

THEO5964 Special Topics on Mission I: Church and State in Global Context

Date and Time: Sept 5, 2020 – Dec 3, 2022 (Wednesdays), 9:30-12:15

Teachers: Prof. Kung Lap Yan (e-mail: kungly@cuhk.edu.hk)

1 Course description:

First, church/state relation is a theo-political issue. It is concerned about Christian understanding of country/nation/state as well as how the state/government understands the church, and their interface. Second, church/state relation is a human right issue. It is about how churches are called to promote human flourishing, because this is a response to Missio Dei. The core question of the course is to reflect the identity and mission of churches in a specific country/nation/state, with reference to these two concerns. The course aims at developing and enriching students' theological imagination in Christian engagement in society through the study of church/state relation. Cases from various countries are selected for this course to illustrate the theological and political issues arising from church/state relation. The use of global context here is about ecumenism and international relations rather than a generic use.

2 Learning outcomes:

- A. To understand church/state relations in different Christian traditions critically.
- B. To recognize the correlation between religion and human rights.
- C. To articulate theological knowledge and resources for reflecting issues arising from church/state relation.
- D. To develop imagination for designing Christian initiatives responding to God's kingdom in their contexts.

3 Contents:

Lecture 1 Sept 7	Religion and state in global context https://www.pewresearch.org/religion/2017/10/03/many-countries-favor-specific-religions-officially-or-unofficially/ Global Restrictions on Religion Rise Modestly in 2015, Reversing Downward Trend Pew Research Center https://www.state.gov/bureaus-offices/under-secretary-for-civilian-security-democracy-and-human-rights/office-of-international-religious-freedom/
Lecture 2 Sept 14	Church/state relations: theology and politics References: Benestad, J. B. et al. (2015) <i>Five Views on Church and Politics</i> . Zondervan Academic. Fergusson, D. (2004) <i>Church, State and Civil Society</i> . Cambridge University Press. Kemeny, P. C. ed. (2007) <i>Church, State and Public Justice: Five Views</i> . IVP. Villa-Vicencio, C. ed, (1986). <i>Between Christ and Caesar</i> . Eerdmans.

<p>Lecture 3 Sept 21</p>	<p>Christianity and human rights</p> <p>References: Ferrari, S. ed. (2015) <i>Routledge Handbook of Law and Religion</i>, Chapters 6, 9 and 13. Routledge. Hollenbach, D. (2003) <i>The Global Face of Public Faith</i>. 《公共信仰的全球面相》 Georgetown University Press. Whitte, J. and M. C. Greed eds. (2012) <i>Religion and Human Rights</i>. Oxford University Press. (online)</p>
<p>Lecture 4 Sept 28</p>	<p>Ukraine and the Orthodox church: Whom the church stands with.</p> <p>References: Krawchuk, A. and T. Bremer eds. (2016) <i>Churches in the Ukrainian Crisis</i>, Chapters 1, 9 and 10. Palgrave Macmillan. (online) Ploky, Serhii. (2022) 《烏克蘭：從帝國邊疆到獨立民族，追尋自我的荊棘之路》 (The Gates of Europe: A History of Ukraine)。聯經。 沈旭暉等篇：《自由世界的前哨：2022 烏克蘭戰爭》。一八四一出版。</p> <p>Movie: <i>Winter on Fire</i> (2015)</p>
<p>Lecture 5 Oct 5</p>	<p>German Democratic Republic and the Protestant church: Emerging public space</p> <p>References: Baum, G. (1996) <i>The Church for Others: Protestant Theology in Communist East Germany</i>. Eerdmans. Ramet, S. P. (1992) <i>Protestantism and Politics in Eastern Europe and Russia</i>. Duke University Press. Swoboda, J. (1996) <i>The Revolution of the Candles: Christians in the Revolution of the German Democratic Republic</i>. Mercer University Press.</p> <p>Movie: <i>Silent Revolution</i> (2018)</p>
<p>Lecture 6 Oct 12</p>	<p>Poland and the Catholic church: Christian spirit and values</p> <p>References: Beyer, Gerald J. (2007) "A Theoretical Appreciation of the Ethic of Solidarity in Poland Twenty-Five Years after." <i>The Journal of Religious Ethics</i> 35, no. 2: 207-32. (online) Gacke, B. (2009) "The Personalism of Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński." <i>The Pluralist</i> 4, no. 1: 85-92. (online) Laba, R. (1991) <i>The Roots of Solidarity: A Political Sociology of Poland's Working-Class Democratization</i>. Princeton University Press, Chapters 5, 7, 8 and 9. (online)</p> <p>Movie: <i>Strike</i> (2006)</p>
<p>Discussion and Report Oct 19</p>	<p>Church, Society and Hong Kong</p>
<p>Lecture 7 Oct 26</p>	<p>Northern Ireland and conflicts: Christian engagement in peace movement</p> <p>References: Brewer, J. D. et al (2011) <i>Religion, Civil Society and Peace in Northern Ireland</i>. Oxford University Press. (online)</p>

