

<b>Module Title:</b>	<b>Christ and World Religions</b>
<b>Module Code:</b>	<b>704 TXWR</b>
<b>Level:</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Credit Rating:</b>	<b>20 Credits</b>
<b>Duration:</b>	<b>Student Learning Time: 200 hours</b>
<b>Teaching Hours:</b>	<b>20 Hours</b>
<b>Academic Responsibility:</b>	<b>Antonio Egiguren OFM STD</b>

### **Module Aims:**

This module aims to elucidate the modern understanding of the Catholic Church regarding other religions in terms of an examination of dialogue in light of the ethos of 'openness' that has existed since the Second Vatican Council, using as primary source the suppositions put forth by the conciliar document *Nostra aetate*.

### **Learning Outcomes:**

By the end of this module, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate a thorough familiarity and exercise a critical/analytical understanding of the view of non-Christian religions as put forth by the documents of the Second Vatican Council, particularly *Nostra Aetate* but with special reference to *Lumen Gentium*, *Unitatis Redintegratio*, *Ad Gentes*, and *Dignitatis Humanae*.
2. Understand and analyse the historical background of the relations of the Roman Catholic Church with non-Christian religions in times preceding the Second Vatican Council.
3. Demonstrate a critical ability to explain and critique the development of these attitudes in the post-conciliar era to the present time.
4. Form independent opinions based on critical analysis of selected primary texts, with appropriate use of secondary texts, regarding the evolving attitudes and historical relationships of the Roman Catholic Church to non-Christian religions.
5. Demonstrate a synthetic knowledge of historical, social, philosophical and theological influences that impacted on the development of each religious system analysed, with particular emphasis on the historical contact between that religious system and Catholicism.
6. Demonstrate an awareness of the methodologies available in inter-religious studies and an ability to situate themselves in relation to this range of methodologies
7. Demonstrate an ability to draw on a variety of academic discourses in reflecting critically on the understanding of non-Christian religions and their points of contact with Christian thought within the multi-valent traditions contained in each religious system.
8. Offer clear reflection demonstrated by an understanding of the material presented, in lectures and primary and secondary reading, and an ability to present such material, organised in a coherent manner, in written, and/or oral format, with references and bibliography where necessary.
9. Contribute confidently to group and class discussions.

### **Indicative Module Content:**

The module engages in a critical overview of the history of Catholic approaches to non-Christian religions as a preparation for a thorough analysis of the seminal Vatican II document *Nostra aetate*. Having established the theology that underpins *Nostra aetate*, and its relationship to other key Vatican II documents- specifically *Lumen Gentium*, *Unitatis Redintegratio*, *Ad Gentes* and *Dignitatis*

*Humanae*- the module will investigate in further detail the relationship of the Catholic Church to other religions with a special focus on Buddhism and Islam.

### **Learning and Teaching Strategies:**

The basic format of presentation will be weekly lectures systematically treating the subject matter as described in the Indicative Module Content. Students are given specific weekly reading assignments as well as directed toward extra-curricular reading proposed by the instructor. Research interests are quickly identified and tutorial sessions, depending on individual needs of the students, arranged for clarification and direction, inclusive of suggested extra-curricular reading. Within the classroom context of lectures, active participation of students in terms of questions and, especially, discussion is strongly encouraged as a primary way of developing analytical skills, critical thinking, and clarity of expression.

### **Assessment:**

Students will be assessed by the writing of one essay of 4,000 words.

### **Illustrative Bibliography**

Anderson G.H. & Stransky, T.F. (1981)	<i>Christ's Lordship &amp; Religious Pluralism.</i>	Orbis Books.
Armstrong, Karen (1992)	<i>Muhammad: A Western Attempt to Understand Islam.</i>	Victor Gollancz
Barnes, Michael (1989)	<i>Religions in Conversation: Christian Identity and Religious Pluralism.</i>	SPCK.
Coward, H. (1988)	<i>Sacred word and Sacred Text: Scripture in World Religions.</i>	Orbis Books.
Fredericks, J. (2004)	<i>Buddhists and Christians: Through Comparative Theology to Solidarity</i>	Orbis.
Goddard, H. (1995)	<i>Christians and Muslims: From double standards to mutual understanding.</i>	Curzon Press.
Haddad, Y.Y. & Haddad, W.Z.(1995)	<i>Christian-Muslim Encounters.</i>	University of Florida Press.
Phipps, W. E. (1996)	<i>Muhammad and Jesus: A Comparison of the Prophets and Their Teaching</i>	SCM Press.

### **Journals**

Corliss, R. (1994)	'The Buddha and the Christ: Explorations in Buddhist and Christian Dialogue', <i>Theological Studies</i> , vol. 55, 3, pp. 591ff.
--------------------	---