WM 601 THE WORLD MISSION OF THE CHURCH

October 12 – 15, 2011

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

TEACHING SITE:
Olathe, Kansas

INSTRUCTOR:
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CLASS TIME:
To be arranged

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
Recognizing the responsibility of all Christians to complete Christ’s commission, this course gives an overview of the strategic and historical progress of worldwide missions today. The ways in which a local congregation can fulfill its worldwide biblical mandate are also considered.
(CUME Catalog 2005/07, 85)

BOOKS:

Required Textbooks:


Recommended (but not required):


COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Knowledge:
1. The student will be introduced to the world mission of the Church and will be challenged to become a world Christian.
2. The student will be come to understand the biblical/theological basis of missions.
3. The student will be introduced to the history of missions. Key figures, epochs, hard-earned missiological lessons, and the remaining task will be included.
4. The student will be introduced to some key concepts of culture and worldview as a basis for cross-cultural living, communication, and ministry.
5. The student will be led to understand how the biblical/theological, historical, and cultural dimensions of missions work together to form appropriate missions strategies.

Skills (for pastors):
1. The student/pastor will acquire a more adequate basis for preaching missions.
2. The student/pastor will understand better how to lead his/her congregation in being effectively involved in cross-cultural ministry/missions both near and far.
3. The student/pastor will understand better the requirements for being an effective cross-cultural worker, and know better how to guide those called to be cross-cultural ministers.

Skills (for potential missionaries):
1. The student/potential missionary will better understand the demands of cross-cultural ministry, and know how to better prepare himself/herself.
2. The student/potential missionary will in this way be better equipped to chart his/her course to the nations.

Attitudes:
1. The student will be encouraged to see the hand of God, and His personal involvement in bringing the world to Himself.
2. The student will be led to appreciate the sacrifice of Christians involved in the world mission of the Church throughout its history.
3. The student will be motivated to pray more fervently and effectively, and to be personally involved in the world Christian movement.
REQUIREMENTS:
This course is front-loaded. That is, much of the work must be completed before the first class session.

A. Reading:
   As assigned (see below)

B. Written Assignments:
   1. Reflection Papers: As assigned in class
   2. Other Written Assignments:
      a. Answers to questions on Section One: Biblical Perspective – Due October 12
      b. Section Two: Key Persons in Missions and their Writings – Due October 12
      c. Section Three: Book Review – Due October 12
      d. A final, integrative paper – Due November 12 (Postmarked)

   NOTE: Some of these written assignments will be due at the beginning of the first class section. Check above and page 7 of this document for due dates.

C. Attendance:
   Attendance is of extreme importance in an intensive course. The student must make a special effort not to miss a single class.

ASSIGNMENTS:

Unit One: The Biblical Perspective
Reading:
Introducing World Mission
  Preface
  1. Missions in the Modern World
  2. Encountering Mission in the Old Testament
  3. Encountering Mission in the Gospels
  4. Encountering Mission in the New Testament Church
  5. Encountering Mission Theology

Perspectives
  1. The Living God is a Missionary God
  2. Israel’s Missionary Call
  7. Let the Nations Be Glad
  9. The Bible in World Evangelization
  11. On Mission With God
  Pp. 80-81 “Two Forces”
  13. The Gospel of the Kingdom
  17. The Master’s Plan
  20. Mandate on the Mountain
  21. Discipling all the Peoples
  26. The Church in God’s Plan
  27. Prayer: Rebelling Against the Status Quo
  29. Lost
Unit One: Biblical Perspective cont’d.

Written:

Answer the following questions based on the required reading and your own thinking:

1. Is it correct to call God a missionary God? Give your reasons.

2. Should the Bible be called a missionary book? Why, or why not?

3. Did Israel have a missionary call? If so, how was it expressed, and how did God work to bring about its fulfillment?

4. The Great Commission is most often quoted from Mt 28:16-20. Where else is it expressed in the New Testament? What is commanded in the Great Commission? Who is responsible to fulfill it? What people(s) comprise the intended audience of the message of Salvation?

5. Define the terms: Missio Dei, Mission, and Missions. How do these terms relate to one another?

   Due: October 12

Unit Two: The Historical Perspective

Reading:
Introducing World Mission
   6. Expansion in the Premodern Era, A.D. 30-1500
   7. Expansion in the Era of Discovery and Colonialism, A.D. 1500-1900
   8. Expansion to and from Every Continent, A.D. 1900-2000

Perspectives
   Expansion:
      36. The Kingdom Strikes Back
      39. The Two Structures of God’s Redemptive Mission
      40. Missionary Societies and the Fortunate Subversion of the Church
      41. Four Men, Three Eras, Two Transitions: Modern Missions
      45. Women in Missions
      46. A Historical Survey of African Americans in World Missions
      47. Student Power in World Missions

Pioneers:
   48. “An Enquiry…” by Wm. Carey
   49. “A Call to Service” by Hudson Taylor
   50. “China’s Spiritual Need and Claims” by Hudson Taylor
   51. “Tribes, Tongues, and Translators” by Cam Townsend
   57. “Africa Sending…etc.”

Video: William Carey
Unit Two: Historical Perspective, cont’d

Written:
Key persons in the history of missions and their writings.
Go over chapters 48, 49, 50, and 51 in Perspectives.
How does the writing of each man underscore Winter’s analysis (chapter 41) of each one’s importance and emphasis? (2-4 pages)
Due: October 12

Reflection Paper:
What three things impressed you most in the William Carey video? How did viewing this video affect your view of pioneer missionaries? What would you emphasize if you were presenting a talk on the importance of William Carey? (1-2 pages)

Unit Three: The Cultural Perspective

Reading:

Introducing World Mission
   In the following order—
   14. Relating to People of Other Cultures
   16 Communicating with People of Other Cultures
   13. Strategic and Ministry Issues
   10. Missionary Preparation

Perspectives
   63. Understanding Culture
   64. Culture, Worldview and Contextualization
   65. The Flaw of the Excluded Middle
   68. The Role of Culture in Communication
   69. Redemptive Analogy
   73. Finding a Place and Serving Movements within Society
   76. Identification in the Missionary Task
   79. Do Missionaries Destroy Culture?
   83. The Willowbank Report

Through Gates of Splendor (entire book)

Written:
Write a brief review of Through Gates of Splendor that includes a brief answer to each of the following questions: (4-6 pages)
   What motivated these men in their mission?
   What cultural factors affected what they did and possibly their deaths?
   What kind of impact did their deaths have on missions in their time?
How did reading their story affect you?
Due: October 12

Reflection Paper: Three Cultures
Unit Four: The Strategic Perspective:

Reading:

Introducing World Mission
  13. Strategic and Ministry Issues
  17. Mission Trends and Paradigm Shifts
  18. