History of Mission (WM603)

(Draft)

Spring 2014 M 9:10 AM -12:10PM

Instructor: Kevin Xiyi Yao

Office Hours:  Room GL 114; Times:  (Always best to make appointment)

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Byington Scholar: Bin Xia

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 reflect 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: Hard copies are required. (40%)

2. **One research paper. One research paper.** The subjects must be related to the course topics and need to be approved by the instructor. The length: 20-25 pp, double-spaced, with footnotes and bibliography as needed. **Research paper topic due date:**
   **Paper Due date:** A hard copy is required. (50%)

3. **Class presentation:** In Week 12, 13 and 14 each student is required to present the results of their research for the term paper to the whole class, and responsible for 25 minutes in one class session, including presentation and Q & A time. Each student can design the format of their presentation, and employ any audio-video means or multi-media to articulate their points. (10%)

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

**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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<tr>
<td>Integration Journals:</td>
<td>40%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Paper and Class Presentation</td>
<td>60%</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


Supplementary Articles


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

**Week 1,** 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,** The early church: global perspective; Roman Empire; the Eastern Church: Nestorians.

**Readings:**
- Robert, 10-21,
- Dale & Sunquist, 22-44, 57--96, 160-165
- Neill, 13-52, 179-187
- Bosch, 195-218

**Week 3** The Eastern Church: Nestorians.

**Readings:**
Jenkins, *The Lost History of Christianity*, 1-70
Dale & Sunquist, 195-239, 364-369, 440-449
Neill, 179-187
Lemopoulos, 63-79, 217-219

Week 4 Reading Week

Readings:
Sanneh, 13-61, 252-276

Week 5, Roman Catholic Church and the medieval ages: mission thinking and models; the Crusaders, and monasticism.

Readings:
Robert, 21-30
Bosch, 219-243
Irvin & Sunquist, 323-353, 372-380, 395-422
Neill, 120-178
Sullivan, 17-32

*Research paper topic due.*

Week 6, The Reformation Era

Readings:
Bosch, 244-267

Week 7, The Revivals and the Inception of Modern Missionary Movement.

Readings:
Robert, 31-48
Neill, 120-204


Readings:
Robert, 48-52
The first integration paper due.

Week 9, Reading Week

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

Week 10, The First Half of the 20th Century

Robert, 53-67
Neil, 380-425

Week 11, 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 12, Presentations

Week 13, Presentations

Week 14, Final Exam Week
Presentations

The second integration paper due.
Research paper 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).


