

**Note:**

**Course content may be changed, term to term, without notice. The information below is provided as a guide for course selection and is not binding in any form, and should not be used to purchase course materials.**

## ***COURSE SYLLABUS***

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### **THEO 675**

#### **CONTEXTUALIZATION AND GLOBAL THEOLOGY**

#### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course considers the process of communicating a Christian worldview in a manner that is faithful to Scriptures and relevant to the world's cultures. In part, this involves the process of exegeting or probing culture for spiritual themes. In addition, this course explores the process of doing theology in a global context. (Formerly ICST 675)

#### **RATIONALE**

A mission-minded theology department must wrestle with issues of contextualization if it is to equip students for gospel ministry in our diverse global context. Since the evangelical world has grown global, we must teach our students to "do theology" from the perspective of the non-Western world.

#### **I. PREREQUISITE**

For information regarding prerequisites for this course, please refer to the [Academic Course Catalog](#).

#### **II. REQUIRED RESOURCE PURCHASE**

Click on the following link to view the required resource(s) for the term in which you are registered: <http://bookstore.mbsdirect.net/liberty.htm>

#### **III. ADDITIONAL MATERIALS FOR LEARNING**

- A. Computer with basic audio/video output equipment
- B. Internet access (broadband recommended)
- C. Blackboard [recommended browsers](#)
- D. Microsoft Office

#### **IV. MEASURABLE LEARNING OUTCOMES**

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- A. Articulate supra-cultural aspects of and themes of the gospel message.
- B. Evaluate the process of contextualization with attention to its importance as well as potential pitfalls.
- C. Interpret cultures in order to identify bridges to relevantly present the gospel within a given host culture.
- D. Construct a theological message within the context of global Christianity.

- E. Recall essential principles and common terms that explain contextual theology.

## V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS

- A. Textbook readings and lecture presentations

- B. Course Requirements Checklist

After reading the Course Syllabus and [Student Expectations](#), the student will complete the related checklist found in Module/Week 1.

- C. Discussion Board Forums (6)

Discussion boards are collaborative learning experiences. Therefore, the student is required to write a thread in response to the provided prompt for each forum.

Each thread must be at least 400 words and demonstrate course-related knowledge. In addition to the thread, the student is required to reply to 2 other classmates' threads. Each reply must be at least 200 words. (MLO: A, B, C, D)

- D. Missionary Selection Paper

The student will be required to turn in a paper (of at least 500 words) which includes the name, position, location, and contact information of the cross-cultural worker (missionary) to be interviewed. The student will describe expectations for the interchange, as well as provide a confirmed schedule for the contact with the worker. The second half of the page will describe the particular theological issue which the student will study and exchange with the missionary. (MLO: B, C)

- E. Research Paper Proposal

The student will choose a topic for research and submit a 1-page proposal that includes the following: statement of the topic, statement of the thesis, listing of 7 relevant scholarly resources, and his/her initial conclusion/insights into the issue.

- F. Book Critique

The student will read the entire textbook by Richards and O'Brien and write a summary (at least 400 words) of the entire book and a critique (at least 800 words) of 1 of the chapters. The critique must include at least 2 other scholarly article/book references cited in current Turabian format. The critique must offer an alternative solution to the issue that is raised by the particular chapter. Finally, it must include a few sentences on personal/ministry application. (MLO: A, B, C, D)

- G. Contextualization - Missionary Perspective Paper

The student will summarize (in at least 500 words) the theological issue that was chosen in the Missionary Selection Paper by applying 1 of the chapters from 1 of the course textbooks that relates to the missionary's theological and contextual situation. After giving this 500-word summary to the missionary, the student will be required to interview him or her and ask general questions provided by the instructor. The student will complete a response/analysis (at least 500 words) to the answers given by the missionary. The summary and response must form 1

document (at least 1,000 words) and must also include a copy of the first part of the project: Missionary Selection Paper. (MLO: A, B, C)

H. Research Paper

The student will write a 3,000–3,500-word research-based paper in current Turabian format that digs deeper into 1 of the contextualization issues or 1 of the contemporary Majority World Christian theologians in the Tennent text. The paper must include at least 7 scholarly sources in addition to the course textbooks. (MLO: A, B, C, D)

