World Mission of the Church (WM601)

Summer 2013, May 6-August 9

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Teaching Assistant: TBD

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Course Description
To preach the gospel to every person is the command the Lord Jesus Christ has given to each Christian. And it is the defining mandate of the Church. This course is an introduction and overview of the mission of the Church. The biblical foundation, mission history, and current issues in world mission are discussed.

Gordon-Conwell Mission
This course satisfies the following institutional learning objectives:
1. Develop proficiencies in practical ministry that are biblically and theologically grounded, and contextually sensitive.
2. Demonstrate constructive and critical thinking about Christian ministry in light of biblical, theological, and historical scholarship in accordance with historic Christian orthodoxy.
3. Demonstrate growth in a life of biblical discipleship and intimacy with Christ, expressed in the life of the mind, interpersonal relationships, and interaction with broader society.
4. Articulate a coherent vision of God’s global activity and develop strategies for actively engaging in God’s redemptive work in the world. (Article 6)

Relation to Curriculum
WM510 is a core requirement of the online MAR program. Students must have taken OT500 and NT501 as prerequisites.

Learning Objectives
1. Formulate a biblical understanding of missions by summarizing key themes from the biblical account across both Testaments, explaining their relevance for contemporary mission, and applying them to their own Christian identity.
2. Demonstrate awareness of the historical progress of missions throughout the ages by summarizing the various paradigms in mission history and identifying and relating key events and personalities of that history.
3. Become familiar with the global Christian community and the entire scope of God’s mission field by identifying the various countries of the world.

4. Consider the approaches of contemporary mission studies, and the key issues and current trends in contemporary global missions.

5. Foster an understanding of the cross-cultural nature of Christian missions by analyzing the interactions between missions and their cultural and social contexts.

6. Deepen commitment to Christ’s great commission and strengthen faith in the universality and truthfulness of the gospel and the vitality of missionary movement by integrating the above in a personal statement of mission.

Lesson Topics

Part I: Biblical Foundations
- Lesson 1 (Week 1): Introduction to World Mission
- Lesson 2 (Week 2): Mission in the Old Testament
- Lesson 5 (Week 5): Paul’s Mission Theology

Part II: Historical Progress of World Mission
- Lesson 6 (Week 6): Mission in the Early Church
- Lesson 7 (Week 7): The Missions of the Eastern Churches
- Lesson 8 (Week 8): Roman Catholic Missions in the Middle Ages
- Lesson 9 (Week 9): Protestant Missions Since the Reformation
- Lesson 10 (Week 10): The Missionary Movement in Modern Times

Part III: Contemporary Trends in the Mission of the Global Church
- Lesson 11 (Week 11): New Developments in Mission Theology
- Lesson 12 (Week 12): Missionary Initiatives, Strategies, and Issues
- Lesson 13 (Week 13): Rise of World Christianity and its Impacts, Part 1
- Lesson 14 (Week 14): Rise of World Christianity and its Impacts, Part 2

Required Textbooks


**Course Requirements**

Achievement of the course objectives will be measured through a variety of assignments and activities as described below. The successful completion of these activities will require each student to spend approximately 135 hours devoted to coursework, both in class and out of class. The following chart indicates how these hours are distributed across the various course assignments. Descriptions of the assignments are listed below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Assignment</th>
<th>Expected Time Commitment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Weekly Narrated Presentations and Readings</td>
<td>60 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weekly Reflection Blogs (Part I only, see below)</td>
<td>10 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Book Report (Part II)</td>
<td>20 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Timeline and Summary Report (Part II)</td>
<td>15 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Map Quiz (Part III)</td>
<td>5 hours</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mission Statement (Part III)</td>
<td>25 hours</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total:</td>
<td>135 hours</td>
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</tbody>
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**Learning Activities**

**Each Week of the Course (Week 1-14)**

**Narrated Presentations**

The student is expected to complete the narrated presentations for each lesson. There will be one presentation for each week of the course.

**Readings**

The student is also expected to read required texts for each lesson. There will be assigned reading for each week of the course, plus an additional book for your book report (see Part II below).

