

CT8002W Indigenous Theologies and Methods

Offered: 2018: Intensive – March (NAIITS Masters Unit – in Sydney NSW)

This unit will investigate unique Indigenous theological contributions to the meaning of Christian faith and life. Utilising a thematic approach grounded in Indigenous epistemologies, the intersection of one's experience with the Creator, the nature of the spiritual, the Gospel story, redemption and redeemer will be explored in contrast with customary Western theological methods.

Upon successful completion of this unit, it is expected that students will be able to:

1. Articulate some basic similarities and differences between concepts underlying theological doctrines within a Westernised Christian tradition and the formalised spiritual teachings of a variety of Indigenous wisdom traditions;
2. Describe how Indigenous traditions can inform and nurture Indigenous Christian faith expressions;
3. Relate Biblical narratives to Indigenous cultural contexts thereby creating a framework for understanding their theological contribution for Indigenous Christians;
4. Discuss key issues in the intersection of Christian doctrines (systematics) and Indigenous contexts;
5. Explain how theology relates to the practical day-to-day realities of Indigenous life.

Prerequisites: Nil

Class Time: Four day intensive, with additional subsequent online component

Assessment:	Contributions to online forum (1,000 words)	(20%)
	In-class presentations (1,000 words)	(20%)
	Book review (1,500 words)	(20%)
	Journal of personal journey in research (2,500 words)	(40%)

Faculty: Terry LeBlanc

Recommended Reading:

* Texts recommended for purchase

** Will be supplied to the class participants

Articles to be distributed in class

Brett, Mark G. 'Canto ergo sum: Indigenous Peoples and Postcolonial Theology'. *Pacifica* 16 no. 3 (2003), 247–256.

** Jacobs, Adrian. *Aboriginal Christianity – the Way It Was Meant to Be*. Belleville, ON: Unpublished Manuscript, 1998.

Kidwell, Clara Sue, Homer Noley, and George E. Tinker. *A Native American Theology*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2001.

Paulson, Graham. 'Towards and Aboriginal Theology'. *Pacifica* 19 no. 3 (2006), 310–320.

Rainbow Spirit Elders. *Rainbow spirit theology: Towards an Australian aboriginal theology*. Victoria: HarperCollinsReligious, 1997

* Sanneh, Lamin O. *Whose Religion is Christianity? The Gospel Beyond the West*. Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 2003.

*Sedmak, Clemens. *Doing Local Theology: A Guide for Artisans of a New Humanity*. Faith and Cultures Series. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2002.

Tiénou, Tite. 'World Christianity and Theological Reflection'. Pages 37–51, in *Globalizing Theology: Belief and Practice in an Era of World Christianity*, ed. Craig Ott and Harold A. Netland. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2006.

Tinker, George E. *Spirit and Resistance: Political Theology and American Indian Liberation*. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2004.

*Woodley, Randy. *Shalom and the Community of Creation: An Indigenous Vision*. Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 2012.