History of Mission (WM603)

Monday 9:15-12:15 AM

**Instructor:** Kevin Xiyi Yao

**Office Hours:** Room GL 114, Time TBD

**Byington Scholar:**

**Course Website:** Log into sakai.gcts.edu and click on the tab labeled “WM 603 HA-12”.

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**Course Description and Objective**

This course provides an overview of the historical progress of the Christian missions from its inception to the present. It seeks to explore Christian missions from historical and missiological perspectives. The Learning Objectives of this course are stated as follows:

**Learning Objectives**

1. By the depiction of the historical expansion of the Christian missions and those figures and events involved, the student will identify the different mission patterns or paradigms characteristic of different eras and regions. The student will highlight, analyze, and reflect upon the missional strategies, methods, principles, theological thinking relevant to each paradigm.

2. By illustrating the multi-cultural nature of Christian missions and global reach of Christian community and by focusing not on the Christian experience in the West, but by exploring the church histories in Asia, Africa, Latin America and other regions, the student will comprehend the diversity of the Christian experience, thoughts, and history in multi-ethnic and cultural contexts. The “untold” stories of the marginal groups will receive special attention.

3. The students’ interests in Christian world missions will be stimulated and they will reflection on the missionary movement. Students will draw lessons from history and integrate them into their own experiences in contemporary contexts. They will learn to become a member of the global Christian movement.
Requirements

1. **Two integration papers** summarizing course contents, readings, and personal reflections. Length: ten pages for each, double-spaced, turned in the middle and end of the term. The due dates: the first on **March 18th**, and the second on **April 30th**. Hard copies are required. (50%)  

2. **A group project and presentation** (50%): the whole class will be divided into groups (three or four students in each) to study the subjects specified below:  
   a. Each study group should be formed on voluntary basis. Each student needs to choose his or her study partners;  
   b. Each group should choose their own topic and methods (readings, research, field trips, etc). Each group must submit one page project proposal specifying the topic and its significances, goals and methods, and listing the members of the group. **Due Date: February 27th**. All proposals need to be approved by the professor;  
   c. The topics should be about the churches of the ethnic minorities or Immigrants in North America and Europe, or the churches in the non-Western world. They could be the history and contemporary trends of one congregation, particular ministries, or churches in one country or region;  
   d. In Week 12, 13 and 14 each group is required to present the results of their studies to the whole class, and responsible for 25 minutes in one class session, including presentation and Q & A time. Every group can design the format of their presentation, and employ any audio-video means or multi-media to articulate their points;  
   e. Each group should prepare and submit a file containing (1) a seven to eight pages, double-spaced introduction of the group project topic, its significances, and goals of the project; (2) the materials of any kinds, relevant to the topic, and supporting your points; (3) a ten pages, double-spaced conclusion summarizing the main ideas and points of the project. **Due Date: April 30th**.

Assignment and Grading Summary

Assignments should be turned in (hard copy) in class on the due date.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Integration Journals:</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>March 18</td>
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<tr>
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<td>April 30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Group Project</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>February 27</td>
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<td>Week 12, 13, 14</td>
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<td>April 30</td>
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**Required Textbooks**


* Students are encouraged to read the required materials before each class session in order to facilitate class discussions.

**Other Texts Included in Readings**


Gallagher, Robert L. and Paul Hertig eds., *Landmark Essays in Mission and World*


Supplementary Articles


**Topics, Schedule, and Required Readings:**

**Week 1, 30 Jan**  
Introduction: review of syllabus; the methods and current trends of the study of church and mission histories.

Readings:
- Gonzalez, 7-32, 145-154  

**Week 2, 6 Feb**  
The early church: global perspective; Roman Empire; the Eastern Church: Nestorians.

Readings:
- Jenkins, *The Lost History of Christianity*, 1-70  
- Robert, 10-21,  
- Neill, 13-52, 179-187  
- Bosch, 190-213  
- Lemopoulos, 63-79, 217-219
Week 3, **13 Feb**  
Roman Catholic Church and the medieval ages: mission thinking and models; the Crusaders, and monasticism.

Readings:  
Robert, 21-30  
Bosch, 214-238  
Irvin & Sunquist, 323-353, 372-380, 395-422  
Neil, 120-178  
Sullivan, 17-32

Week 4, **20 Feb**  
Reading Week

Readings:  
Sanneh, 13-61, 252-276

Week 5, **27 Feb**  
The Reformation (Protestant Church) and the inception of modern missionary movement.

Readings:  
Bosch, 239-261  
Robert, 31-48

**Project proposal due.**

Week 6, **5 Mar**  
The First Half of the 20th Century

Readings:  
Robert, 48-67  
Bosch, 262-345  
Neil, 222-334, 414-425

Week 7, **12 Mar**  
The contemporary missions: the dynamics of global movement;  
The rise of the world Christianity;
Readings:
Robert, 67-79
Noll, 19-37
Jenkins, *The Next Christendom*, 89-139

Week 8, **19 Mar**  Asia.

Readings:
Irvin & Sunquist, 305-322
Hastings, 147-191, 369-415,
Moon, Steve S.C., 11-16

**The first integration paper due.**

Week 9, **26 Mar**  Reading Week

Readings:
Covell, Preface, 20-84, 224-253

Week 10, **2 Apr**  Africa.

Readings:
Irvin & Sunquist, 289-299
Hastings, 192-237

Week 11, **9 Apr**  Latin America / the Pacific.
What we can learn from the past; what lies ahead (retrospect/prospect).

Readings:
Hastings, 328-368, 508-536
Padilla, Rene, 105-111.
Week 12, **16 Apr**  Group presentations

Week 13, **23 Apr**  Group presentations

14, **30 Apr**  Final Exam Week
      Group presentations

  **The second integration paper due.**
  **Project file due.**

All topics are subject to change without notice.

**Selected Bibliography**


------, ed. *Interpreting Contemporary Christianity, Global Processes and Local Identities* (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2008).


-----, *Disciples of All Nations: Pillars of World Christianity* (Oxford University Press, 2008).


