SMC456H1F: INDIAN CHRISTIANITY
RLG3280H: CHRISTIANITIES OF SOUTH ASIA

MEETING TIMES: Tuesdays, 6-9 pm, in Teefy Hall 103

Instructor: Reid B. Locklin  
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Email: reid.locklin@utoronto.ca  
Office Hours: T 10:10-12 noon and by chance or appointment

Email Policy: I will attempt to respond to legitimate email enquiries from students within 3-4 days. If you do not receive a reply within this period, please re-submit your question(s) and/or leave a message by telephone. Where a question cannot be easily or briefly answered by email, I will indicate that the student should see me during my posted office hours.

Course Description

This seminar explores the claim of diverse Christian traditions in South Asia to be religious traditions of South Asia, with special attention to these traditions’ indigenisation and social interactions with majority Hindu traditions. Our study will begin with an overview of the historical development of Christianity in India from the first century CE to the present. In a second unit, we move to close readings of three major theological articulations for and against an indigenous South Asian Christianity: M.M. Thomas, Ram Swarup and Sathianathan Clarke. Finally, our attention will turn to the concept of “ritual dialogue” in Christian practice and the ethnographic study of Christian communities in India. Most of our attention will be focused on Christian traditions in South India, but students are encouraged to choose topics related to Christianity in other parts of India, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal and/or Bhutan for their research papers.

Course Objectives

1. To acquire and demonstrate sympathetic familiarity with the history of Christianity in India, selected Indian theologians, and ethnographic approaches to contemporary ritual practice;

2. To demonstrate critical understanding of and engagement with questions of comparative method, religious studies and modern Christian theology;

3. To refine academic skills in reading, research, critical analysis and clear written expression.

Common Reading

- Students must make their own arrangements to acquire the following required textbooks, available at Crux Books (5 Hoskin Avenue, at Wycliffe College; 416.599.2749). Works marked with an asterisk (*) are out of print; students will need to use library copies, on reserve, or make individual arrangements to acquire second-hand copies.

  - Sathianathan Clarke, Dalits and Christianity (OUP, 1998).
  - Robert Eric Frykenberg, Christianity in India (OUP, 2008).
  - Selva J. Raj and Corinne G. Dempsey, Popular Christianity in India (SUNY Press, 2002).

- Students will also need to procure the SMC456H/RLG3280H Course Reader, available from Tru-Copy – 1033 Bay Street, Toronto; 416.928.1146.

Please see the attached course outline for specific assignments and full bibliographic information.
Assignments and Evaluation

10% – Class Participation, including attendance, regular presentations of summary annotations (see below) and participation in seminar discussions.

5% – One 20-30 Minute Class Presentation, in which 1-2 students lead discussion on the readings, drawing on their own critical summaries and additional materials, as needed. Students are required to consult with the instructor prior to their assigned session(s).

28% – At least 7 Annotated Bibliographical Citations (ABCs) of 300-400 word length on assigned focus readings, worth 4% each. The format for these summaries is described in an attached handout. Each student’s seven highest scores (out of 9 total) will be used to calculate this portion of the final grade. **ABCs will only be accepted in class on the session for which they are assigned – summaries will not ordinarily be accepted late or outside of class.**

12% – A 5-7 page Book Review of Frykenberg’s *Christianity in India* due no later than **1:00 pm Friday, 14 October** in the strongbox outside of Alumni Hall 311. Undergraduate students must consult and make reference to at least 2 reviews of this book in peer-reviewed scholarly journals; graduate students must compare Frykenberg with another major work on the history of Christianity in South Asia.

45% – A Major Research Paper on a topic related to Christianity in South Asia. This topic should be formulated in consultation with the instructor, and the final paper should be **12-18 pages in length** (20-30 pages for graduate students). Further notes:

a. A 1-2 page statement of topic, bibliography and basic outline of this paper is due no later than **1:00 pm on Friday, 4 November** in the strongbox outside Alumni Hall 311. Although this will not receive a separate grade, it is required – students who do not submit it on time will receive a one letter grade penalty on the final paper.

b. Final papers are due no later than **1:00 pm Friday, 9 December** in the strongbox outside Alumni Hall 311.

c. No extensions will be granted on these deadlines; however, late papers will be accepted until **1:00 pm Wednesday, 14 December,** with a penalty of 2% per day of lateness.

d. Papers by doctoral students must include evidence of at least some research in a language other than English.

Marking protocols will follow the Grading Regulations described on p. 617 of the *University of Toronto Faculty of Arts and Science (St. George Campus) 2011-2012 Calendar* for undergraduate students or the Graduate Grading and Evaluation Practices Policy ([http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/grgrade.htm](http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/grgrade.htm)) for graduate students.

Academic Expectations

Students are expected to attend seminar meetings regularly, to submit assignments on time, and to participate actively in class discussions. It is also expected that reading assignments will be completed prior to the class for which they are assigned. Excessive absences and/or obvious lack of preparation will weigh against the participation portion of the student’s final grade. **Please turn off pagers and cell phones during class.**

All students in this class are bound by the Code of Behavior on Academic Matters available at [http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/Assets/Governing+Council+Digital+Assets/Policies/PDF/ppjun011995.pdf](http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/Assets/Governing+Council+Digital+Assets/Policies/PDF/ppjun011995.pdf). Each student is responsible for completing her or his own work and for appropriately acknowledging outside sources used in the preparation of papers and other written work.
FALL 2011 COURSE OUTLINE FOR SMC456H1F/RLG3280H

INDIAN CHRISTIANITY/CHRISTIANITIES OF SOUTH ASIA

Reading assignments should be completed prior to the class session for which they are assigned. They may be subject to review and revision, as specified by the instructor.

