Religion 125-Introduction to Christianity
Fall 2015 (MWF 8:00-8:50) Room 125
Campbell University

Dr. C. Lynn Brinkley                        Phone: 814-4379
Office: Taylor Hall, Room 127              Email: brinkleyc@campbell.edu
Office Hours: By appointment (M, W, F)

Course Description:

This course is a study of the biblical foundations, historical development, and traditional beliefs and practices of Christianity and its impact on Western culture and on the lives of those who embrace it. Class lectures will focus on selected biblical events and themes, on a broad overview of church history, and on major Christian doctrines and practices.

This course will be taught in harmony with the Campbell University Statement of Purpose found on page 7 of the Campbell University Bulletin and linked to the Campbell University web site at:


Academic Misconduct: All students are subject to the academic integrity and behavioral expectations of the University. Students are reminded that academic misconduct is a serious offense at Campbell University. Please examine the university’s policy concerning academic misconduct located here:


Student Services:
Students with documented disabilities who desire modifications or accommodations must contact the office of Student Success located in the University’s Student Services Building (located between Carter Gym and the Wallace Student Center). No accommodations will be made without approval through the University’s process.

For disability services, contact:
Laura Rich, Director of Access and Outreach
Student Services Bldg, room 113
910-814-4364, or richl@campbell.edu

Student Success also provides tutoring or other support programs to all students for any course offered on main campus. Assistance with choosing a major and
preparing for the job or internship search process is also available through this office. See the Student Success website (www.campbell.edu/success) for details.

For academic support and career development, contact:
Shari McGuire, Director of Academic Support and Career Development
Student Services Bldg., room 114
910-814-5707, or smcguire@campbell.edu

Additionally, all main campus undergraduate students can receive free confidential counseling through the University Counseling Services. To make an appointment, visit the office located at 95 Pope Street (gray house behind Moe’s) or call 910-814-5709.

For courses that are writing intensive, please consider including the following:

CU Writing Center
The CU Writing Center provides support for students at any stage of the writing process. From brainstorming to final revisions, writing coaches can help strengthen your paper. The Writing Center is not a proofreading service, but instead focuses on sharpening your skills as a writer. To get the most from your session, bring your draft early, at least two days before your paper is due. Bring a printed draft and a copy of your assignment. Typical sessions last no more than 20 minutes. The Writing Center is located on the third floor of Wiggins Library and is open Sunday-Thursday from 7-10 p.m.

If you are teaching any of the following courses, please consider including the following about the Tutoring Center, where tutoring is available for your course:
FALL 2015 - BIOL 101, 111, 221, 220; CHEM 111, 227; HIST 111, 112; MATH 110, 111, 122, 160; POLS 229; RELG 125; SPAN 101, 102, 201, 202

CU Tutoring Center
The CU Tutoring Center provides tutoring for this course. Tutors are available to meet with students individually or in small groups on the third floor of Wiggins Library from 7-10 p.m. Sunday-Thursday. No appointment is needed. More information is available at www.campbell.edu/success.

Course Objective:

To acquaint students with the biblical foundations, historical development, and traditional beliefs and practices of Christianity.

Regarding this course’s connection to the mission of the University, this course seeks to:
A. provide students with a Christian worldview

B. transfer from one generation to the next the vast body of knowledge and values accumulated over the ages

C. encourage creativity, imagination, and rigor in the use of intellectual skills

D. affirm the University’s commitment to the belief that truth is never one dimensional but in wholeness is revelatory, subjective, and transcendent as well as empirical, objective, and rational, and that all truth finds its unity in the mind of Christ

Course Learning Outcomes
(Supported University General Education Competences identified in parentheses)
Students completing Religion 125 should . . .