	<p>Elliott, M. ed. (2017) <i>The Long Road to Peace in Northern Ireland</i>. NED (online)</p> <p>Spencer, G. (2012) <i>Protestant Identity and Peace in Northern Ireland</i>. Springer. (online)</p> <p>Kollontai P., S. C. H. Kim, and Greg Hoyland eds. (2008) <i>Peace and Reconciliation : In Search of Shared Identity</i>, Chapter 6. Routledge. (online)</p> <p>Movie: <i>Hunger</i> (2008)</p>
Lecture 8 Nov 2	<p>Czechoslovakia and living in truth</p> <p>References: Lawson, G. (2005) <i>Negotiated Revolutions: The Czech Republic, South Africa and Chile</i>. Ashgate. http://etheses.lse.ac.uk/1711/1/U183154.pdf</p> <p>Patočka, Jan. (1996) <i>Heretical Essays in the Philosophy of History</i>. Open Court.</p> <p>哈維爾：《無權勢者的力量》。</p> <p>龔立人（2016）：《在暗角中言說上主》。香港基督徒學會，第七章。</p> <p>Movie: <i>Burning Bush</i> (2013); <i>Milada</i> (2017)</p>
Lecture 9 Nov 9	<p>Chile and liberation theology: The church as a good Samaritan</p> <p>References: Lawson, G. (2005) <i>Negotiated Revolutions: The Czech Republic, South Africa and Chile</i>. Ashgate. http://etheses.lse.ac.uk/1711/1/U183154.pdf</p> <p>Lowden, Pamela (1996) <i>Moral Opposition to Authoritarian Rule in Chile, 1973-90</i>. St Martin's Press.</p> <p>Movie: <i>NO</i> (2012)</p>
Lecture 10 Nov 16	<p>Mexico and liberation theology: the church as cultural memory</p> <p>References: Camp, R. A. (1997) <i>Crossing Swords: Politics and Religion in Mexico</i>, Chapters 1 and 3. Oxford University Press. (online)</p> <p>Fallow, B. (2012) <i>Religion and State Formation in Postrevolutionary Mexico</i>, Chapter 2. Duke University Press.</p> <p>Rodriguez, J. (2021) <i>Cultural Memory: Resistance, Faith and Identity</i>, Chapter 2, Appendix 1 and 3. University of Texas Press. (online)</p>
Lecture 11 Nov 23 Zoom meeting	<p>Myanmar, Buddhism and aliens in their native land</p> <p>Verma, V. ed. (2019) <i>Secularism, Religion, and Democracy in Southeast Asia</i>, Chapter 7. Oxford University Press.</p>
Lecture 13 Nov 30	<p>South Africa and human dignity: God of the oppressed</p> <p>References: Kollontai P., S. C. H. Kim, and Greg Hoyland eds. (2008) <i>Peace and Reconciliation : In Search of Shared Identity</i>, Chapter 7. Routledge. (online)</p> <p>Lawson, G. (2005) <i>Negotiated Revolutions: The Czech Republic, South Africa and Chile</i>. Ashgate. http://etheses.lse.ac.uk/1711/1/U183154.pdf</p> <p><i>International Journal of Public Theology</i> (2011), 5 (1).</p> <p>龔立人（2016）：《在暗角中言說上主》。香港基督徒學會，第六章。</p>

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4. Class Format

- A. Lecture
- B. Report
- C. A self-financed optional study tour, Berlin-Poland or Romania (May 2023)

5. Assessment

Tasks	Explanatory Note
1. A short reflection on your church's view on church/state or church/politics, 2000-2300 words, (20%), 19 th Oct 2022 (due)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. The data can be collected from either literature review or interview and both. B. The short reflection should include the view of the church precisely. C. The short reflection should have your comment (at least 25% of the length)
2. Book review 2000-2300 words, 30%, Nov 23, 2022 (due)	Choose one of the followings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Hollenbach, D. (2003) <i>The Global Face of Public Faith</i>. 《公共信仰的全球面相》 Georgetown University Press. B. Whitte, J. ed. (2012) <i>Christianity and Human Rights</i>. Cambridge University Press. (online) C. Xie, Zhibin, P. Kollontai and S. Kim eds. (2020) <i>Human Dignity, Human Rights and Social Justice</i>. Springer. (online)
3. A term paper on any theme related to church/state relation (50%), 4000-4500 words, Dec 23, 2022 (due)	It can be one of the followings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. A case study of church/state relation in any country. B. A theme or a concept, such as, solidarity, reconciliation, justice, violence. C. A church document, such as, Kairos Document. D. A church practice.

Academic Honesty

Students should pay serious attention to the policy and regulations of the University on honesty in academic work, and to the disciplinary guidelines and procedures applicable to breaches of such policy and regulations. For details, please refer to <http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty>.