**Part I—Biblical Foundations (Week 1-5):**

**Weekly Reflection Blog: (30%)**

For this part, students are required to write a 400-500 words reflection blog on the week’s lectures and readings. You should briefly summarize the contents of
the readings and lecture notes, and comment and reflect on them. See Reflection Blog Rubric for precise grading criteria. **Due dates:** your comment for each week is due the following Monday. See course schedule for details.

Note: this exercise is intended to fulfill the interactivity requirements of this course. Because of my busy travel schedule this summer, I will be away for most of Parts II and III of this course and not as accessible for interactivity. For that reason, the bulk of your interactivity with me will take place in Part I. Therefore your final weekly blog reflection will be due June 10. Other major assignments, usually spanning two weeks each, will take the place of these weekly blog reflections in Parts II and III. See below.

**Part II—Historical Progress of World Mission (Week 6-10)**

**Book Report (10%)**

Each student is required to write a report on Borthwick, *How to Be a World-class Christian*. The length of the report: four to five pages. The contents: the summary of the book contents, the impact the book has upon you, and other personal reflections and comments on the book. See Book Report Rubric for precise grading criteria. **Due date:** Monday of Week 8.

**Timeline and Summary Report of Historical Paradigms of Missions (20%)**

This will be a group project. You will be assigned to a study group and one of the following historical paradigms of missions (please refer to David Bosch’s *Transforming Mission)*:

- The Apocalyptic Period (The First to Third Centuries)
- The Eastern Church (Hellenistic period)
- The Medieval Roman Catholic Mission
- The Protestant Reformation to the Protestant Missions in 19th Century

Each group will compile a three page timeline for their assigned historical paradigm identifying the major dates, events, and personalities. Each date/event/personality identified should include a 50-100 word annotation of how it illustrates the major theology, strategies and impacts of the overall paradigm. In addition each group will compose 600-700 word (about two pages double-spaced) summary header for each paradigm as a whole which should include an overview of its theology, strategies and impacts.

The final timeline and summary should be posted online for the whole class to see in the Wiki tool under the headers already prepared for you. The group will
be assigned a grade as a whole, with each individual member receiving the grade for the whole group. Each member should include their name under the header for their group’s section in the Wiki. See Timeline and Summary Report Rubric for precise grading criteria. **Due date:** Monday of Week 11

**Part III—The Contemporary Trends in the Missions and Global Church (Week 11-14)**

**World Map Quiz (5%)**

On this quiz, you will be asked to identify between thirty and forty countries. The list of countries can be found in the Resources folder under “Map Exam Resources” along with some helpful study aids. In the Tests & Quizzes tool you will identify the name of the countries indicated by numbers on the map. You will not be provided this list during the exam. You will have one hour to complete the exam. **Due date:** please take the quiz between Friday of Week 12 and Monday of Week 13

Note: per Gordon-Conwell academic policy, you will need to submit a Proctor Approval Form. Please allow one week for approval. Once your proctor is approved, he or she will be sent instructions in advance of your quiz which will include a password to unlock the quiz in the Tests & Quizzes tool so you can take it. Please be courteous to your proctor and plan to take your quiz with them plenty of time in advance.

**Mission Statement (35%)**

By the end of this course, each student is required to write a mission statement / reflection paper. The contents: (1), why mission is important; (2) the Biblical foundations of mission; (3) what major lessons we can learn from mission history; (4), what is the mission approach or strategy relevant in today’s context. See Mission Statement Rubric for precise grading criteria. **Due date:** Thursday after the conclusion of the course.

**Assignment and Grading Summary**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Weekly blog reflections</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>Mondays in weeks 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Book Report</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Monday, Week 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Timeline and Summary Report</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Monday, Week 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Map Quiz</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mission Statement</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>Thursday after conclusion of course</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Grading Scale

“A”=90%-100%; “B”=80%-89%; “C”=70%-79%; “D”=60%-69%; “F”=fail

Document Formatting and Submission

Book Report and Mission Statement

Your book report and mission statement should be submitted as attached files in either MS-Word or PDF format. (If you use a different word processor than MS-Word, please convert the files to PDF before submitting them.) Assignments should be double spaced with 1” margins on all sides of each page, and should be printed in Times New Roman 12 point type or another font of similar size and appearance. Citations should preferably follow Turabian style, although APA style is also acceptable. Assignments must be submitted electronically by posting in the Assignment tool of the Sakai site. Hard-copies will not be accepted.