1. Be able to demonstrate a broad acquaintance with the biblical message. (I, III, IV, V)

2. Be able to demonstrate a broad acquaintance with the developing traditions and structures of the Christian faith. (I, III, IV, V)

3. Be able to demonstrate a broad acquaintance with the foundational beliefs of the Christian faith. (I, III, IV, V)

4. Be able to correlate the Christian tradition with his/her own spirituality. (I, III, IV, V)

These Campbell University General Education Competencies are supported by this course:

I. Reading: Textual and Non-Textual:

1. Students will be able to read competently in English from a variety of source types (e.g. mathematic, scientific, literary).

3. Students will be able to read with understanding, so as to be able to apply discipline methodologies and theories in the areas of Fine Arts, Humanities, Mathematics, and the Sciences.

4. While reading, students will be able to recognize logical and compositional structures of various disciplines
   4.1. Students will be able to comprehend various linguistic,
compositional elements and processes leading from a topic sentence to a conclusion.

4.2. Students will be able to comprehend conclusions based on numerical and graphed data.

4.4. Students will be able to read compositional elements and themes present in literature and the arts.

III. Critical Thinking: Inquiry, Analysis, and Solution

1. Students will be able to make discipline specific inquiries.
   1.1. Students will be able to use a variety of discipline-specific methods to recognize the existence of a problem.
   1.2. Students will be able to use the proper methodologies to form questions about a problem at hand, and the implications of the question.

2. Students will be able to solve a problem which has been discovered and defined.
   2.1. Students will learn to form relevant and concrete questions concerning evidence of a problem.
   2.2. Students will be able to analyze the evidence defining a problem.
   2.3. Students will be able to construct well-supported, clearly articulated, and sustained arguments based on evidence.

3. Students will be able to reach a logical solution.
   3.1. Through asking the right questions, students will be able to eliminate false assessments and solutions.
   3.2. Students will be able to recognize a true solution and articulate the reasons for making that recognition.

IV. Communication: Verbal and Non-Verbal

1. Students will learn to communicate verbally in written form.
   1.1. Students will be able to write an essay with a focused purpose.
   1.2. Students will be able to support the essay’s purpose with a logical and organized sequence of ideas and evidence.
   1.3. Students will be able to use the proper level of diction for the subject and the audience of their essay.
   1.4. Students will be able to use proper documentation for their essay’s discipline and the discipline’s methodology.
   1.5. Students will learn to minimize errors in spelling.
   1.6. Students will learn the basic computer software applications which can aid in their essay’s presentation.

V. Clarity in Value Formation: Spiritual, Interpersonal, and Physical
1. Students will learn the sources, purposes, and processes of American national and spiritual sensibilities.

1.2. Students will learn the basic forms of Judeo-Christian ethics and ideals.

1.5. Students will learn the rich diversity in worldviews created by differing theological, political, social and economic systems.

Required Textbooks:


Requirements:

Class attendance: Students must attend 85% of the class meetings in order to receive credit for the class. A student may miss no more than six classes without penalty; seven absences will result in dropping the final grade by one letter; eight will result in dropping the final grade by two letters; additional absences will result in a WF. Under this policy there are no excused absences for any reason. Absences due to athletic events or university functions are NOT excused.

Tardiness: Students are expected to arrive on time, to be seated and ready for class at the appointed time, and to remain for the full period. Three tardies or early departures will count the same as one absence. Anyone who comes in to class ten or more minutes late or leaves class more than ten minutes early will be counted absent for that class period. (Please note: IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO NOTIFY THE PROFESSOR IF YOU ARE TARDY/ABSENT)

Reading: Students are expected to have completed the reading assignment for each class before coming to that class.

Participation: Each person is expected to participate in a meaningful way, which requires attentiveness, familiarity with the reading assignment, willingness to ask questions, and respect for the opinions of others.
Tests: There will be four tests (including the final exam) during the semester covering both lectures and readings. The final exam will be a unit test similar in nature to the first three. The professor reserves the right to make the final exam, or a portion thereof, comprehensive. Tests may include matching, multiple choice, true-false, or short answer. Each exam will count **20%** of the final grade. Tests missed for legitimate reasons will be made up during the final exam period.

