



Note:

Course content may be changed, term to term, without notice. The information below is provided as a guide for course selection and is not binding in any form.



Course Number, Name, and Credit Hours

TH-2211 Theology in a Globalized World, 3 credit hours

Course Description

An examination of the factors impacting the global community, as well as the interdependence between individuals, corporations, and nations. Emphasis placed on the impact of globalization on theological method. Issues related to human rights and social concerns are also addressed.

Prerequisite: BI-2201 Interpreting Scripture

Course Objectives

By the completion of this course the learners should be able to:

1. Define key terms in relation to globalization and global theology
2. Summarize the global growth of Christianity in the 20th century and its impact on theology
3. Demonstrate the role culture and worldview play in the formation and development of one's theology and praxis of ministry
4. Analyze how globalization is impacting society, theology and the mission of the church
5. Integrate theological insights with cultural-social analysis in developing a theology to inform the church's response to current global concerns

Content Expectations

Required textbooks for all Moody Online classes can be found on the [Required Textbooks](#) section of the Moody website.

Assignments

All assignments are due according to the schedule listed on the Course Schedule.

1. **CLASS PARTICIPATION:** Active participation is expected in this online course. Participation includes two main areas: discussion boards and reading. **Class Participation** accounts for between 25% and 40% of final course grade.
 - a. **Reading Course Expectations:** The completion of the course reading, audio/video reviews, online articles, etc. is an important part of the course. You are expected to complete the weekly expectations prior to your discussion boards each week so you are able to discuss the concepts with others in the course.
 - b. **Discussion Boards:** You must maintain a significant presence in the discussion board. Please refer to the discussion board rubric included in the Documents section of this course for more information on how your participation in the discussion board will be assessed. Unless otherwise directed, post your initial response to the discussion question by mid-week (Friday, 11:59pm CT). Then read and respond to **at least TWO** of your classmates' initial posts by the end of the week (Monday, 11:59pm CT).



Important note about your discussion posts: When providing responses in discussion boards, take care to avoid merely complementing fellow students' contributions. Though it is certainly helpful to offer encouragement, many students frequently neglect to include helpful critique. Some examples of this may be:

- Positive critique ("I believe you were correct when you said____, this is because....")
- Constructive criticism ("Have you ever considered seeing it this way instead...?")
- Personal connection ("I once had a similar experience when I....")
- Biblical connections ("What you said makes me think of the time in Luke when Jesus...")

Make sure to balance complementing with constructive criticism and vice versa.

Responses counting toward the required number for any given Discussion Board must be a minimum of 75 words. For example, if a discussion board required 2 responses and a student provides 4, only those exceeding 75 words will be counted toward the requirement.

2. **PAPERS/VIDEOS:** Each week there will be papers/videos assigned. Assignments are due at the end of each week (Monday, 11:59 PM CST). There will be a total of 13 papers/videos. See the descriptions below for each assignment.

- Assignment 1-1: *World is Flat* Reflections**
After watching Friedman's video presentation, write three reflections/take-aways from this presentation (minimum one paragraph for each reflection/take-away).
- Assignment 1-2: *Globalization: A Definition***
Spend at least 2 hours researching globalization on the internet or in the library focusing specifically on how it is defined and pro and con arguments concerning globalization. Based on your reading and research on *globalization* write a 500 word essay defining the term and summarizing its positive and negative effects on society.
- Assignment 2-1: *The Great Century***
In chapter 2 of the reading, the author refers to "The Great Century" (pg. 33). Choose one person or event mentioned in this section of the reading to research and write a 500 word essay summarizing the contribution that this person/event made to "The Great Century".
- Assignment 2-2: *Christianity and its Adaptability***
In the Jenkins interview (reading), he speaks of the "adaptability" of Christianity (Lamin Sanneh uses the term "transferability"). In a 500 word essay, summarize what is meant by this and the aspects of Christianity which make it globally adaptable.
- Assignment 3-1: *Globalization's Impact of Society***
Week 3's readings cover a broad spectrum of issues that are impacted by globalization (nationalism, economics, etc.). Choose one of the issues



highlighted in the readings and do further research on the topic. Write your findings in a 5 page paper. Be sure to include in your paper how the specific topic you have researched impacts theology and the mission of the church.

