School of Theology and Ministry Seattle University 901 12th Avenue, PO Box 222000 Seattle, WA 98122-1090

Fall Quarter 2013

COURSE INFORMATION
STMM 593 History and Theology of the Ecumenical Movement

Thursdays, 9:00am-11:50am Classroom: HUNT 100

INSTRUCTOR
Michael Kinnamon PhD
Office: HUNT 222

Office Hours: By appointment
Office Phone: 206-296-2534
SU Email: kinnamon@seattleu.edu

Course Description

- The general purpose of this course is to identify the vision, goals, methods, and theological foundations of the modern ecumenical movement and to examine the current state of ecumenical discussion and activity on several issues of major significance for the church. Successful completion of the course should give you indepth knowledge of the ecumenical movement and enable you to participate in an informed way in ecumenical activities, whatever your future ministry may be. I also hope the course will add a dimension of ecumenical sensitivity to every facet of your life in the church.
- The course will be taught as a seminar, with one substantial assignment and fewer class sessions than in a regular course. This will enable us to take full advantage of the fact that the World Council of Churches, the most prominent expression of modern ecumenism, is holding its once-every-seven-years assembly in the midst of this academic term: October 30-November 8. Reading for the course highlights documents that will be considered at the assembly; and we will not have class on October 31 and November 7 while I participate in the assembly and report back to you on its major developments.

Required Texts

■ John Briggs, Mercy Amba Oduyoye, and George Tsetsis, eds., <u>A History of the Ecumenical Movement</u>, vol. 3 (1968–2000), WCC, 2004.

This book is available for purchase online.

Jonas Jonson, <u>Wounded Visions</u>: <u>Unity</u>, <u>Justice</u>, <u>and Peace in the World Church after 1968</u>, trans. Norman A. Hjelm, Eerdmans, 2013.

This book can be purchased inexpensively online.

 Michael Kinnamon, <u>The Vision of the Ecumenical Movement and How It Has Been</u> <u>Impoverished by Its Friends</u>, Chalice Press, 2003. Inexpensive copies, new and used, can be purchased online.

Michael Kinnamon, Can a Renewal Movement Be Renewed? Questions for the Future of Ecumenism, Eerdmans, forthcoming.

Chapters from this book will be sent to you electronically.

World Council of Churches, documents for consideration at the Tenth Assembly (Busan, South Korea), October 30-November 8, 2013.

These texts, with one exception, are all available on the website of the WCC. Follow the links for Tenth Assembly, resources, and documents. The document, "Religious Plurality and Christian Self-Understanding," is not on the assembly website but is easily accessible online.

Schedule of Class Sessions and Assignments

September 26 The Ecumenical Movement: History and Vision

> Michael Kinnamon, The Vision of the Ecumenical Movement and How It Has Been Impoverished by Its Friends, Chapters 1-4

October 3 Recent Developments in Ecumenism

Jonas Jonson, Wounded Visions: Unity, Justice, and Peace in the

World Church after 1968

A History of the Ecumenical Movement, vol. 3, Chapter 3

October 10 The Tenth Assembly of the WCC: Unity and Church

"Unity Statement"

"The Church: Towards a Common Vision"

A History of the Ecumenical Movement, Chapter 4.

Michael Kinnamon, Can a Renewal Movement Be Renewed?: Questions for the Future of Ecumenism, Chapters 2 and 4

October 17 The Tenth Assembly: Justice and Mission

"Economy of Life, Justice and Peace for All: A Call to Action"

"Together Towards Life: Mission and Evangelism in Changing

Landscapes"

"Christian Witness in a Multi-Religious World: Recommendations

for Conduct"

A History of the Ecumenical Movement, Chapters 6 and 12

Can a Renewal Movement Be Renewed?, Chapters 5-7

October 24 The Tenth Assembly: Peace and Interfaith Relations

"An Ecumenical Call to Just Peace"

"Religious Plurality and Christian Self-Understanding"

