

GORDON CONWELL THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
FALL TERM 2009
WM/TH 602 THEOLOGY OF MISSION
Dr. Peter Kuzmic

Time Schedule: Monday evenings, 6:00-9:00 pm
Place: to be determined
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Course Website <http://cams-web1.gcts.edu/estudent/> (check here for files before class)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course offers a theological introduction to missions. Students study the biblical foundations of *missio Dei* and the historical and contemporary paradigms of missions. Topics receiving attention include the relationship of socio-political involvement to evangelism, Gospel and culture, mission and development and the relation of Christianity to other religions. *This course satisfies the M. Div. World mission requirement.*

CLASS FORMAT

Classes will consist of lectures, video presentations and their evaluation, plus student presentations and discussion.

REQUIRED READING

Bosch, David J. *Transforming Mission: Paradigm Shifts in Theology of Mission*. New York: Orbis Books, 1991.

Escobar, Samuel. *The New Global Mission: The Gospel from Everywhere to Everyone*. Downers Grove, Illinois: InterVarsity Press, 2003.

Phillips, James M. and Robert T. Coote, eds. *Toward the Twenty-First Century in Christian Mission*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1993. [select chapters, to be announced]
(Visit class page on CAMS: <http://cams.gcts.edu/estudent>)

Tennent, Timothy C., *Theology in the Context of World Christianity*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2007.

ASSIGNMENTS

- All of David Bosch and Samuel Escobar and selected chapters in James Phillips are to be read carefully.
- The student is expected to be able to identify and define key **missiological concepts**. This competency will be tested through a class quiz.
- **10-12 page paper on a topic** mutually agreed upon by student and professor.

- Each student should write a **book review** (2-3 pages) of one of the books from the recommended reading list. [Ask or email professor about alternative missiological texts that are not on the list.] See the attached description for a written report.
- Each student should write a **personal mission statement** entitled “My Missionary Credo”.
- Each student individually (or as part of a group if approved by the Professor) shall make a **class presentation** on one of the theological mission paradigms based on Bosch’s book *Transforming Mission* or a topic and/or missiological/regional issues based on *Toward the 21st Century in Christian Mission*.

GRADE DETERMINATION

• Paper	35%
• Book Review	20%
• Personal Mission Statement	25%
• Presentation/Class participation	20%
 TOTAL	100%

RECOMMENDED READING

Bevans, Stephen B. and James A. Scherer, eds. *New Directions in Mission & Evangelization 1: Basic Statements, 1974-1991*. New York: Orbis Books, 1992.

Braaten, Carl E. *No Other Gospel: Christianity Among the World's Religions*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1992.

Costas, Orlando E. *Christ Outside the Gate: Mission Beyond Christendom*. New York: Orbis Books, 1982.

_____. *The Integrity of Mission: The Inner Life and Outreach of the Church*. San Francisco: Harper & Row Publishers, 1979.

Cotterell, Peter. *Mission and Meaninglessness: The Good News in a World of Suffering and Disorder*. London, England: SPCK, 1990.

Dyrness, William A. *Let The Earth Rejoice!* Pasadena, California: Fuller Seminary Press, 1983.

Hedlund, R. E. *The Mission of the Church in the World: A Biblical Theology*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1991.

Kaiser, Walter. *Mission in the Old Testament: Israel as a Light to the Nations*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2000.

- Kane, J. Herbert. *Christian Missions in Biblical Perspective*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1976.
- Moreau, A. Scott, Gary R. Corwin, and Gary B. McGee. *Introducing World Missions: A Biblical, Historical, and Practical Survey*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 2004.
- Newbigin, Leslie. *Foolishness to the Greeks: The Gospel and Western Culture*. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1986.
- _____. *The Open Secret: Sketches for a Missionary Theology*. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1978.
- Nicholls, Bruce J., ed. *The Unique Christ in our Pluralist World*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1994.
- Peters, George W. *A Biblical Theology of Missions*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1972.
- Samuel, Vinay and Chris Sugden, eds. *Mission as Transformation*. Oxford: Regnum, 2000.
- Scherer, James A. *Gospel, Church, & Kingdom*. Minneapolis: Augsburg Publishing House, 1987.
- Stott, John R. W. *Christian Mission in the Modern World*. Downers Grove, Illinois: InterVarsity Press, 1975.
- Verkuyl, J. *Contemporary Missiology*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1978.
- Van Engen, Charles. *God's Missionary People: Rethinking the Purpose of the Local Church*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1991.
- Vinay, Samuel and Chris Sugden, eds. *Mission as Transformation*. Oxford, England: Regnum, 1999.
- Wells, D. *God The Evangelist*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1987.
- Winter, Ralph D. and Steven C. Hawthorne, eds. *Perspectives on the World Christian Movement: A Reader*. Pasadena, California: William Carey Library, 1981.

