World Mission of the Church (WM601)

Fall 2013; T & Th 9:35-11:00am  
**Instructors:** Dr. Kevin Xiyi Yao  
**Office Hours (Yao):** ROM GL 114;  
(Always best to make appointment)  
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**Course Description and Objective**

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 Learning Objectives of this course are stated as follows:

**Learning Objectives**

1. Students will assimilate an overview of the biblical foundation of missions and will formulate a biblical understanding of missions.

2. Students will examine the historical progress of missions throughout the ages, grasp the characteristics of various paradigms in mission history, and become acquainted with key figures and epochs in the modern Protestant missionary movement.

3. Students will enhance their awareness of the interactions between missions and their cultural and social contexts and will foster an understanding of the cross-cultural nature of Christian missions. Students will become acquainted with the methods and approaches of contemporary mission studies.

4. Students will examine the key issues and current trends in the contemporary global missions.
5. Students will deepen their commitment to Christ’ great commission and will strengthen their faith in the universality and truthfulness of the gospel and the vitality of missionary movement. They will be challenged to develop or re-confirm their identities as a member of world Christian community.

Requirements

A. Mission Statement / Reflection (40%)

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. Due Date: 20 Dec

Length: 6-8 pages, double spaced.

B. Book Report (20%)

Each student is required to write a report on Borthwick, Western Christians in Global Mission. The length of the report: five to six pages, double-spaced. The contents: the summary of the book contents, the impact the book has upon you, and other personal reflections and comments on the book. Due Date: 22 Oct.

C. Group Project and Presentation (35%)

The entire class will be divided into study groups (4-5 students in each group, and feel free to choose your partners.) Each group will select a region (East Asia, South Asia, Central and West Asia, South America, North Africa, Sub-Saharan Africa, Southeast Asia and Oceania, or East Europe), and study its culture, history, population, mission history, mission needs, mission opportunity and challenges. By September 26 each group should turn in one page listing your group members and project topic. In the final weeks of this term, each group is required to present their findings to the class in 30 minutes (including Q & A time).

After your presentation, each group should submit a project folder containing the outline of your presentation and supporting materials (articles, book chapters, photos, diagrams, etc.).
D. Mission Related Activities (5%)
Each student is required to attend the Prayer for Nations three times throughout this semester and some required events of the Mission Week in October (TBA). By the end of this semester each student is required to submit a log to list the activities you participate in and brief summaries of the contents of the activities. **Due Date: 12 Dec**

Students’ participation in class is strongly encouraged. The interactions between students and teacher or your questions and comments are highly desirable.

**Required Textbooks**


**Topics and Required Reading**

**Part I  Biblical Foundations**

10 Sept. Introduction: review of syllabus; the contemporary situation

Three basic questions of mission theology: what, why, how is mission?

Readings:

Gallagher, ch.1: “Reflections on Biblical Models of Mission” (Bosch)
12 Sept No Class. (Missions Event Attendance Required. TBA)

17 & 19 Sept  Mission in the Old Testament

Readings:
Bosch, ch.1
Tennent, 105-124
Walter Kaiser, “Israel's Missionary Call.”

Bible verses for reflection:
Genesis 1-11,12:1-3; Exodus 19:4-6; Deuteronomy, 4:6-7; I King 41-43, 8:59-60;
7:13-14; Zachariah, 9:9-10

24 & 26 Sept  Missions in the New Testament (1)

Readings:
Bosch, 25-56, ch. 2
Tennent, 125-157.

Bible verses for reflection:

26 Sept: One Page Project Group Lists and Topics Due.

1 & 3 Oct  Missions in the New Testament (2)
Readings:
Bosch, ch. 3
Tennent, 409-415

Paul’s Mission Theology
Readings:
Bosch, ch. 4
Tennent, 438-443

Bible verses for reflection: Romans 10:11-15, 15:20-21; Galatians 3:8;

**Part II  Historical Progress of World Mission**

**8 & 10 Oct**  The Missions of the Early Church
The Missions of the Eastern Church

Readings:
Bosch, ch. 6
Tennent, 229-240

**15 & 17 Oct.** Reading Week

Readings:
Gallagher, ch.9: “The Gospel as Prisoner and Liberator of Culture” (Walls)

**22 & 24 Oct.**  The Roman Catholic Missions in the Medieval Times
The Protestant Missions since the Reformation

Readings:
Bosch, ch.7 and 8
Tennent, 240-248

**22 Oct:**  Book Report Due
29 & 31 Oct  Missionary Movement in the Modern Times

Readings:
   Bosch, ch.9
   Tennent, 248-283

Part III  The Contemporary Trends in the Missionary and Global Church

5 & 7 Nov  New Developments in Mission Theology: Missio Dei, Missional Church; Evangelism and Social Involvements; Church and Missions; Home Arena: New Paradigms for Mission Agencies

Readings:
   Guthrie, Part I
   Tennent, 53-73, 371-379, 387-393, 454-457

12 & 14 Nov  Reading Week

Readings:
   Bosch, ch. 12

19 & 21 Nov  New Missionary Initiatives, Strategies, and Issues: Contextualization; Evangelism and Missions; The Unreached Peoples; The 10/40 Window; Church Growth; Short-Term Missions, Four Spiritual Laws, etc.

Readings:
   Guthrie, Part II
   Tennent, 355-370

26 & 28 Nov  The Rise of World Christianity and its Impacts
   The Missions from non-Western World; Immigration; Urbanization; the Charismatic Boom
Readings:
Gallagher, ch. 4: “Shifting Southward: Global Christianity since 1945” (Robert)
Gallagher, ch.8: “Recasting Theology of Mission” (Shenk)
Tennent, 284-321, 379-386, 419-431, 459-483
Guthrie, Part III

Globalization and its Cultural Consequences; Religious Freedom; and
Religious and Cultural Pluralism, etc.

Readings:
Guthrie, Part IV.

2 & 5 Dec
Presentations

10 & 12 Dec
Presentations

12 Dec: The Log of Mission Related Activities Due

20 Dec. Mission Statement Due

All topics and required readings are subject to change without notice.

Selected Bibliography
Aikman, David, Jesus in Beijing: How Christianity is Transforming China and Changing the


Barrett, David B., Todd M. Johnson, eds., World Christian Trends (Pasadena, CA: William
Carey Library, 2001).

Bednarowski, Mary Farrell, Twentieth-century Global Christianity (Minneapolis: Fortress
Press, 2008).


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*


------, *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).