A History of the Ecumenical Movement, Chapters 7 and 13

Can a Renewal Movement Be Renewed?, Chapters 3 and 10

October 31 No class

November 7 No class

November 14 A Review of the Tenth Assembly

(Orthodox and Catholic Involvement in Ecumenism)

Final documents from Busan

Can a Renewal Movement Be Renewed?, Chapters 8 and 9

November 21 Presentation of Student Research

(Ecumenism in Local Settings)

Can a Renewal Movement Be Renewed?, Chapters 12 and 13

November 28 Thanksgiving, no class

December 5 Presentation of Student Research

(Challenges Ahead for the Ecumenical Movement)

"Ecumenism in the 21st Century"

Can a Renewal Movement Be Renewed?, Chapters 1, 14 and 15

Requirements

Regular, informed participation in class discussions, which involves attentive listening to others as well as constructive contributions of your own. Careful attention to all assigned readings, in advance of class discussion, is obviously imperative. Since absence and tardiness diminish one's participation and impoverish the learning experience of others, especially in a small seminar such as this one, they will negatively affect this part of the grade.

30% of the final grade

Preparation, submission, and class presentation of a substantial (roughly 20 pages) research paper or project dealing with issues that figure prominently in the ecumenical movement. Plan to discuss the idea you are developing for the paper or project with me, one on one, no later than October 17.

For example, you might explore what ecumenical dialogue has said about the eucharist, with particular attention to your own denomination's response to the WCC text, <u>Baptism</u>, <u>Eucharist and ministry</u> and its implication for congregational practice. Or you could examine ecumenical statements on racism, globally and/or in the United States, suggesting how they might inform the current advocacy of the church. Alternatively, you might compare and contrast the mission document going to the 2013 WCC assembly with previous statements, including those of "evangelical" networks. Or be more focused: How do these various mission documents appeal to scripture and what does this suggest about the authority claims of different churches?

A possible "project" might be the development of an educational program for your congregation or wider jurisdiction, dealing with materials for the Tenth Assembly or with the ecumenical approach to a particular theme. In this case, I would want to see full "lesson plans," including teacher instructions, for a multi-session program. Alternatively, you might interview leaders of the Church Council of Greater Seattle, and participate in meetings or events of the CCGS, in order to discuss in writing the history and mission of this council in light of other examples of or statements about conciliar ecumenism.

These are only examples. The point is that I am wiling to work with each of you to develop a paper/project that will contribute to your own educational goals and aspirations for ministry. I will be flexible; your work needs to be substantial.

In grading these materials, I will consider the extent and quality of your research, the overall quality of your writing (grammar counts!), and the depth of your insights. The care given the class presentation of your research will also be taken into account.

70% of the final grade

Policies

- Academic Honesty (including plagiarism): The School of Theology and Ministry strictly adheres to the academic policy regarding Academic Integrity as indicated on the Seattle University Registrar website, as noted in the box below.
- Disability: If you have, or think you may have, a disability (including an "invisible disability" such as a learning disability, a chronic health problem, or a mental health condition) that interferes with your performance as a student in this class, please see the related note in the box below.

University Resources and Policies

Academic Resources

- Library and Learning Commons (http://www.seattleu.edu/learningcommons/)
 - (This includes: Learning Assistance Programs, Research [Library] Services, Writing Center, Math Lab)
- Academic Integrity Tutorial (found on Angel and SU Online)

Academic Policies on Registrar website (https://www.seattleu.edu/registrar/academics/performance/)

- Academic Integrity Policy
- Academic Grading Grievance Policy
- Professional Conduct Policy (only for those professional programs to which it applies)

Notice for students concerning Disabilities

If you have, or think you may have, a disability (including an 'invisible disability' such as a learning disability, a chronic health problem, or a mental health condition) that interferes with your performance as a student in this class, you are encouraged to arrange support services and/or accommodations through Disabilities Services staff located in Loyola 100, (206) 296-5740. Disability-based adjustments to course expectations can be arranged only through this process.