The Making of a Critical Review

Adapted from J.M. McCrimmon, *Writing with a Purpose*, Houghton Mifflin, 1966.
Many thanks to Gordon Fee and Gary Bekker for their insights on this matter.

Purpose and Substance of the Critical Review

The critical book review is an evaluation, never a book report or digest. That is, the goal of a good review is the critic's judgement. Your success (i.e. grade) depends primarily upon how convincing your arguments are for this evaluation and not on your judgement itself.

The essence of most good reviews can be divided into three categories: interpretation, technical analysis and judgement.

Interpretation deals with the author's purpose for writing book. *What does the book set out to do? What do I want to remember about this book?*

Technical analysis describes the techniques by which the author selects, shapes, and presents his or her materials. *How does the author go about fulfilling his or her purpose?*

Judgement is the critic's appraisal of the book's purpose and methodology. The critic's judgement is not only the capstone by the main goal of a review since it deals with significance and success of the book. When formulating your judgement, ask yourself, *How effective is the author's treatment of the topic? What new questions do I have on this topic? How significant is the book in its purpose and achievement? What implications does this book have for life and ministry?*

A good review does not let this three-part approach become obvious. The finished product should be a finely honed essay.

Preparation

There is no substitute for careful reading and writing. The critic who skims a book and/or writes haphazardly is doomed to failure (or at least a "C"). Indeed, most critics find it indispensable to take notes. Your notes can include a selection of quotes from which you may choose when writing your review. However, your review should not be a chain of quotes. Instead, use quotes to indicate emphasis or provide rationale for your judgement.

When reading, take special note of the preface and opening paragraphs. In a great majority of cases, the purpose and sometimes the organization of the book are revealed there. However, be careful that any judgements made early in the reading process remain open to modification until the whole book has been carefully read.

Writing

Organization and presentation of the review is entirely up to the critic. However, keep in mind at all times your obligation to the reader(s) and your overall judgement of the book.

The opening paragraph is the most difficult to write. The overwhelming temptation is to plunge right into the final judgement. While this might be appropriate on certain occasions, it most often yields a dearth of material just when the review should be building to a climax. Other options for the opening paragraph include an introductory statement on the author, a quotation that summarizes the purpose of the book, or a summary of the problem that the author is discussing.

Always write a critical review with the reader(s) in mind. In most cases, you should *not* be writing for the professor but for *fellow students* who have not yet read the book. Your review is meant to help them make judgements as to whether the book would be worthwhile to read.

Your final draft should be 2-3 pages. Be sure to include the bibliographic information for the book, written in proper style, at the top of your paper so readers may find the book themselves.

Common Weaknesses

1. Using too much of the review to explain the action or content of the book. This is a digest (book report) and not a review.
2. Reviewing parts of the book while neglecting the whole. Parts may be criticized in relation to the whole, but criticism outside the context of the whole book is poor scholarship.
3. Digressing upon your personal views on a subject rather than the merits or demerits of the book.
4. Failure to provide adequate rationale for judgements made.
5. Conveying to the reader a sense of prejudice that makes the reader believe the evaluation to be biased and unfair.

Usefulness of Critical Reviews

Finally, learn to read critical reviews yourself. See the more popular ones in *Christianity Today* or *Eternity*. More technical reviews are found in *Journal of Biblical Languages*, *Evangelical Quarterly*, and *Scottish Journal of Theology*. You will learn about books in your field of interest.

Even if a critical review is not a class assignment, writing short reviews for all the books you read will allow you to build a file of resources for papers, sermons, and lectures. If a piece of writing merits your time, it also merits a careful, analytic reading. Do yourself a favor and put your analytic thoughts into writing for future reference.

PK/ahd
August 2002