Assigned Reading: Although students will not prepare written summaries on all these readings, they should be read in preparation for class discussion.

Summary Text(s): These assignments will be the primary focus of our conversations in the seminar. They are all to be read in preparation for class, and students will write an annotated bibliographical citation (see syllabus) on one of them —usually one of two selections.

CR = Course Reader (available from Tru-Copy)
SMC = Work on Reserve at the Kelly Library, St. Michael’s College
R = Work on Reserve at Robarts Library

PART I: HISTORY

13 September Introduction to the Course

20 September St. Thomas Christianity: Evidence and Influence

⇒ Robert Eric Frykenberg, Christianity in India: From Beginnings to the Present, Oxford History of the Christian Church (Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press, 2008), 1-136 (ch. 1 through most of ch. 5) [SMC, R].


⇒ Due: Annotated Bibliographical Citation on Frykenberg, Christianity in India (focus on chs. 1 and 4).

27 September European Pfarangis and Dubabis: De Nobili, Ziegenbalg and Schwartz

⇒ Frykenberg, Christianity in India, 137-343 (chs. 5-11).


⇒ Bartholomäus Ziegenbalg, Genealogy of the South Indian Deities: An English Translation of Bartholomäus Ziegenbalg’s Original German Manuscript with a Textual Analysis and

- C.F. Swartz, Defence of Missions in India ([London]: H. Bryer, [1796?]) [CR].

⇒ Due: Annotated Bibliographical Citation on EITHER De Nobili, Report, OR Ziegenbalg, Genealogy.

4 October "Trophies of Grace": Pandita Ramabai and Brahmabandhab Upadhyay

- Frykenberg, Christianity in India, 344-484 (chs. 12-15, Conclusion and Postscript).

⇒ Due: Annotated Bibliographical Citation on EITHER Ramabai, “Testimony,” OR all of the selections from Upadhyay.

11 October NO CLASS MEETING — Book Reviews

⇒ Book Review due no later than 1:00 pm on Friday, 14 October in the strongbox outside Alumni Hall 311.

Additional Resources for Unit I:

- Please note the extensive bibliography of scholarly resources in Frykenberg, Christianity in India, 485-515.
- Leonard Fernando and G. Gispert-Sauch, Christianity in India: Two Thousand Years of Faith (New Delhi: Viking, 2004) [SMC, R].
- *Church History* [Periodical – Trinity, and available online through UTL].
- *Missiology* [Periodical – Robarts, Trinity, and others].
- *Studia Missionalia* [Periodical – SMC].

**Sample Scholarly Book Reviews of Frykenberg:**
PART II: PORTRAITS

18 October  

M.M. Thomas: Christianity and the Indian Nation


- Something from Nagas?

⇒ Due: Annotated Bibliographical Citation on Thomas, Acknowledged Christ.

Additional Resources:


25 October  

Ram Swarup: A Hindu Critique of Christianity and Christian Inculturation


Continued on Next Page

⇒ Due: Annotated Bibliographical Citation on Swarup, “Hinduism;” Swarup, “Hindu Views;” AND “Catholic Ashrams.”

Additional Resources:

- Antony Copley, Religions in Conflict: Ideology, Cultural Contact and Conversion in Late-Colonial India (Delhi: Oxford University Press, 1997).
1 November Sathianathan Clarke: Christian Inculturation and Dalit Liberation


⇒ **Due:** Annotated Bibliographical Citation on Clarke, *Dalits and Christianity*.

⇒ **ALSO DUE BY 1:00 PM ON FRIDAY, 4 NOVEMBER:** Short statement of topic, bibliography and basic outline for the major paper (1-2 pages).

**Additional Resources:**

- Peniel Rajkumar, *Dalit Theology and Dalit Liberation: Problems, Paradigms and Possibilities* (Farnham, UK and Burlington, VT: Ashgate, 2010).

**Additional Resources for Unit II:**

- *Bangalore Theological Forum* [Periodical – Emmanuel]
- *Indian Theological Studies* [Periodical – SMC, Regis].
- *Vidyajyoti* [Periodical – Regis].
PART III: PRACTICES

8 November __________ NO CLASS MEETING – Study Period

15 November __________ Inculturated Theology or Inculturated Practice? Two Views


⇒ Due: Annotated Bibliographical Citation on EITHER Thangaraj, *Crucified Guru*, OR the three articles by Raj (including “Transgressing Boundaries”).

22 November __________ Sacred Rituals: Crossing Boundaries and Constructing Authority


⇒ Due: Annotated Bibliographical Citation on EITHER Punzo Waghorne, “Chariots of the God/s,” OR Meibohm, “Past Selves,” OR Kent, “Redemptive Hegemony.”

29 November __________ Sacred Power: Healing, Exorcism and the Miraculous


⇒ Due: Annotated Bibliographical Citation on EITHER Dempsey, “Lessons in Miracles,” OR MacPhail, “Finding a Path in Others’ Worlds,” OR Schmalz, “Charismatic Transgressions.”
Additional Resources for Unit III:


6 December Paper Presentations

No additional assignment beyond a prepared, 8-10 minute presentation on your paper topic.

⇒ MAJOR PAPER DUE AT ALUMNI HALL 311 NO LATER THAN 1 PM ON FRIDAY, 9 DECEMBER.