Essays: The student will write two short (one **full-paged**, typed, double spaced, Times New Roman, 12 point type, default margin, maximum three pages) essays during the course of the semester. Each essay will count **5%** of the final grade. The topics and dates due for these essays include:

**Essay #1:** Describe your spiritual journey. Tell me what denomination or tradition (Baptist, Catholic, Presbyterian, etc.) that you grew up. Include your current religious beliefs/views. Perhaps, you did not go to church or you do not consider yourself to be a spiritual person, so talk about that.
**The assignment is due September 7.**

**Essay #2:** Correlate your own spirituality with your understanding of the Christian tradition. Take what you have learned in this class and discuss how that has impacted your current views on Christianity. Do you see some things differently than before? Did you learn something you did not know before, or did a certain topic speak to you? Perhaps, nothing from this class impacted how you think about Christianity—talk about that.
**The assignment is due November 30.**

Worship Visitation Project: The student will attend a Christian based religious service different from his/her own faith tradition. Compose a **three page**, typed, double spaced reflection on the visit. Be sure to include in your reflection: name of church, denomination or affiliation, and meeting time. Give some general observations and impressions about the service, sermon, and music. Also, identify elements that made the service distinctive. Reflect on your experience of worship: What did you expect? What surprised you? What made you feel uncomfortable? What resonated with you? What did you learn? Does this have any implications for you and your religious life? Be sure to put your name on the assignment. This assignment will count for **10%** of the final grade. You must attach a bulletin or some literature from the church to this assignment. **The assignment is due December 2**

*All papers are due in class on the date assigned. The grade will be lowered 1 letter grade for each 24 hour period late.*
*Regarding Communion: If the church you are visiting offers Communion, **do not partake**, regardless of the denomination or church, unless you are granted permission in advance. This is a basic issue of respect and courtesy. Many churches reserve Communion for their members only. They will not be offended if you choose not to participate (they know you are visiting), but they may be offended if you do. We want to be respectful to the houses of worship we visit and uphold the good reputation of Campbell University.

**Experiential Learning:** Four in-class exercises will be given during the semester. These exercises will involve working with a group of students (to study a particular topic or scripture passage, movie or exam review, etc.). The group will answer a number of questions given to the group. Participation from all group members is expected. Please note dates of these exercises are subject to change.

**Use of Electronic Devices:** Laptop or handheld computers may **not** be used during class. If you have a special need or reason for using a laptop, you may submit a request to the instructor in writing and it will be considered. Please silence cell phones during class.

**Grading Scale:**
Grades will be based on the following scale:

- 90-100  A
- 80-89  B
- 70-79  C
- 60-69  D
- Below 59  F

**Class Schedule**
This course will proceed according to the schedule outlined below. The instructor; however, reserves the right to modify any portion as may become necessary.

8/19  Introduction to the class  
**Part One: The Old Testament**

8/21  Reading the Old Testament  
**Christianity:**  10-28

8/24  Reading the Old Testament  
**Christianity:**  10-28

8/26  The Torah, Creation  
**Christianity:**  29-34; Genesis 1-11
8/28 The Torah, the Patriarchs  
**Christianity:** 35-42; Genesis 12-50

8/31 Labor Day Holiday—No Class

9/2 The Torah, The Exodus— Deuteronomy  
Exodus 1-3; 5-15, 19-20, Deuteronomy 5:6-21

9/4 The Prophets  
Deuteronomy 3:26, 26:1-11; 34, Joshua 1-12, 13-21, 24, Judges 1-2; 1 Samuel 8-12; 31, 2 Samuel 5:1-5; 11-12, I Kings 1-11:41-12:33; 2 Kings 17; Ezra 1

9/7 The Prophets, cont.  
**Christianity:** 43-57; Amos, Hosea 1-3; Isaiah 6:1-13, 40:1-44:8, 43; Micah 6:6-8, Joel; Jeremiah 7:1-15, 31:31-34, Ezekiel 37:1-14

*ESSAY 1 DUE*

9/9 The Prophets, cont.

