I. Course Description

The course is an overview of the history of Christian missions. The course seeks to explore the history of Christianity from both an ecumenical and missiological perspective. Consideration is given to methods, principles, and practices involved in the advancement of Christian missions at various points in the history of the church. Theological, multi-cultural, and contextual perspectives are presented within an overall historical framework selectively chosen to represent key themes in the expansion of Christianity. The course seeks to provide a truly global perspective on the World Christian Movement by emphasizing the history of Christianity in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and Oceania. The course also explores alternate histories of Christianity that are not told from the standpoint of the ‘victors’.

II. Grading

1. Personal reflections on the books in the required readings. Students should keep a running journal of the summaries (Due on Mar 17 and Apr 28.) 30%

2. Paper (c. 20 pp. double-spaced with endnotes and bibliography as appropriate): This paper should look at a subject in the history of missions. (Paper topic approved by Feb 17. Paper due Apr 28.) 70%

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

III. Required Texts


IV. Major texts used in lectures and readings


**V. Other recommended Texts**


**VI. 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](http://www.globalchristianity.org)
- Atlas of Global Christianity: [www.altasofglobalchristianity.org](http://www.altasofglobalchristianity.org)
- World Christian Database: [www.worldchristiandatabase.org](http://www.worldchristiandatabase.org)

**VII. Schedule of Classes**

1) 3 Feb Introduction to the Course and Christian Beginnings
   - Course syllabus
   - Major themes of the course
   - Course overview and methodology
   - 2,000 year summary

2) 10 Feb Roman Empire and Church of the East
   - Early spread of Christianity
   - Specific contribution of African Christianity
   - Church of the East

   Text Reading = 168 pp
   Jenkins 1-70
   Irvin and Sunquist, 1-98

   Additional Articles: = 26 pp
   Coakley, The Martyrdom of Perpetua and Felicity, 30-37
   Hunt, Christianity at the Boundaries of Rome, 44-52
   Coakley, Bardaisan of Edessa, 82-84
   Winter, The Two Structures, 244-253

3) 17 Feb Church of the East and Celtic Beginnings
   - Christological controversies
   - Silk Road expansion
   - Conversion of Ireland

   Text Reading = 102 pp
Irvin and Sunquist, 99-154
Bass 1-84
Walls 1-25
Additional Articles: = 12 pp
  Coakley, The Christianization of Ethiopia and Georgia, 107-109
  Coakley, Ephrem the Syrian, 113-117
  Hunt, Documents of the Eastern Church in China, 52-58

24 Feb  Reading Week

4) 3 Mar  Barbarian conversions and the Celtic peregrini
  • Goths and Vandals
  • Arius
  • Northern Scotland and the Continent

Text Reading = 208 pp
  Irvin and Sunquist, 155-304
  Jenkins 71-95
  Bass 85-120
  Walls 24-54
Additional Articles: = 5 pp
  Thomas, Mass Conversions, 9-10
  Thomas, Adapt Pagan Temples and Women Monastics, 22-23
  Coakley, Columbanus, 255-258

5) 10 Mar  Barbarians and Medieval Spain
  • Christianity in Arabia
  • Early Islam
  • Baghdad and Medieval Spain
  • Cyril and Methodius

Text Reading = 143 pp
  Irvin and Sunquist, 305-382
  Jenkins 97-138
  Bass 121-150
Additional Articles: = 8 pp
  Coakley, Life of Leoba, 264-270
  Thomas, Mission to the Slavs, 12-14

6) 17 Mar  Francis and the Mongols and the Rise of the Jesuits
  • Crusades
  • Franciscans
  • Mongols
  • Xavier, De Nobili, Ricci

Text Reading = 125 pp
  Irvin and Sunquist, 450-506
  Bass 151-220
Additional Articles: = 13 pp
Coakley, Fall of Jerusalem, 334-335
Coakley, Thomas of Celano, 354-359
Koschorke, Accommodation Strategies, 33-40

24 Mar Reading Week

7) 31 Mar Africa
   • Catholic, Orthodox, and Protestant Missions
   • Independent Churches

   Text Reading = 107 pp
   Walls 55-139
   Jenkins 139-172
   Additional Articles: 15 pp
   Koschorke, New Missionary Societies, 189-193
   Koschorke, Concepts of Ecclesiastical Independence, 216-227

8) 7 Apr Off
   Text Reading = 116 pp
   Walls 143-186
   Bass 211-284

9) 14 Apr Asia
   • Philippines
   • China and India in the Modern Age
   • Korea
   • Southeast Asia

   Text Reading = 123 pp
   Jenkins 172-262
   Walls 187-220
   Additional Articles: 12 pp
   Koschorke, Early Portuguese Contacts, 7-13
   Hunt, William Carey’s An Enquiry, 83-86
   Koschorke, Southern Asia, 58-61

10) 21 Apr Latin America and Oceania
    • History of Catholicism
    • Protestant missions
    • Pentecostals

    Text Reading = 80 pp
    Walls 221-261
    Additional Articles: 19 pp
    Koschorke, Mission and Missionaries, 295-307
    Koschorke, Indian and Mestizo voices, 321-328

11) 28 Apr Western Christianity and the Future of Global Christianity
    • Post-Christian Europe
- North American Exceptionalism
- A truly Global Christianity

Text Reading = 25 pp
Bass 285-310

Additional Articles: 17 pp
Hunt, Ad Gentes, 190-194
Hunt, Missionary Imperative in the Orthodox Tradition, 226-229
Hunt, Lausanne Covenant, 260-264
Koschorke, Awakening and Multiplicity, 412-418

VIII. Select Bibliography of World Christianity
Koschorke, Klaus, Frider Ludwig and Mariano Delgado, *A History of Christianity in Asia, Africa, and Latin
Noll, Mark A., The New Shape of World Christianity (Downers Grove, IL, InterVarsity Press, 2009).
Ott, Craig and Harold A. Netland (eds), Globalizing Theology: Belief and Practice in an Era of World Christianity (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2006).
Tennent, Timothy C., Theology in the Context of World Christianity (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2007).
Wijsen, Frans and Robert Schreiter (eds), Global Christianity: Contested Claims (Amsterdam: Rodopi, 2007).