on Christianity in Africa*. Maryknoll: Orbis, 2004.

_____. *Daughters of Anowa: African Women and Patriarchy*. Maryknoll: Orbis, 1995.

- _____. *Hearing and Knowing: Theological Reflections on Christianity in Africa*. Maryknoll: Orbis, 1986.
- _____, and Musimbi R. A. Kanyoro, eds. *The Will to Arise: Women, Tradition, and the Church in Africa*. Maryknoll: Orbis, 1992.
- Parratt, John, ed. *A Reader in African Christian Theology*. London: SCPK, 1997.
- Sanneh, Lamin. *Translating the Message: The Missionary Impact on Culture*. Maryknoll: Orbis, 1989.
- Tutu, Desmond. *Crying in the Wilderness: The Struggle for Justice in South Africa*, 3rd Edition. London: Mowbray, 1990.
- _____. *No Future without Forgiveness*. New York: Doubleday, 1999.
- West, Gerald O, and Musa W. Dube, eds. *The Bible in Africa: Transactions, Trajectories, and Trends*. Leiden: Brill, 2000.

Asia

- Chung, Hyun Kyung. *Struggle to Be the Sun Again: Introducing Asian Women's Theology*. Maryknoll: Orbis, 1990.
- Elwood, Douglas J., ed. *Asian Christian Theology: Emerging Themes*. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1980.
- England, John C, ed. *Living Theology in Asia*. London: SCM, 1981.
- Fabella, Virginia, and Sun Ai Lee Park, eds. *We Dare to Dream: Doing Theology as Asian Women*. Maryknoll: Orbis, 1989.
- Kim, Yong Bock, ed. *Minjung Theology*. Singapore: Christian Conference of Asia, 1981.
- Koyama, Kosuke. *Waterbuffalo Theology*, 25th anniversary revised ed. Maryknoll: Orbis, 1999.
- _____. *Mount Fuji and Mount Sinai: A Pilgrimage in Theology*. London: SCM, 1984.
- Kwok, Pui-lan. *Introducing Asian Feminist Theology*. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 2000.

Panikkar, Raimundo, *The Unknown Christ of Hinduism*. Revised ed. Maryknoll: Orbis, 1964.

Pieris, Aloysius. *Love Meets Wisdom: A Christian Experience of Buddhism*. Maryknoll: Orbis, 1988.

Samartha, Stanley J. *One Christ—Many Religions: Toward a Revised Christology*. Maryknoll: Orbis, 1991.

Song, Choan-Seng. *Jesus in the Power of the Spirit*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 1994.

Sugirtharajah, R. S. *Asian Biblical Hermeneutics and Postcolonialism: Contesting the Interpretations*. Maryknoll: Orbis, 1998.

_____, ed. *Frontiers in Asian Christian Theology: Emerging Trends*. Maryknoll: Orbis, 1994.

Suk, David Kwang-sun. *The Korean Minjung in Christ*. Hong Kong: Christian Conference in Asia, 1991.

Thomas, M. M. *Risking Christ for Christ's Sake: Towards an Ecumenical Theology of Pluralism*. Geneva: WCC, 1987.

Ting, K. H. *No Longer Strangers: Selected Writings of Bishop K. H. Ting*. Maryknoll: Orbis, 1989.

Latin America

Alves, Rubem A. *A Theology of Human Hope*. Washington, D.C.: Corpus Books, 1969.

Assmann, Hugo. *Theology for a Nomad Church*. Maryknoll: Orbis, 1976.

Aquino, María Pilar. *Our Cry for Life: Feminist Theology from Latin America*. Maryknoll: Orbis, 1993.

Boff, Leonardo. *Church: Charism and Power, Liberation Theology and the Institutional Church*. New York: Crossroad, 1985.

_____. *Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor*. Maryknoll: Orbis, 1997.

De Santa Ana, Julio, ed. *Sustainability and Globalization*. Geneva: WCC, 1998.

_____. *Towards a Church of the Poor*. Maryknoll: Orbis, 1979.

Dussel, Enrique. *Ethics and the Theology of Liberation*. Maryknoll: Orbis, 1978.

Gebara, Ivone. *Out of the Depths: Women's Experience of Evil and Salvation*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2002.

_____, and Maria Clara Bingemer. *Mary: Mother of God, Mother of the Poor*. Maryknoll: Orbis, 1987.

Gutierrez, Gustavo. *The Density of the Present: Selected Writings*. Maryknoll: Orbis, 1999.

_____. *Essential Writings*. Maryknoll: Orbis, 1996.

Maduro, Otto. *Religion and Social Conflicts*. Maryknoll: Orbis, 1982.

Miguez Bonino, José. *Doing Theology in a Revolutionary Situation*. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1975.

_____. *Toward a Christian Political Ethics*. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1983.

Richard, Pablo, et al. *The Idols of Death and the God of Love: A Theology*. Maryknoll: Orbis, 1983.

Segundo, Juan Luis. *The Liberation of Dogma: Faith, Revelation, and Dogmatic Teaching Authority*. Maryknoll: Orbis, 1992

_____. *Liberation of Theology*. Maryknoll: Orbis, 1976.

Sobrino, Jon. *Jesus the Liberator*. Maryknoll: Orbis, 1993.

_____. *Christ the Liberator: A View from the Victims*. Maryknoll: Orbis, 2001.

Tamez, Elsa. *The Amnesty of Grace: Justification by Faith from a Latin American Perspective*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1993.

_____, ed. *Through Her Eyes: Women's Theology from Latin America*. Maryknoll: Orbis, 1989.

Middle East

Ateek, Naim. *Justice, and Only Justice: A Palestinian Theology of Liberation*. Maryknoll: Orbis, 1989.

_____, Cedar Duaybis, and Maurine Tobin, eds. *Challenging Christian Zionism: Theology, Politics and Israel/Palestine Conflict*. London: Melisende, 2005.

Indigenous Peoples

Kidwell, Clara Sue, Homer Noley, and George E. "Tink" Tinker. *A Native American Theology*. Maryknoll: Orbis, 2001.

Pattel-Gray, Anne. *Through Aboriginal Eyes: The Cry from the Wilderness*. Geneva: WCC, 1991.

Smith, Andrea. *Conquest: Sexual Violence and American Indian Genocide*. Boston: South End Press, 2005.

Tinker, George E. "Tink". *Spirit and Resistance: Political Theology and American Indian Liberation*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2004.

_____. *American Indian Liberation: A Theology of Sovereignty*. Maryknoll: Orbis, 2008.

Weaver, Jace, ed. *Native American Religious Identity: Unforgotten Gods*. Maryknoll: Orbis, 1998.