

# Christianity and the World

Fall, 2021

Course Title	Christianity and the World	Course No.	20
Department/ Major	Ewha Jin-Sun-Mi (Humanity), Liberal Arts	Credit/Hours	3
Class Time/ Classroom	Monday, 2 – 3:15 pm & Wednesday, 12:30-1:45 pm Online Class		
Instructor	Hee-Kyu Heidi Park, PhD	Department of Christian Studies	
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Office Hours/ Office Location	By appointments, 인문관 319		

## 1. Course Description

“Christianity and the World” is part of the Ewha Jin-Sun-Mi (Humanity) requirements, which is a subsection of the required liberal arts curriculum of Ewha. As a course designed for the first-year students, this course is aligned with Ewha’s educational commitment to truth, goodness, and beauty, which, in this course, is explored through theological perspective. As a required course in liberal arts, this course aims to contribute to the formation of each Ewha student, following the goals of Christian Studies department:

1. To cultivate Christian integrity in students that inspires them to commit to serve the humanity and its common good in love.
2. To cultivate adventurous leadership for gender-just society in which women are respected.
3. To cultivate excellent practical wisdom and wise practices that prepare students to navigate through the globalized and digitalized world as the experts in their given fields.
4. To cultivate critical and creative perspectives that equip the students to actively explore and resolve issues rising in the future society.

This course aspires to follow these goals by engaging Christian and non-Christian texts that influenced the development of Christian theology and putting them into dialogue with our lived experiences. As a way to develop theological perspectives, the capacity to ask critical questions is at the heart of the course, as well as the ability to engage others in dialogue, whether the other be the texts or people. This course doesn’t expect the students to have prior knowledge of Christianity, but rather welcomes fresh perspectives from diverse backgrounds.

## 2. Prerequisites

None

## 3. Course Format

This course will be online for the most part.

Lecture	Discussion/Activity	Experiment/Practicum	Field Study	Other
50%	50%			%

(Instructor can change to match the actual format of the class.)

#### 4. Course Objectives

To achieve the goals stated in course description, this course has the following student learning objectives (SLOs):  
As the result of this course, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate critical inquiry skills as the starting point of theological reflection.
2. Explore important theological concerns and issues.
3. Dialogue with human experiences and traditional text to develop theological reflection.
4. Develop theological and ethical understanding to carry into their respective field of studies.
5. Work in small groups to communicate important ideas and develop group wisdom, as is required of the rapidly developing society.

#### 5. Evaluation System

Midterm Exam	Final Exam	Group Discussion Posts and Participation
30%	30%	40%

The course grade will be graded by the grid (“absolute evaluation” 절대평가). The two tests will both be mix format that tests knowledge and insight. Some questions will be in essay format testing your skills in synthesizing the material with critical insights. For the discussions and class activities, there will be times when you have to turn in assignments resulting from the discussion and activities. Those will be counted toward the 40% of your grade. Late submission will be marked by less points.

Attendance policy: Each absence on class time meeting on Zoom will deduct 1 point from the final grade (not final exam grade) and three lates/early-departures from the Zoom class room will be counted as 1 absence.

#### I. Course Overview

Detailed instruction on the assignments for each class day will be on Cyber Campus.

#### II. Course Materials and Additional Readings

##### 1. Required Materials

- ☐ Wink, Walter. *The Powers That Be: Theology for a New Millennium*. New York: Galilee, 1998.
- ☐ All other required reading material will be available on Ewha Cyber Campus.
- ☐ Bible (New Revised Standard Version preferred) : available online on website like <https://www.bible.com/bible/2016/GEN.1.NRSV> or <http://bible.oremus.org/>

#### III. Course Policies

1. Communication: Please check your Ewha email and the Cyber Campus course site regularly for communication regarding this course, as any changes will be communicated there.
2. Inclusive language : Students are encouraged to use for written work, classroom discussion, worship, and common discourse. Inclusive language refers to language that refers to God and humanity in terms that are not solely male, language that deals with color in ways that does not foster racism (i.e. equating “black” with “evil”, “white” with “purity or goodness”), and sensory language (“paralyzed,” “deaf,” “blind”) in ways that does not equate persons with disabilities and evil.
3. Academic honesty. The pursuit of truth requires integrity. Academic and professional life requires us to voice ourselves with honesty in written and spoken words. Therefore, any form of dishonesty, whether it is theft, cheating, unauthorized assistance in assignments or test, plagiarism, falsification of any material are not allowed in this university. Any case of academic honesty will result in failure of the course and a report to the academic dean.
5. Special needs: please talk to or email the instructor so that proper help can be given.
6. The instructor reserves the right to change any details of this syllabus.

