
What is Christianity? Teaching Aids

The textbook *What Is Christianity?* means to present as wide as is possible within one semester a look at Christianity as a lived experience. The four C's of religion, proposed in the mid-twentieth century by Joachim Wach—creed, code, cult, and community—are covered within the twelve questions that it is hoped may actually interest undergraduates (Joachim Wach, *The Comparative Study of Religion* [New York: Columbia University Press, 1958]). Throughout the textbook, an ecumenical vision is maintained, with the hope that all dominant Christian groups will find their beliefs and practices positively and accurately presented.

Since many undergraduate institutions maintain semesters of approximately thirteen weeks, the book is set up with twelve long and two short chapters. Instructors can shape their semester's use of this textbook in numerous ways, depending on which of the Suggestions at the close of each chapter are chosen. For example, beginning with the first chapter, each suggestion 3 is a pro-con debate topic for classroom use. Each suggestion 6 is a biblical passage, which may be useful in a religious-oriented college or university. Each suggestion 8 is an appropriate novel, which might serve as the basis for a term paper. The films, always suggestion 9, may be shown out of class, in whole, or during class, in part.

Instructors will use their judgment as to exams. One model is to give quizzes on each chapter's vocabulary, which would constitute three-fourths of the final grade, and instead of a final exam, to require a report on a book suggested in the Book List (pp. 279–80) for the remaining one-fourth. The Suggestions in the Conclusion may function well as final assignments.

The following notes provide background information for each chapter's crucifix, inserted quotes, and images, as well as several of each set of Suggestions.