

THEO5964 Special Topics on Mission I: Study tour to Yogyakarta, Indonesia:
Christianity in the multi-ethnic and multi-religious context of Indonesia

Course outline

- Teacher: Rev. Prof. Tobias Brandner
- Time: To be confirmed – expected departure around Monday, 17 May and return on Wednesday, 26 May with a possible extension until 28 May
- Participants: Maximum 20 participants; the minimum number for the course to take place will be 12 participants.
- Language: Sufficient ability to understand English will be required
- Credits: 3
- Study Area: (5) Christianity and Society - i) Mission or iv) Asian Studies
- Costs: Around HKD\$6,750 (20 participants based) or ~HKD\$7,000 (16 participants based). Cost may change due to revision of itinerary, change on fuel surcharge, tax and foreign currency exchange rate.

Indonesia, the world's fourth most populous nation is also the country with the largest Muslim population. The Indonesian population in Hong Kong has over the past years grown; meanwhile more than 100,000 Indonesians live and work with us, many of them also sharing housing with us. A multi-ethnic and multi-religious society with a religious policy that maintains relatively harmonious religious relations, Indonesia has, in the past years, also experienced pressure from political Islam.

Yogyakarta is a cultural center in Central Java. The Duta Wacana Christian University is an important school that offers a contextually sensitive and ecumenical theology and that engages in religious dialogue with Islamic scholars. The study tour will offer an encounter with an important neighbor of Hong Kong and an opportunity to learn about Islam. The program includes a variety of activities – lectures at the Duta Wacana Christian University and at the Indonesian Consortium for Religious Studies at the Gadjah Mada University; tours to the famous Borobudur temple complex and teaching on Indonesian Buddhism; encounters with Islamic scholars and with Christian scholars engaged in inter-religious dialogue; two nights in a guest family; a visit to a Catholic church that is built in Hindu-Javanese style; the religious policy of the Pancasila; etc.

Students will learn about Christianity in Asia, about Islamic faith, about inter-religious dialogue in general and Christian-Islamic dialogue in the Indonesian context in particular, and about

religious policies in Indonesia. The tour will offer an opportunity to learn about contextual theology in the multi-religious Javanese context and they will encounter interesting forms of contextual Christian faith.

Assessment Scheme

- 1) Participation during the lectures (20%)
- 2) Book report (30%; length of book report: up to 2500 words)
- 3) Reflection paper (50%; Length for reflection paper: up to 5,000 words)

a) Book report

- Maximum 2,500 words
- Submission deadline: 31 May 2016
- Choose from one of the following books:
 - a) Pieris, Aloysius: *An Asian Theology of Liberation*, Edinburgh: T.&T. Clark, 1988
 - b) Koyama, Kosuke: *Water Buffalo Theology*, Maryknoll, New York: Orbis, 1999 [1974]
- Assessment criteria:
 - o Content and thought: Does the student show understanding of the content and core message of the book as well as the purpose of the author's writing? does he / she engage in a thoughtful dialogue with the author? Does he / she draw from additional resource material
 - o Form: Neatness of the paper, good structuring, concise writing, mastering of language and proper use of source material
- Questions that you may consider to take into account:
 - o What is the value of the book you read?
 - o What is the core message of the book?
 - o What is the theological position of the author?
 - o What is the situation to which the book / the author responds?
 - o What are possible shortcomings of the book?
 - o Both books are to a different extent not the most recent: in what ways is the book you discuss still relevant? In what ways is the book you discuss outdated?

b) Reflection paper

- Maximum 5,000 words
- Submission deadline: 20 June 2016
- Choose any topic that is related to Christianity in Indonesia and the topics of the course. Try to link experiences and reflections from the study tour with further research.
- Assessment criteria:
 - o Relevance and depth of the thought
 - o Link to the Indonesian context
 - o Form: Neatness of the paper, good structuring, concise writing, mastering of language and proper use of source material

Recommended readings

- Adeney-Risakotta, Bernard. "Religion, Violence and Diversity: Negotiating the Boundaries of Indonesian Identity," in Sterkens, Machasin & Wijzen, eds. *Religion, Civil Society and Conflict in Indonesia*. Zurich: Lit Verlag, 2009, 9-26.
- Aragon, Lorraine V. *Fields of the Lord: Animism, Christian Minorities & State Development in Indonesia* (Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, 2000), pp. 13-46.
- Aritonang, Jan Sihar and Steenbrink, Karel (eds.). *A History of Christianity in Indonesia*. Brill, 2008, pp. 23-71; 99-132.
- Geertz, Clifford. "Ritual and Social Change: A Javanese Example" in *The Interpretation of Cultures* (New York: Basic Books, 1973), pp. 142-169.
- Hefner, Robert W. *Civil Islam: Muslims and Democratization in Indonesia* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2000), pp. 58-166.
- van Klinken, Gerry. "Christianity and the Indies, 650-1920" in *Minorities, Modernity and the Emerging Nation*. KITLV, 2003, pp. 7-25.
- Kwan, Simon Shui-man. *Postcolonial Resistance and Asian Theology*, Abingdon: Routledge, 2014
- Prior, John. "Indonesia," in Peter C. Phan (ed.), *Christianities in Asia*. Wiley-Blackwell, 2011, pp. 61-75.
- Song, Choan-Seng. *Third-Eye Theology. Theology in Formation in Asian Settings* (revised edition), Maryknoll, New York: Orbis, 1990 [1979]
- Willis, Avery T. *Indonesian Revival: Why Two Million Came to Christ* (South Pasadena: William Carey Library, 1977).