9/11 The Writings: The Palms and Wisdom Literature  
**Christianity:** 58-72; Psalms 1, 8, 60, 72, 92, 102, 139; Proverbs 1-9; Job 1-4, 38-42; Ecclesiastes 1-3; Daniel; Ruth

9/14 The Writings, cont. The Short Stories  
**Christianity:** 66-71; Ecclesiastes 1-3; Daniel; Ruth

9/16 In class exercise

9/18 Exam 1  
**Part Two: The New Testament**

9/21 The Gospels  
**Christianity:** 74-93

9/23 The Gospels, cont.

9/25 The Ministry and Message of Jesus, Before Public Ministry  
**Christianity:** 94-114; Matthew 1:4-11; Mark 1:1-14; Luke 1-4:12; John 1:34

9/28 The Ministry and Message of Jesus, The Galilee Ministry  
Matthew 5-7; Mark 1-8, Mark 8:2710:53; Luke 4, 14-15; John 9
9/30  The Ministry and Message of Jesus, The Journey to Jerusalem
       Matthew 21-28; Mark 11-16; John 12-21

10/2  FALL BREAK NO CLASS

10/5  Documentary

10/7  In class exercise

10/9  The Rise and Growth of the Church: The Book of Acts
       Christianity: 115-135; Acts 1-2, 6-7, 9-11, 21-22, 28:16-31

10/12 The Letters of Paul
       Christianity: 136-160; 1 Thessalonians 1, 4:13-5:11; Galatians, I Corinthians

10/14 The Letters, cont.
       Romans 8, 12-13; Ephesians, Colossians, Philippians, Philemon
       Themes in the Epistles (Hebrews 4, 12-13; James, II Peter, I- II Timothy)

10/16 Revelation—The Apocalypse of John
       Revelation 4, 20

10/19 Revelation, cont.

10/21 In class exercise

10/23 Exam 2

Part Three: Church History

10/26 Early Christianity
       Christianity: 163-181

10/28 Early Christianity, cont.

10/30 Medieval Christianity
       Christianity: 182-193

11/2 Reformation
       Christianity: 194-209

11/4 Reformation, cont. and Modern Christianity
11/6  Modern Christianity
    Christianity: 210-223

11/9  Luther Movie

11/11 Luther Movie

11/13 In class exercise

Part Four: Christian Theology

11/16 Exam 3

11/18 Introduction to Theology; Christian Practice and Belief
    Christianity: 226 – 239

11/20 Christian Practice and Belief cont.

11/23 From Belief to Sin
    Christianity: 240 – 256

11/25 Thanksgiving Holiday—No Class

11/27 Thanksgiving Holiday—No Class

11/30 From Jesus to the Holy Spirit
    Christianity: 257 – 275

*ESSAY 2 DUE

12/2 Final Thoughts and Exam Review

*WORSHIP VISITATION PROJECT DUE

12/4 Final Exam, 8:00 a.m. - 10:50 a.m. (classroom)
Church Visitation Assignment Due: December 2, 2015

**Attach this sheet to the front of your paper**

Your Name______________________________________________________________

Your Denomination or church affiliation_____________________________________

Name of church attended___________________________________________________

Denomination or affiliation of church attended______________________________

Date you attended the church___________________

Assignment:

Visit a Christian worship service from a different tradition than your own. Obtain a copy of the bulletin, a church newsletter, or other literature from the church to attach to your paper.

Compose a 3 page typed, double-spaced, 12 point font report. Give some observations and impressions about the service. Here are some suggestions: talk about the sermon, talk about the worship music and other aspects of the worship service. What happened that surprised you? What did you expect? What did you like about the service, what made you feel uncomfortable, how were the people? Be detailed. General comments about the service will not receive an A. You must be specific about your visit.

Staple together in the following order: this sheet, your reflection paper, and a bulletin, church newsletter, or other literature from the church you visited.