Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary
WM 662 NGOs and Development in Mission
Global Education Course in Chiang Mai, Thailand
May 24 - June 15, 2017, Summer I

Instructors: Todd M. Johnson, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary,
Teaching assistant: Eva Pascal, Boston University

I. Course Description
The course is an overview of the role of non-governmental agencies (NGOs) and development in Christian mission. It covers biblical, theological, historical, and current perspectives on the global trend toward integration of development and mission. The course also looks at the role of globalization in the spread of the gospel. It examines plans made by Christians to alleviate social problems. Case studies in Africa, Asia, and Latin America are studied to understand current issues.

Onsite benefits
The course will be held in Chiang Mai, Thailand, a city with over 400 active NGOs engaging a host of human problems. We will visit more than a dozen of these NGOs to see how they are approaching these problems. If conditions are favorable, a visit to the Burmese border and to Chiang Rai will be included. Accommodations will clean, safe, and modest.

II. Learning Objectives
1. Students will comprehend the biblical, theological, and historical, and current perspectives of the integration of development and mission.
2. Students will analyze the role of globalization in the spreading of the gospel.
3. Students will examine and assess the efforts of Christians to alleviate social problems.
4. Students will evaluate NGO effectiveness through site visits to a variety of NGOs in Chiang Mai, Thailand.

III. Grading
1. Travel journal (30%)
2. Two book reviews (800 words for each, 30%, the Goudzwaard and Hunter books)
3. One 3,000-word essay on religions on the Silk Road (40%)

Active participation in all aspects of the study abroad and required readings is presumed.

IV. Required Texts
V. Major texts used in lectures and readings

1. Ahmed, Shamima and David M. Potter, *NGOs in International Politics* (Kumarian Press, 2006).

VI. Other recommended Texts


VII. Websites and Related Organizations

- Class website – On CAMS. Most required readings, apart from course texts, will be made available online
- Center for the Study of Global Christianity: www.globalchristianity.org
- Atlas of Global Christianity: www.altasofglobalchristianity.org
- World Christian Database: www.worldchristiandatabase.org

VIII. Itinerary

Course Requirements
Students should be aware of the weight of participation in the final grade. Students are expected to keep up with all assignments, and to come prepared for each discussion session.
1. Travel journal (30%)
2. Two book reviews (800 words for each, 30%, the Goudzwaard and Hunter books)
3. One 3,000-word essay on NGOs in development (40%)

Abbreviated Itinerary (Thailand)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 24-25</td>
<td>Fly Boston to Chiang Mai, Thailand</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 25</td>
<td>Check into Hotel and rest</td>
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<td>May 26</td>
<td>Chiang Mai orientation</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 27</td>
<td>Seminar 1</td>
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<td>May 28</td>
<td>Afternoon church and evening market</td>
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<td>May 29</td>
<td>NGO visit</td>
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<td>May 30</td>
<td>Seminar 2 and NGO visit</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 31</td>
<td>Elephant Camp</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 1</td>
<td>NGO visit</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 2</td>
<td>Transport to Burma border</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 3</td>
<td>Visit Burmese refugee camps</td>
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<td>June 4</td>
<td>Church with Burmese and return to Chiang Mai</td>
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<td>June 5</td>
<td>NGO visits</td>
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<td>June 6</td>
<td>Seminar 3 and Thai Cultural Dinner</td>
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<td>June 7</td>
<td>NGO visits in Lampang</td>
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<td>June 8</td>
<td>Seminar 4</td>
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<td>June 9</td>
<td>Transport to Chiang Rai</td>
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<td>June 10</td>
<td>Visit NGO sites</td>
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<td>June 11</td>
<td>Visit Queen’s gardens and return to Chiang Mai</td>
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<td>June 12</td>
<td>Seminar 5</td>
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<td>June 13</td>
<td>NGO visits</td>
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<td>June 14</td>
<td>Seminar 6 and farewell dinner</td>
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<td>June 15</td>
<td>CM to Boston</td>
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**Seminar schedule (in hotels on the trip)**

Seminar 1  
What is development?

Seminar 2  
Biblical reflections on development

Seminar 3  
History of development

Seminar 4  
Rise of NGOs

Seminar 5  
Relief vs. development

Seminar 6  
Debriefing on NGO visits

**IX. Select Bibliography of Globalization, Development and NGOs**


Berger, Peter L., and Samuel P. Huntington. *Many Globalizations: Cultural Diversity in the Contemporary*
Gardner, Gary T. Inspiring Progress: Religions’ Contributions to Sustainable Development. New York: W.W.
2005.


