World Mission of the Church (WM601)

**Dates:** March 26-29, 2015  
**Instructors:** Dr. Kevin Xiyi Yao  
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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 (50%)

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:

Length: 8-10 pages, double spaced.

B. One Book Report (25%):

Please choose either the Parts Two-Four of Invitation to World Missions (Tennent) or Missions in the Third Millennium (Guthrie) in its entirety, and write a 3-5 page, double spaced book report (summarization of the contents, and your reflection and comments). A reading log (one page) should be attached to your book report, in which you should list the chapters and pages of the required readings you have done. The Due Dates:

C. Group Study and Presentation (25%)

What are your churches doing in missions? What need to be done or improved in the future?

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

Required Textbooks


Another Key Text Included in the Readings


Topics and Required Reading

Part I            Biblical Foundations

Lecture 1: 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)
Tennent, 15-51,

Lecture 2: Mission in the Old Testament/ Missions in the New Testament (1)

Readings:

Bosch, ch.1
Tennent, 105-124

Bible verses for reflection:

Lecture 3: Missions in the New Testament (2)
               Bosch, ch. 2 and 3
               Tennent, 125-157, 409-415

Lecture 4: 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

Lecture 5: The Missions of the Early Church
               The Missions of the Eastern Church

Readings:
               Gallagher, ch.9: “The Gospel as Prisoner and Liberator of Culture” (Walls)
               Bosch, ch. 6
               Tennent, 229-240

Lecture 6: The Roman Catholic Missions in the Medieval Times
               The Protestant Missions since the Reformation

Readings:
               Bosch, ch.7 and 8
               Tennent, 240-248
Lecture 7: Missionary Movement in the Modern Times

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

Part III The Contemporary Trends in the Missionary and Global Church

Lecture 8: New Developments in Mission Theology: Missio Dei, Missional Church; Evangelism and Social Involvements; Church and Missions; Home Arena: New Paradigms for Mission Agencies

Readings:
- Bosch, ch. 12 & 13
- Guthrie, Part I
- Tennent, 53-73, 371-379, 387-393, 454-457

Lecture 9: 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

Lecture 10: The Rise of World Christianity and its Impacts
- The Missions from non-Western World; Immigration; Urbanization; the Charismatic Boom; Globalization and its Cultural Consequences; Religious Freedom; and Religious and Cultural Pluralism, Insider Movements, etc.
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 and IV

Selected Bibliography


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* (Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, 2010).


------, *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).


