

**Course Syllabus**  
**Toronto School of Theology**

This description is intended to assist in the course approval process and to assist students in determining whether this course will help them achieve their educational objectives and the learning goals of their program. It is not a learning contract. The details of the description are subject to change before the course begins. The course syllabus will be available to the class at the beginning of the course.

***Instructor Information***

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Instructor: Mary Jo Leddy  
E-mail: m.leddy@utoronto.ca

***Course Identification***

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Course Number: RGT3656/6656H  
Course Name: The Authority of Those Who Suffer: Christian Theology After the Holocaust  
Campus: St. George

***Course Prerequisites or Requisites***

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Give the course code and title of any pre-requisite or requisite courses.

***Course Description***

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The course will combine historical research and theological reflection on the event of the holocaust. It will examine how this event shaped and challenged the thinking of theologians such as J.B. Metz, Jurgen Moltman, John Pawlikowski, Gregory Baum, Jon Sobrino and others. In particular it will explore how a spirituality of Justice and Mercy has been shaped by “the authority of those who suffer”. (Metz).

***Course Methodology***

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Lectures and readings and class discussion

***Course Outcomes***

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- 1) Content: All students (basic and advanced degree) will be required to do a careful reading of the major Christian and Jewish thinkers who have reflected on the holocaust: Hannah Arendt, Emil Fackenheim, Irving Greenberg, Gillian Rose, Johann Baptist Metz and John Pawlikowski. They must also show a careful reading of two contemporary Christian theologians whose thinking has been concerned with “the authority of those who suffer” in another context: Jon Sobrino and Gustavo Gutierrez.
  
- 2) Understanding: students will be able to describe the historical context within which the holocaust took place. They will be able to summarize the various interpretations of that history: political, social, economic, religious. They will be able to analyze these various interpretations and to articulate the adequacy or inadequacy of these interpretations. Students will be able to articulate the limits of historical interpretation as it attempts to understand this event.

Students will examine the history of the response of the churches during this time: co-operation, silence, resistance. They will analyze the possible reasons for these various responses.

- 3) Theological Understanding: students will be able to articulate the challenges that this historical event poses for Christian theology: the supercessionist theology, the relationship between revelation and history, radical evil, suffering, the Image of the suffering God, Christology. Students will not be required to answer these challenges but they will be able to articulate why they are important for Christian theology.
- 4) Values and Ecclesial Attitudes: All students (basic and advanced) will become more convinced of the importance of being able to read the signs of the times (political discernment). They will be able to apply the lessons of the past and learn from the mistakes in historical judgment. They will engage in consequential thinking, asking how their theological understandings are influenced by culture and in turn influence culture.
- 5) Furthering the theological education of the student: the professor will meet with each advanced degree student to help focus the longer paper in relationship to the overall interests of the students.  
The professor will meet with each basic degree students to focus their two shorter papers (10 pages each) as exercises in understanding, summarizing and analyzing. The first paper will require the student to summarize and analyze three significant interpretations of the holocaust i.e. how did it happen and why? The second paper will require the student to summarize and analyze the thinking of one of the theologians presented in the class.

### **Course Resources**

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#### **Required Course Texts**

The Holocaust and the Christian World: Reflections on the Past and Challenges for the Future edited by Carol Rittner.

Compilation selected readings.

### **RESOURCES**

**The Authority of Those Who Suffer: Christian Theology After the Holocaust**

**Professor: Mary Jo Leddy, fall 2016**

#### **September 15: Introduction:**

Reference (optional): Michael Marrus, [Lessons of the Holocaust](#)

#### **September 22: The Testimony of Those Who suffered.**

You Tube: “Symphony of Sorrowful Songs” by Henryk Gorecki, Sung by Dawn Upshaw, parts 1, 2, 3, “Mother Why Are You Crying?”

DVD *The Labyrinth: The Testimony of Marian Kolodziej* (37 minutes)  
plus graphics (handout)

Elie Wiesel, Night (available in most bookstores and libraries)

Yaffah Eliach, “Jew, Go Back to the Grave!” pp. 53-55 in Hassidic Tales of the Holocaust

### **September 29: What Happened?**

*Key reference:* an excellent and multidimensional website The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum [www.ushmm.org](http://www.ushmm.org)  
(film) “The Path to Nazi Genocide”

*Key reference:* Carol Rittner ed. et al. The Holocaust and the Christian World on reserve Regis College.