Besides submitting the assignments to Blackboard, students should at the same time submit them to VeriGuide (https://academic.veriguide.org/academic/login_CUHK.jsp) for plagiarism checking. VeriGuide will issue a statement (in the form of a receipt), on which the student declares that they are aware of the policies, regulations, guidelines, and procedures on academic honesty.

Please upload a scanned copy of the signed receipt to Blackboard. (DO NOT send it through email.) In case this cannot be done, please mail/deliver the signed receipt to the teacher's office (Address: LG 109, Theology Building, The Chinese University of Hong Kong). An assignment without the signed receipt would not be graded.

6. Feedback for evaluation

Feedback and recommendation are welcome. Students are advised to give feedback either during the lectures or through email. Response will be made promptly according to the need of students.

7. References:

Journals

International Journal of Public Theology

Journal of Church and State

Journal of Religion and Society

Political Theology

Religion, State and Society

Websites

<https://www.pewresearch.org/topics-categorized/>

Appendix: Paper-Grading Rubrics

	Excellent	Good	Needs Improvement	Unacceptable
Thesis	Clear statement of what is being proposed or argued in the paper.	The thesis is easily detectable after reading the paper, but it is not presented in a single and clear statement.	The thesis is present, but a reader must work hard to reconstruct from the entire paper.	There is no thesis or central argument/proposal to tie the paper together, or the thesis is unclear.

Arguments	Each reason, support, or argument to follow the thesis is made clear, thorough, relevant and convincing. Proper references are consistently made to the text in question (biblical and/or a textbook) to show why the proposed thesis is valid.	Arguments made to support the thesis are clear, but less thorough, relevant, and/or convincing. References are often made to the text in question (biblical and/or a textbook) to show why the proposed thesis is valid, but this is done not as consistently.	Arguments made to support the thesis are acceptable but sketchy or their relevance unclear. Some references are made to the text in question (biblical and/or a textbook) to show why the proposed thesis is valid.	Arguments to support the thesis are missing, irrelevant, or not convincing. The paper makes lots of claims or assertions that are not substantiated. There are few or no references to the text in question (biblical and/or a textbook) to show why the proposed thesis is valid.
Counter-Arguments	The paper acknowledges, anticipates, and accounts for conflicting evidence, counter-examples, counter-arguments, and/or opposing positions, even ones that are not obvious or not yet been made in writings of others.	The paper acknowledges and accounts for obvious conflicting evidence, counter-examples, counter-arguments, and/or opposing positions.	The paper acknowledges and accounts for a few obvious conflicting evidence, counter-examples, and counter-arguments, but miss other obvious opposing positions. Or the paper acknowledges counter-arguments without accounting for them.	No awareness or acknowledgment of conflicting evidence, counter-examples, counter-arguments, or opposing positions.
Organization	The paper's flow, from one paragraph to another, is consistently sensible, logical, and always with clear transitions. The movement from introduction to the body and then the conclusion is easy to follow and coherent.	The paper's flow, from one paragraph to another, is largely sensible and logical. Transitions are mostly appropriate. The movement from introduction to the body and then the conclusion is distinguishable if not easy to follow.	There are signs of sensible and logical organization, but these are mixed with abrupt or illogical shifts and ineffective flow of ideas. The movement from introduction to the body and then the conclusion is not clearly distinguishable.	The paper does not flow well in terms of organization or for the argument of the thesis. Transitions from paragraph to paragraph or from one idea to the next are missing. The movement from introduction to the body and then the conclusion is non-existent.
Style	The paper is written in complete and grammatically correct sentences. Word choice is precise; definitions are provided if and when needed. Paper has been spell-checked, proofread, and contains no errors.	The paper is written in complete sentence and grammatically correct sentences. Word choice is understandable, definitions are generally (though not always) provided if and when needed. Paper has been spell-checked, proofread, and contains only a few errors.	The paper contains some incomplete or grammatically incorrect sentences. Word choice is imprecise, at times not understandable, and/or not defined when needed. Not clear if the paper has been spell-checked and proofread because of the number of errors present.	The paper is written with many incomplete or grammatically incorrect sentences. Word choice is not understandable and definition of particular terms or words is not given even when needed. The paper has clearly not been spell-checked or proofread, and hence contains an excessive number of errors.

Quality of references	All references used are of excellent quality; both primary source and secondary materials have been referenced in the discussion.	References used are in general of good quality; both primary source and secondary materials have been referenced in the discussion.	References of good quality are used, but insufficient in amount. OR References of bad quality such as online blog articles are used.	References used are simply introductory materials or online blog articles. Lack of either primary sources or secondary materials.
References and Documentation	Notes to indicate sources of information are given whenever they are needed. Both notes and bibliography use consistent and academically acceptable format.	Notes to indicate sources of information are generally given when they are needed. Notes and bibliography are generally but not always consistent or conform to required academic standard.	Sources of information are not consistently documented. If they are, format is inconsistent or does not conform to required academic standard.	Source materials are used without documentation.