

## COURSE SYLLABUS

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# Theologies of Liberation

Course Lecturer: Kenneth B. Mulholland, ThD  
Former Dean and Professor of the Columbia Biblical Seminary and  
School of Missions for Columbia International University

## Course Description

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Liberation theology has sought to liberate the disenfranchised from poverty, oppression, and social injustice—but at what price? This course addresses the historical and thematic development of liberation theologies in the social and religious context of Latin America. The course covers the various denominational roots, as well as the various methodologies that those denominations utilize. Dr. Mulholland presents a systematic theology of liberation, analyzing its relation to the areas of soteriology, Christology, and ecclesiology.

## Course Objectives

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Upon completion of the course, you should be able to:

- Describe the social and religious context in which Liberation Theologies arose in Latin America.
- Trace the steps leading to the emergence of Liberation Theologies as a major theological movement.
- Identify major personalities, central themes, key terminology, and major events in Latin American Liberation Theologies.
- Trace the growing influence of Liberation Theologies from a Latin American phenomena to a worldwide movement.
- State your own critical conclusions as to the contribution and validity of Liberation Theologies.

## Course Lecturer

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*Kenneth B. Mulholland, ThD*

**Education:**

- Fuller Theological Seminary, ThD
- Lancaster Theological Seminary, BD
- Elmhurst College, BA

### Teaching Career:

- Dean, Columbia Biblical Seminary and School of Missions at Columbia International University (1988-2001)
- Director of Missionary Church Planting, Columbia International University
- Professor of Missions and Ministry Studies, Columbia International University (1980-2003)
- Adjunct Professor, Columbia International University (1970s)
- Visiting professor, Dallas Theological Seminary, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, Fuller Theological Seminary, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, the Graduate College of Missions in Korntal, Germany, and William Carey University, among others
- Professor, Evangelical Presbyterian Seminary in San Felipe, Guatemala
- Passionately disciplined students and partnered with various parachurch organizations and Christian leaders, including Drs. Ralph Winter and John Stott to carry the gospel to all people groups

### Other Career Highlights:

- President, Evangelical and Reformed Church of Honduras
- Ordained minister
- Pastorates in the United States and Central America
- President, Evangelical Missiological Society (1987-1990, 1992-1995, 1998-2001)
- Evangelical Theological Society (more than 20 years)
- Missionary under the United Church Board for World Ministries, where he served for 15 years teaching, ministering, and planting churches (1966-1980)
- President of the Board, U.S. Center for World Mission
- Speaker and leader in several international conferences, including those in Korea, Latin America, Europe, and South Africa
- Ministered in over 100 countries

### Publications:

- Articles in several academic and theological journals, including submissions to *Bibliotheca Sacra*, *The Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society*, *Evangelical Missions Quarterly*, *Missionary Monthly*, *Missiology*, *Missiological Education in the Twenty-First Century*, and the *International Bulletin of Missionary Research*
- Coeditor of the Evangelical Missiological key series publication *Working Together with God to Shape the New Millennium* with Gary Corwin (2000)
- Many books, including *Adventures in Training the Ministry* and *Working Together with God to Shape the New Millennium: Opportunities and Limitations*

## Recommended Reading

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Though not required, you may choose to read the textbooks shown below to supplement your learning.

Boff, Leonardo and Clodovis. *Introducing Liberation Theology*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 1987.

Gutierrez, Gustavo. *A Theology of Liberation: History, Politics, and Salvation*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 1988. Revised Edition.

Miguez Bonino, Jose. *Doing Theology in a Revolutionary Situation*. Philadelphia, PA: Fortress Press, 1975.

Nunez C., Emilio A. *Liberation Theology*. Chicago, IL: Moody Press, 1985.

Textbooks can be ordered through your local bookstore, various online bookstores, or through your preferred eReader when available.

## Course Methods

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The lecture content for each lesson is provided in two easy-to-use formats: audio and PDF text (if available). Students can choose the medium (or combination of media) that most closely aligns with their individual learning styles.

## Course Assessment and Requirements

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To earn a Certificate of Completion, you must complete the course requirements. Course requirements include:

1. Listening to all 24 audio lectures.
2. Completing a final self-assessment form in which you will reflect on the content in the course and evaluate your life in light of what you have learned. The specifics of this assessment are provided in the course materials.

Course requirements noted in this syllabus will be validated before a Certificate of Completion is awarded to any student.