

Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary/CUME

TH/WM 602- Theology of Mission

Feb 13- Apr 30, 2012 Monday 6:30-9:30 PM Bobby Bose, Ph.D.

This course provides a biblical-theological foundation for missions. Apart from covering thoroughly a biblical basis for missions, some contemporary missiological issues, such as the relationship between evangelism and social action, between Christianity and other world religions, and between Culture and the Gospel, will also be dealt with. The primary objective of this course is to study the foundational theme of God's Mission through God's people in the Bible and its mandate for God's people today. A special focus will be given to missiological issues arising from the text of Scriptures, with an emphasis on how God seeks to save people from all nations.

Required Texts:

1. *Announcing the Kingdom: The Story of God's Mission in the Bible* by Arthur F. Glasser with Charles E. Van Engen, Dean S. Gilliland, and Shawn B. Redford (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2003).
2. *The Open Secret: Sketches for a Missionary Theology* by Lesslie Newbigin (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1979).
3. *What Is Mission?: Theological Explorations* by Andrew J. Kirk (Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2000).
4. *Footprints of God: A Narrative Theology of Mission* edited by Charles Van Engen, Nancy Thomas and Robert Gallagher. Monrovia, CA: World Vision Publications, 2000.
5. At least another 250 page text to be mentioned in the class from recommended texts.
6. At least a reliable Bible commentary such as the one-volume *New Bible Commentary 21st Century Edition* (Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 1994) or (for those who can afford) the multi-volumes series of *Tyndale Bible Commentaries* (Downers Grove, IL: IVP) or the multi-volumes series of *Word Biblical Commentary* (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson).

Recommended Texts:

1. *Transforming Mission: Paradigm Shifts in Theology of Mission* by David J. Bosch, (Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 1991).
2. *Mission on the Way: Issues in Mission Theology* by Charles Van Engen (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1996).
3. *The Mission of God: Unlocking the Bible's Grand Narrative* by Christopher J. H. Wright (Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 2006).
4. *The Upside Down Kingdom* by Donald B. Kraybill, (Scottsdale, PA: Herald Press, 1990).

Course Requirements:

1. Regular class attendance and participation in small and large group discussions. During the class period we will discuss the several passages of the Old Testament and the New Testament. Students will be asked to present what they have understood about the passages and what missiological eyes they have used to understand these passages.
2. Reading Requirements: All students are required to read text numbers 1-3 of required texts and write up 1-2 page Book Reviews for each. Please note that when you take the final exam, you will be asked to state the percentage of reading that you have completed. Failure to complete the reading requirement may result in a grade penalty. Additional readings and book reviews will be required for B and A grade level work (See below).

Core Course ("C"-Level) Requirements:

- 1) Regular class attendance and participation in small and large group discussions.
- 2) Reading Requirements and Book Reviews as mentioned above.
- 3) A 10-15 page double-spaced paper, including bibliography and footnotes, dealing with a theme of missiological significance and related to students past, present or future ministry context. (List of possible topics will be made available in the class.)
- 4) Final exam based upon lectures, discussions, and readings (Bibles permitted).

"B"-Level Requirements:

- 1) Regular class attendance and participation in small and large group discussions.
- 2) Reading Requirements and Book Reviews as mentioned above plus an additional reading of text number 4 of required texts and its Book Review.
- 3) A 20-25 page double-spaced paper, including bibliography and footnotes, dealing with a theme of missiological significance and related to students past, present or future ministry context. (List of possible topics will be made available in the class.)
- 4) Final exam based upon lectures, discussions, and readings (Bibles permitted).

"A"-Level Requirements:

- 1) Regular class attendance and participation in small and large group discussions.
- 2) Reading Requirements and Book Reviews as mentioned above plus two additional readings of text numbers 4 and 5 of required texts and their Book Reviews.
- 3) A 30-35 page double-spaced paper, including bibliography and footnotes, dealing with a theme of missiological significance and related to students past, present or future ministry context. (List of possible topics will be made available in the class.)
- 4) Final exam based upon lectures, discussions, and readings (Bibles permitted).

Contract Grading:

Grading will be based upon both fulfilling the grade level requirements and the quality of work submitted. Contracts for grades will be **due after fifth week of class**. Exams and papers will be graded according to the grade contract and will primarily contain comments, not letter grades.

A summary evaluation will be given in terms of a "√" ("check") meaning that the work has met the level of the grade contract, a "+" ("plus") meaning that the work has exceeded the level of the grade contract, a "-" ("minus") meaning that the work has not met the level of the grade contract, or some combination thereof (e.g. √- "check-minus" for work that minimally meets the level of grade contract or √+ "check-plus" for work that minimally exceeds the level of the grade contract).

It is not possible to receive a letter grade higher than contracted, though it is possible to receive a letter grade lower than contracted. For example, if a student who contracts for a "B" performs "A" quality work on their exams, that student would receive a "+" on exams, but no higher than a "B+" grade. However, a student who contracts for "B" and performs "C" quality work on their exams would receive a "-" on their exams and could receive a "C" grade for the course. Students may adjust their grade contract simply by requesting in writing (or e-mail).

Grading: If you contract for course requirements ("C" Grade), your course grade will be determined by: class participation, three Book Reviews (30%), a written assignment and a final examination (10%). If you contract for "B" your course grade will be determined by: class participation, four Book Reviews (40%), a written assignment, and a final examination (10%). If you contract for "A" your course grade will be determined by: class participation, five Book Reviews (50%), a written assignment and a final examination (10%). The grading scale is the common ten-point scale: 97–100 (A+), 94–96 (A), 90–93 (A–); 87–89 (B+), 84–86 (B), 80–83 (B–); 77–79 (C+), 74–76 (C), 70–73 (C–); 67–69 (D+), 64–66 (D), 60–63 (D–); 59 or lower (F). If you are at "Grade Contract Plus" on all assignments you may request to waive the final exam, but the final decision will be at the discretion of the teacher.

Learning in a Christian Community:

This class will exemplify learning in a Christian community-- a group of loving believers working together, respecting and supporting one another, in pursuit of a common goal. As members of the body of Christ, we bear the greater responsibility to exercise Christian courtesy to one another as well. With this in mind we must have a few basic ground rules that will help us in our times of learning together:

1. Please make every effort to be on time for and to remain throughout class.
2. Please refrain from drinking from uncovered cups in the classrooms.
3. Please switch phones, pagers, blackberries and other remote devices off.
4. Please be encouraging toward students who work at a different pace.
5. We will make accommodation for students with different abilities.

Course Schedule

Classes will meet on Monday evenings of Spring Semester, February 13- April 30, 2012. Course schedule will be made available on the first day of class, Monday February 13.