FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ECU Jarvis Lecturer to Discuss American Civil Religion and Christianity

GREENVILLE, N.C. (Oct. 22, 2013) — East Carolina University soon will welcome to campus Dr. José Casanova, professor of sociology and head of the Berkley Center for Religion, Peace & World Affairs at Georgetown University, who will deliver the Jarvis Lecture on Christianity and Culture in the 2013-14 Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences Voyages of Discovery Lecture Series.

Casanova will discuss “Transformations in American Civil Religion and American Christianity,” at 7 p.m. Nov. 4, in ECU’s Wright Auditorium. A question and answer session will immediately follow the presentation.

Among his many published works, Casanova focuses on a broad range of subjects, including religion and globalization, migration and religious pluralism, transnational religions and sociological theory. His critically acclaimed work, “Public Religions in the Modern World,” is a modern classic in the field and has been translated into five languages, including Arabic and Indonesian. In this work, Casanova examines how religious traditions around the world, from Islamic fundamentalism to Catholic liberation theology, have made their way, often forcefully, out of the private sphere and into public life, resulting in the de-privatization of religion in the contemporary world.

According to Casanova’s analyses, religious institutions no longer simply administer pastoral care to individual souls, but instead are increasingly challenging established social and political frameworks. In this respect, Casanova challenges post-Enlightenment assumptions regarding the relationship between modernity and secularization in religious movements throughout the world.

In 2012, Casanova was awarded the Theology Prize from the Salzburger Hochschulwochen in recognition of life-long achievement in the field of theology. Casanova received his MA degree in theology from the University of Innsbruck in Austria, and his MA and PhD degrees in sociology from the New School for Social Research in New York City.

This season’s Jarvis Lecture is co-sponsored by the David Julian and Virginia Suther Whichard Distinguished Professorship in the Humanities, the THCAS Religious Studies Program and Jarvis Memorial United Methodist Church. The Religious Studies Program selects the lecturers, whose views do not necessarily reflect current United Methodist theology or the beliefs of Jarvis Memorial United Methodist Church members.

Financial underwriting for the Voyages series is made possible by the Harriot College’s Dean’s Advancement Council, various university organizations, and many friends and supporters. To make a contribution, or for
additional information, contact Dr. John A. Tucker, director of the lecture series, at 252-328-1028, or via email at tuckerjo@ecu.edu. You may also wish to visit the series’ web site at http://www.ecu.edu/voyages.

Complimentary tickets for this lecture are available by calling the ECU Central Ticket Office at 252-328-4788 or 1-800-ECU-ARTS. Individuals requesting accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) should call 252-737-1016 (voice/TTY) at least 48 hours prior to the event.

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