- f. **Assignment 4-1: Social Location: Its Impact on Bible Interpretation**
Vanhoozer states in the reading, “The single most significant methodological development stems from the changing demographics of Christianity is the new appreciation for context.” Evangelicals often stress the importance of knowing the context of the Bible passage, but say little about how the context of the interpreter impacts understanding. In 500 words defend the need for the interpreter to acknowledge their own social location (lenses) in the process of Bible interpretation.
- g. **Assignment 4-2: Contextual Theology**
Based on Cha’s article and Green’s presentation, in 50 words define what is meant by contextual theology.
- h. **Assignment 5-1: Impact of Liberation Theology**
You have 5 minutes to explain to your church missions committee what liberation theology is and how it has influenced the “social justice” movement. Video or manuscript what you would say.
- i. **Assignment 5-2: Social Gospel**
Research the “social gospel movement” that took place in protestant churches in the early-mid 20th century. In 500 words, compare and contrast that movement with what you have learned about Liberation Theology. Also analyze how globalization propelled these movements.
- j. **Assignment 6-1: Social Justice & the Bible**
Since poverty/justice issues are a significant area that Latin American theologians and churches are dealing with, and since we in North America often have not given much biblical/theological reflection to the issue, utilize a Bible concordance and dictionary and look up and read the verses in the Bible where the following words/subjects appear: poor, widows, orphans, oppress, justice, alien/sojourner. Based on the verses you read from the Bible on these subjects and other sources, compose a theology of poverty/social justice (1000 word minimum).
- k. **Assignment 6-2: Action Step**
In her presentation, Ruth Padilla DeBorst challenged her listeners to action. Record a 3-5 minute video or write a 300 word blog describing how you will respond.
- l. **Assignment 7-1: Open for Business**
When China opened its doors for business (globalization) in the 1980’s, it also opened its doors to more interaction with the rest of the world and Christianity. In a 500 word essay, appraise the role globalization (business, economics, etc.) plays in opening up countries that are seemingly closed to the gospel.
- m. **Assignment 7-2: Two Churches of China**



You have been asked to give a five-minute presentation at church on the "two churches" of China. Video or manuscript your presentation based on what you have learned this week from the readings and lectures.

3. **FINAL GROUP PROJECT:** You will be grouped together by your instructor into groups of 2 to 5 students. As a group, choose one of the scenarios listed below and prepare a **30 minute presentation (manuscript and visuals)** that is audience appropriate and addresses the assigned topic. The scenarios all include topics that have been covered in the course readings, videos, etc. It is expected that you and your partners will draw on these materials and other research to prepare a dynamic presentation for your audience.

You can see who your partner(s) are in the **Group Assignment** section and communicate with each other using the **Send Email** tool. You can collaboratively work on the group project by using your group's **Discussions** tool or by using a variety of external tools such as:

- **Google Hangouts** to talk to each other online (watch <https://www.youtube.com/embed/hM3dGaRq9D8> for an introduction to Google Hangouts)
- **Google Drive** to share documents with each other (watch <https://www.youtube.com/embed/-HU9Z5gtQVk> for introduction to Google Drive)
- **Dropbox**, another tool for sharing documents (watch <https://www.youtube.com/embed/8rxeAydwbkY> for an introduction to Dropbox)

Designate one of your group members to be the "submitter" since this group assignment can only be submitted once by one member of your group. Once the Group Project is submitted, you and your partners will complete a Peer Review Form to help your instructor determine how the workload was distributed. All members of a group will get the same initial score, but the peer review forms will help your instructor make changes to individual student scores if necessary.

Writing Style

Undergraduate students at Moody Bible Institute are to follow the Modern Language Association (MLA) style for all written assignments. Your instructor may waive this requirement for specific assignments such as discussion boards, blogs, emails, and the like, but if not stated otherwise, follow MLA guidelines. Assignments not in proper MLA format may be returned with a request to redo the assignment and could be subject to a late penalty.

At a minimum, all assignments submitted as a document are to be in a standard 12-point font (limited to Time New Roman, Arial, Calibri, Cambria, Century Schoolbook fonts), 8½ x 11 page size, and double-spaced and are to be submitted as a Microsoft Word document (.doc or .docx). Papers that cite other works should include a Works Cited page.

Students should follow the latest version of the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers* (currently the 7th edition) or use the OWL website at <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>.

Assessments

Your grade for this course will consist of:



Class Participation (8)	24%
Papers/Videos (13)	56%
Final Group Project (1)	20%
	100%

Letter grades are determined by the following scale:

Letter Grade	Percentage Equivalent	Letter Grade	Percentage Equivalent
A	96% or higher	C	73 - 76.9%
A-	90 - 95.9%	C-	70 - 72.9%
B+	87 - 89.9%	D+	67 - 69.9%
B	83 - 86.9%	D	63- 66.9%
B-	80 - 82.9%	D-	60 - 62.9%
C+	77 - 79.9%	F	Below 60%

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