Carol Rittner and Stephen D. Smith “Chronology, 1932-1998” pp. 17-28 in The Holocaust and the Christian World

Carol Rittner and John K. Roth, “Antisemitism” pp. 33-41 in The Holocaust...

### **October 6: Why Did It Happen? (single and multiple cause theories)**

Zygmunt Bauman, “Chapter One Introduction: Sociology and the Holocaust” in his Modernity and the Holocaust

Hannah Arendt, “Preface to the Second Edition” of her The Origins of Totalitarianism

### **October 13: Perpetrators, Bystanders, Victims**

“Some Were Neighbours: Collaboration and Complicity in the Holocaust”,  
online video *The United States Holocaust Memorial*

Hannah Arendt, “Organized Guilt and Universal Responsibility” pp. 146-156 in The Portable Hannah Arendt edited by Peter Baehr

### **October 20: The Churches and the Holocaust**

Franklin H. Littell, “The German Churches in the Third Reich” pp. 44-47 in The Holocaust...

Victoria J. Barnett “The Role of the Churches: Compliance and Confrontation” pp. 55-58 in The Holocaust...

Jacques Kornberg, “Conclusion: Religious Good Trumps Moral Good,” pp. 265-301 in his The Pope’s Dilemma: Pius XII Faces Atrocities and Genocide in the Second World War

James Reimer, “Theologians in Nazi Germany,” pp. 61-75 in Gregory Baum ed. The Twentieth Century: A Theological Overview

Richard L. Rubenstein and John K. Roth, “Their Brother’s Keepers? Christians, Churches, and Jews” pp. 249-290 Ch. 10 in their Approaches to Auschwitz: The Holocaust and Its Legacy

### **NO CLASS OCTOBER 27, READING WEEK**

#### **November 3: Jewish Responses to the Holocaust: Levinas, Fackenheim, Greenberg, Marmur**

Emmanuel Levinas, “Ethics As First Philosophy,” pp. 75-87 in The Levinas Reader (translated by Sean Hand)

Emil Fackenheim, “The 614<sup>th</sup> Commandment” pp. 19-23 and “Jewish Faith and the Holocaust: A Fragment” pp. 25-42 in his The Jewish Return into History

Irving Greenberg, “Cloud of Smoke, Pillar of Fire: Judaism, Christianity and Modernity after the Holocaust” pp. 7- 55 in Eva Fleishner ed. Auschwitz : Beginning of a New Era?

#### **November 10: The Response of the Churches to the Holocaust**

Eugene J. Fisher, “How Have the Churches Responded to the Holocaust?” pp. 179-181 in Carol Rittner ed. The Holocaust and the Christian World

Eugene J. Fisher, “Catholics and Jews Confront the Holocaust and Each Other,” at [www.jcrelations.net](http://www.jcrelations.net) ( articles, scholarly contributions)

Vatican Commission for Religious Relations with the Jews, “We Remember: A Reflection on the Shoah.” 12 pages

“The Gifts and the Calling of God Are Irrevocable” Statement from the Commission for Religious Relations with the Jews, 01.01.2016

Robert J. Schreiter, “The Church as Sacrament and as Institution: Responsibility and Apology in Ecclesial Documents,” pp.51-59 in Judith H. Banki and John T. Pawlikowski eds. Ethics and the Shadow of the Holocaust: Christian and Jewish Responses.

Stephen R. Haynes, “Protestant Responses to the Holocaust”, pp. 182-184 in Carol Rittner ed. The Holocaust...

### **November 17: Christian Theological Responses: Dietrich Bonhoeffer and the “Suffering God”.**

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Letters and Papers from Prison (particularly “An Account at the Turn of the Year 1942-43: After Ten Years”

### **November 24: Christian Theological Responses: The Political Theology of Johann Baptist Metz, Jurgen Moltman, Dorothy Soelle**

Johann-Baptist Metz, “Facing the Jews: Christian Theology After Auschwitz,” pp. 38-48 in his Faith and the Future: Essays in Theology, Solidarity and Modernity (with Jurgen Moltmann)

“The Church After Auschwitz,” pp. 121-132 in his A Passion for God: The Mystical-Political Dimension of Christianity

Dorothy Soelle, “The Religion of Slaves” and “Blessed Are Those Who Suffer” in her Suffering