#### IV. Course Schedule (15 credit hours must be completed.)

\*\*\* Not all assignments indicated here. See Cyber Campus.

Week	Date	Topics & Class Materials, Assignments	
Week 1			
	(9/1)	Course Introduction	
Week 2	(9/6)	Core Concepts of the Course	We'll work on the core concept of this course. If you plan to take this class, do not miss.  Watch a YouTube video on Mary Scranton and Rosetta Hall Hyaeweol Choi, “Disciplining Modern Body and Mind” in <i>Gender and Mission Encounters in Korea: New Women, Old Ways</i> .
	(9/8)	Ewha and Christianity	
Week 3	(9/13)	Religious Experiences	Genesis 1-2:4, Enuma Elish
	(9/15)	Story of Human Origins	Genesis 2:4-4:26
Week 4	(9/20)	Chuseok Holidays	No class
	(9/22)	Chuseok Holidays	No class
Week 5	(9/27)	Theological Anthropology	Howell, “The Importance of Being Chimpanzee”
	(9/29)	Who are we?	Harari, <i>Sapiens</i> , Part I.
Week 6	(10/4)	Complexity of Biblical Text	Genesis 6-9
	(10/6)	Sarah and Hagar	“A Mistress, a Maid and No Mercy”, “Women of Genesis”, “Genesis”
Week 7	(10/11)	Historicity of Exodus	Exodus 1-5, 13-14, 19-20

Week	Date	Topics & Class Materials, Assignments	
	(10/13)	Israel and Palestine, Christianity and Taliban	Deuteronomy 20, Joshua 3, 6 “Symmetric Dualisms: Bush and bin Laden on October 7”, “Jihad, Jeremiads, and the Enemy Within”
<b>Week 8</b>	(10/18)	Mid-Term Prep Q&A Session	
	(10/20)	Midterm	Test time will be announced in class before the test date.
<b>Week 9</b>	(10/25)	Slavery	13 <sup>th</sup>
	(10/27)	The Rise and Fall of Kingdoms of Israel/prophets	Isaiah 6-9, Amos 1-9
<b>Week 10</b>	(11/1)	Domination System	Wink, Chs. 1- 5
	(11/3)	Jesus and the Kingdom of God	Wink, Chs. 6,7
<b>Week 11</b>	(11/8)	Enemy Love	Wink, Chs. 14, 15
	(11/10)	Enemy Love in Larger Scale	Eyes on the Prize: Ain’t Scared of Your Prison
<b>Week 12</b>	(11/15)	Religious Processes: Witches and Demons	Kotsko, “Neoliberalism’s Demon”
	(11/17)	Epistemology of Faith	Watch “Merchants of Doubts”: <a href="https://thoughtmaybe.com/merchants-of-doubt/TBA">https://thoughtmaybe.com/merchants-of-doubt/TBA</a>
<b>Week 13</b>	(11/22)	How do we know? How do we believe?	TBA
	(11/24)	Regarding Religious Diversity I	TBA
<b>Week 14</b>	(11/29)	Regarding Religious Diversity II	TBA
	(12/1)	Class meets for a Buddhist Temple Visit	Meeting place TBA
<b>Week 15</b>	(12/6)	Feminist Theology	Cooper-White, “Feminism(s), gender and power”
	(12/8)	Sexism in Korea	Reading TBA
<b>Week 16</b>	(12/13)	Postcolonial Theology	Park, “Silver Dagger”
	(12/15)	Final Exam	
	(12/20)	Final Class	

All course material except for Walter Wink’s *The Powers that Be* will be available for download on CyberCampus.

#### V. Special Accommodations

\* According to the University regulation section #57-3, students with disabilities can request for special accommodations related to attendance, lectures, assignments, or tests by contacting the course professor at the beginning of semester. Based on the nature of the students' request, students can receive support for such accommodations from the course professor or from the Support Center for Students with Disabilities (SCSD). Please refer to the below examples of the types of support available in the lectures, assignments, and evaluations.

Lecture	Assignments	Evaluation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>. Visual impairment : braille, enlarged reading materials</li> <li>. Hearing impairment : note-taking assistant</li> <li>. Physical impairment : access to classroom, note-taking assistant</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Extra days for submission, alternative assignments</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>. Visual impairment : braille examination paper, examination with voice support, longer examination hours, note-taking assistant</li> <li>. Hearing impairment : written examination instead of oral</li> <li>. Physical impairment : longer examination hours, note-taking assistant</li> </ul>

- Actual support may vary depending on the course.

\* The instructor reserves the right to change the content of this syllabus throughout the semester. The updated syllabus will be available on Cyber Campus.