WM 601 THE WORLD MISSION OF THE CHURCH

May 16-19, 2013

HISPANIC MINISTRIES PROGRAM
Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary
130 Essex St.
South Hamilton, MA 01982

TEACHING SITE:
Kirkland, Washington

INSTRUCTOR:
Eloy H. Nolivos, Ph.D. (Church History)
621 Watertown St., Apt. 27
Newton, MA 02460
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Note: Newton is Eastern Standard Time
Email: eloynolivos@aol.com

CLASS TIME:
To be arranged

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
This course reviews the origin and progression of the global mission of the Church. The study observes the biblical, theological and historical foundations and concludes with tools that facilitate a holistic mission and the multiplication of the church. It examines the world Christian community in a changing global context, with consideration of the expansion of Christianity from the perspective of the recipients as well as the missionary senders. Studies of the formation of churches and theologies within cultural diversity, Christian interaction with other religions, the ecumenical impulse and movements toward unity and the struggles for renewal on each continent.

BOOKS:

Required Textbooks:


Recommended (but not required):


**ASSESSMENTS:**

Additional information on the following will be given during the onsite portion of the course.

A. **Attendance** (10%)

B. **Readings** (pre-onsite) and **Quizzes** (onsite): 4 quizzes (20%)

A vital step toward a holistic approach to the mission of the Church (ex. a faithful and fruitful witness and communication of the gospel) is to develop a working knowledge of key missiological themes and terms. To this end, during the pre-onsite portion of the course, each student will read the assigned required texts MEG, NGM and TM (see below). Hence, there will be four quizzes during the onsite residence; each will consist of ten questions in relation to the assigned chapters in MEG, NGM and TM. All the quizzes are cumulative.
C. **Daily Points** (onsite): 4 days (20%)  
One learns missiology (mission) by *doing* it. Since the world mission of the Church is God-talk, it requires *conversation*. So each day the student may earn points for participating in that day’s conversation. These points will be awarded based on presence, promptness, and the quantity and quality of one’s contribution to the learning process of both oneself and others. Furthermore, one of the core skills of theological work is the careful reading of *primary texts*. So each afternoon during the onsite class, we will examine together a classic theological text that sets forth the Christian faith and models theological thinking. We will read, discuss, and write about these texts during class time. Daily points include the completion of these exercises.

D. **Synthesis of the World Mission of the Church, Round One** (onsite): (25%)  
The purpose of the global mission of the Church is witness—faithful and fruitful *communication* of the gospel. One of the best ways to develop one’s communication skills is *writing*. So during the onsite portion of the course, each student will write a 1000-word max essay that synthesizes the missiological principles addressed on a particular day. The class will be divided evenly into three groups, each of which will be assigned a particular day to synthesize (Tue, Wed, or Thu) due the following day (Wed, Thu, or Fri) for prompt feedback and evaluation.

E. **Final Synthesis of the World Mission of the Church** (post-onsite): (25%)  
The evangelization we are called to communicate is *one* gospel. Although missiological reflection begins with breaking down the gospel into its parts, it must end with putting it all back together again. So for the final act of this course, each student will submit a 3500-word max paper by 11:59pm EST on Friday, June 21, 2013. This paper ought to set forth in the student’s own language and understanding the theoretical principles and practices of the Christian mission in conversation with their own unique ecclesial identity. Approximately one third of this essay will consist in a revised version of Assignment D.

**COURSE SCHEDULE:**  
**Pre-Onsite**

1. Read *all* the required texts listed above (MEG, NGM and TM).
2. Read the *assigned* texts. These readings should be completed before we gather in May. Read these pages *carefully*—missiology is not for quick consumption but for deliberate reflection.

**Onsite Daily Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:30-10:00</td>
<td>Session 1: Prayer, Quiz, Devotional, Learning Activity, etc.</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00-10:15</td>
<td>Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:15-12:00</td>
<td>Session 2: Learning Activities for the primary topic of the day</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:00-1:00</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:00-3:00</td>
<td>Session 3: Primary Text Exercise</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:00-3:15</td>
<td>Break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:15-5:00</td>
<td>Session 4: Learning Activities for the secondary topic of the day</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Onsite Schedule of Activities & Topics:

Thursday, May 16  How do we know the Mission of God?

  Session 1  Biblical foundations of the Mission
  Session 2  Historical foundations of the Mission
  Session 3  Primary Text: Genesis 12:1-20
  Session 4  Quiz (MEG ch. 1-2; NGM ch. 1-3; TM ch. 1-2)

Friday, May 17  What was the Mission of God in the Modern era?

  Session 1  Quiz (MEG ch. 3-4; NGM ch. 4-6; TM ch. 3-4)
  Session 2  The Great Century of Missions
  Session 3  Primary Text: The Lausanne Covenant
  Session 4  Theological foundations of the Mission

Saturday, May 18  What does the Mission of God offer the Poor and other Religions?

  Session 1  Quiz (MEG ch. 5; NGM ch. 7-8; TM ch. 5-6)
  Session 2  A Relevant Missiology
  Session 3  Primary Text: Luke 4:14-30
  Session 4  Mission as Justice and Evangelism

Sunday, May 19  What does the Mission of God look like today?

  Session 1  Quiz (MEG ch. 6; NGM ch. 9-10; TM ch. 7-8)
  Session 2  Contextual Theology
  Session 3  Primary Text: Holistic Mission
  Session 4  Mission and the Future

Post-Onsite:

Final Paper Due via email to professor by 11:59pm EST on Friday, June 21, 2013.
EVALUATION:
1) 10% Attendance
2) 20% Readings and Quizzes
3) 20% Participation and Primary Texts
4) 25% Round One Synthesis (Onsite)
5) 25% Final Synthesis (Post-Onsite)

Grading Scale:

A  90-100  C+  83-84  D-  70-71
A- 93-95  C  79-82  F  0-69 or plagiarism
B+ 91-92  C-  77-78
B  87-90  D+  75-76
B- 85-86  D  72-74

A=Student work exceeds normal graduate level expectations.
B=Student work clearly meets graduate level expectations.
C=Student work minimally meets graduate level expectations.
D=Student work does not meet graduate level expectations.
F=Failing work

EXPECTATIONS FOR THE COURSE:

Expectations of the professor of students:
1. Submit assignments on time. If there are circumstances out of your control, discuss the possible options in completing assignments with your professor.
2. Produce your own work unless otherwise indicated (in other words, do not cheat or plagiarize).
3. Contribute in a substantial manner to class discussions according to the establish guidelines, and interact daily in class with professor and other classmates which count toward your participation evaluation.
4. Ask your professor if you do not understand the content or the instructions. Ask for help in a timely fashion, while there is sufficient time to address the issue.
5. Treat others with courtesy and respect, as well as be helpful and encouraging to everyone in all the appropriate settings.

Expectations of students of professor:
1. Establish a friendly, open and welcoming environment.
2. Participate in the discussions and respond to questions.
3. Establish clear rules, procedures and expectations.
4. Proportionate grading of assignments and feedback within a timely manner. Return final grades and feedback within 14 days after the final due date, unless student solicits an incomplete grade.
5. Enforce that students treat each other with respect. Respond to students’ questions within an appropriate time.