Jurgen Moltman, “The Experience of Human Life in the *Pathos* of God”, pp. 267-291 in his The Crucified God

John T. Pawlikowski, “The Holocaust: Its Challenges for Understanding Human Responsibility” pp. 261-289 in Judith H. Banki and John T. Pawlikowski OSM eds. Ethics and the Shadow of the Holocaust

“The Challenge of the Holocaust for Christian Theology,” pp. 240-270 in Roger S. Gottlieb Thinking the Unthinkable: Meanings of the Holocaust

“The Holocaust: Does It Have Significance for Ethics Today?” at [www.jcrelations.net](http://www.jcrelations.net) (articles, scholarly contributions)

### **December 1: The Authority of Those Who Suffer: Gustavo Gutierrez, Jon Sobrino and Martha Zechmeister**

Gustavo Gutierrez, selections from **On Job**

Jon Sobrino, “The Samaritan Church and the Principle of Mercy” in his The Principle of Mercy

Martha Zechmeister CJ, “The Authority of Those Who Suffer”, USIG Plenary 2013, *online*

## December 8: “What Then Must We Do?” (John 3:10)

### Course Website(s)

- Blackboard <https://weblogin.utoronto.ca/>

This course uses Blackboard for its course website. To access it, go to the UofT portal login page at <http://portal.utoronto.ca> and login using your UTORid and password. Once you have logged in to the portal using your UTORid and password, look for the **My Courses** module, where you’ll find the link to the website for all your Blackboard-based courses. (Your course registration with ROSI gives you access to the course website at Blackboard.) Note also the information at <http://www.portalinfo.utoronto.ca/content/information-students>. Students who have trouble accessing Blackboard should ask [xxx] for further help.]

- Personal Website <http://individual.utoronto.ca/jsmith>

### Evaluation

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#### Requirements

Basic Degree: two reflection papers of 10-15 pages each:

Advanced Degree: Major paper of 25-35 pages on topic to be agree with professor. (85%) and class participation (15%)

#### Grading System

A+ (90-100)  
A (85-89)  
A- (80-84)  
B+ (77-79)  
B (73-76)  
B- (70-72)  
Failure

Please see the appropriate handbook for more details about the grading scale and non-numerical grades (e.g. SDF, INC, etc).

#### Late work (BD).

Instructors are not obliged to accept late work, except where there are legitimate, documented reasons beyond a student’s control. In such cases, a late penalty is normally not appropriate. Where an

Instructor intends to accept and apply penalties to late assignments, this must be set out clearly here in the course syllabus. Degree students are expected to hand in assignments by the date given in the course outline.

**Late work (AD).** To insert.

**Course grades.** Consistently with the policy of the University of Toronto, course grades submitted by an instructor are reviewed by a committee of the instructor's college before being posted. Course grades may be adjusted where they do not comply with University grading policy (<http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/grading.htm>) or college grading policy.

## **Policies**

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**Accessibility.** Students with a disability or health consideration are entitled to accommodation. Students must register at the University of Toronto's Accessibility Services offices; information is available at <http://www.accessibility.utoronto.ca/>. The sooner a student seeks accommodation, the quicker we can assist.

**Plagiarism.** Students submitting written material in courses are expected to provide full documentation for sources of both words and ideas in footnotes or endnotes. Direct quotations should be placed within quotation marks. (If small changes are made in the quotation, they should be indicated by appropriate punctuation such as brackets and ellipses, but the quotation still counts as a direct quotation.) Failure to document borrowed material constitutes plagiarism, which is a serious breach of academic, professional, and Christian ethics. An instructor who discovers evidence of student plagiarism is not permitted to deal with the situation individually but is required to report it to his or her head of college or delegate according to the TST *Basic Degree Handbook* (linked from <http://www.tst.edu/content/handbooks>) and the University of Toronto *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters* <http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/AssetFactory.aspx?did=4871>. A student who plagiarizes in this course. Students will be assumed to have read the document "Avoidance of plagiarism in theological writing" published by the Graham Library of Trinity and Wycliffe Colleges ([http://www.trinity.utoronto.ca/Library\\_Archives/Theological\\_Resources/Tools/Guides/plag.htm](http://www.trinity.utoronto.ca/Library_Archives/Theological_Resources/Tools/Guides/plag.htm)).

**Other academic offences.** TST students come under the jurisdiction of the University of Toronto Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters <http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm>).