Weekly reflection blogs

It is recommended that you compose your weekly reflection blog posts in Microsoft Word (or another word processor) before you post them in the Blog tool itself. This will prevent the accidental loss of work due to connectivity issues or session timeouts. You are also encouraged to save this file on your computer for future use, though you will not be required to turn in your Word file at the end of class.

Rubrics

Rubrics are available for all assignment formats under the Resources folder. Consult these prior to completing assignments—they provide vital guidance by listing explicit grading criteria.

Late Work

All work is due at 11:55 PM EST on the due date listed in your course schedule. Unless appropriate arrangements are made beforehand, all late work will receive a penalty equal to one letter grade per week beyond the due date.

Prayers Encouraged

I believe it is critical for you to engage in world mission at personal level. Therefore, you are encouraged to pray for world missions and particular mission agencies and missionaries individually or in group.

As I travel to East Asia to work with the churches there from June 12 to August 7, I shall provide you with update information on my itineraries and ministries so that you can
remember these items in your prayers. These prayer items will be largely posted between May 6 to July 1 and again in early August, for I am in China in July and try to avoid sharing potentially sensitive messages online.

Netiquette
Gordon-Conwell does not tolerate disruptive or disrespectful behavior in the online communications in any course. Students should review the netiquette policy in the Student Handbook and this website: http://www.albion.com/netiquette

Syllabus Addendum

Academic Standards
Cheating and plagiarism are considered serious breaches of personal and academic integrity. Cheating involves, but is not necessarily limited to, the use of unauthorized sources of information during an examination or the submission of the same (or substantially same) work for credit in two or more courses without the knowledge and consent of the instructors. Plagiarism involves the use of another person’s distinctive ideas or words, whether published or unpublished, and representing them as one’s own instead of giving proper credit to the source. Plagiarism can also involve over dependence on other source material for the scope and substance of one’s writing. Such breaches in academic standards often result in a failing grade as well as other corrective measures. For more information, please consult the Student Handbook.

ADA Policy
The seminary complies with the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act. A student with a qualifying and authenticated disability who is in need of accommodations, should petition the seminary in accordance with the stated guidelines in the Student Handbook.

Cancellation of Class
In the event the seminary has to cancel a class meeting (impending storm, professor illness, etc.), the Registration Office will send out an email (via the GCTS email account) notification to all students registered in the respective course. If the cancellation occurs the day of the scheduled meeting, the Registration Office will also attempt to contact students via their primary phone contact on record. The professor will contact the students (via GCTS account) regarding make-up. If a weekend class is cancelled, the class will be made up during the
scheduled Make-Up weekend (see the academic calendar for the designated dates). For more info, consult your Student Handbook.

**Extension Policy**
Arrangements for submission of late work at a date on or before the “last day to submit written work”, as noted on the seminary’s Academic Calendar, are made between the student and professor. Formal petition to the Registration Office is not required at this time. This includes arrangements for the rescheduling of final exams.

However, course work (reading and written) to be submitted after the publicized calendar due date, must be approved by the Registration Office. An extension form, available online, must be submitted to the Registration Office prior to the “last day to submit written work.” Requests received after this date will either be denied or incur additional penalty. For a full discussion of this policy, please consult the Student Handbook.

**Grades**
Grades are posted on line within twenty-four hours of receipt from the professor. Students are expected to check their CAMS student portal in order to access posted grades. Those individuals who need an official grade report issued to a third party, should put their request in writing to the Registration Office. Faculty have six weeks from the course work due date to submit a final grade.
Selected Bibliography


Ott, Craig and Harold A. Neland, eds., *Globalizing Theology: Belief and Practice in an Era of World Christianity* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2006).


Smith, David, *Mission after Christendom, Emergent Themes in Contemporary Mission* (Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, 2010).


------, *Theology in the Context of World Christianity: How the Global Church is influencing the Way We Think about and Discuss Theology* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2007).