I. Exams (4)

Each exam will cover the Reading & Study material for the 2 most recent modules/weeks. Each exam will be open-book/open-notes, contain 25 multiple-choice and true/false questions, and have a 1-hour time limit. (MLO: E)

## VI. COURSE GRADING AND POLICIES

A. Points

Course Requirements Checklist	10
Discussion Board Forums (6 at 50 pts ea)	300
Missionary Selection Paper	20
Research Paper Proposal	50
Book Critique	100
Contextualization - Missionary Perspective Paper	80
Research Paper	250
Exams (4 at 50 pts ea)	200
<b>Total</b>	<b>1010</b>

B. Scale

A = 940–1010 A- = 920–939 B+ = 900–919 B = 860–899 B- = 840–859  
 C+ = 820–839 C = 780–819 C- = 760–779 D+ = 740–759 D = 700–739  
 D- = 680–699 F = 0–679

C. Style Guidelines

All assignments for this course are to be formatted in accordance with the [LBTS Writing Guide](#) and the latest edition of the Turabian style manual (*A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*). Discussion assignments and essay examinations may use the parenthetical citation style. All other written assignments should use the footnote citation style. Supplemental writing aids are available via the [Online Writing Center](#).

D. Extra Credit

No additional “for credit” assignments will be permitted beyond those given in the course requirements stated above.

E. Course Changes

Course requirements are subject to change by the administration of the University at any time with appropriate notice.

F. Disability Assistance

Students with a documented disability may contact Liberty University Online's Office of Disability Accommodation Support (ODAS) at [LUOODAS@liberty.edu](mailto:LUOODAS@liberty.edu) to make arrangements for academic accommodations. Further information can be found at [www.liberty.edu/disabilitysupport](http://www.liberty.edu/disabilitysupport).

If you have a complaint related to disability discrimination or an accommodation that was not provided, you may contact ODAS or the Office of Equity and Compliance by phone at (434) 592-4999 or by email at [equityandcompliance@liberty.edu](mailto:equityandcompliance@liberty.edu). Click to see a full copy of Liberty's [Discrimination, Harassment, and Sexual Misconduct Policy](#) or the [Student Disability Grievance Policy and Procedures](#).

## ***COURSE SCHEDULE***

### **THEO 675**

Textbooks: Flemming, *Contextualization in the New Testament* (2005).  
 Richards and O'Brien, *Misreading Scripture with Western Eyes* (2012)  
 Tennent, *Theology in the Context of World Christianity* (2007).

<b>MODULE/ WEEK</b>	<b>READING &amp; STUDY</b>	<b>ASSIGNMENTS</b>	<b>POINTS</b>
<b>1</b>	Flemming: Intro–ch. 2 Tennent: chs. 1–2 2 presentations	Course Requirements Checklist	10
		Class Introductions	0
		DB Forum 1	50
<b>2</b>	Flemming: chs. 3, 8 Tennent: ch. 3 2 presentations	DB Forum 2	50
		Exam 1	50
<b>3</b>	Flemming: chs. 4–5 Tennent: ch. 4 2 presentations	DB Forum 3	50
		Missionary Selection Paper	20
<b>4</b>	Flemming: chs. 6–7 Richards et al.: Part 1 Tennent: chs. 5–6 2 presentations	Research Paper Proposal	50
		Exam 2	50
<b>5</b>	Richards et al.: Parts 2–3 Tennent: ch. 7 2 presentations	DB Forum 4	50
		Book Critique	100
<b>6</b>	Tennent: ch. 8 2 presentations	DB Forum 5	50
		Exam 3	50
<b>7</b>	Flemming: ch. 9 Tennent: ch. 9 2 presentations	DB Forum 6	50
		Contextualization - Missionary Perspective Paper	80
<b>8</b>	Flemming: ch. 10 Tennent: ch. 10 2 presentations	Research Paper	250
		Exam 4	50
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>1010</b>

DB = Discussion Board

**NOTE:** Each course week begins on Monday morning at 12:00 a.m. (ET) and ends on Sunday night at 11:59 p.m. (ET). The final week ends at 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Friday.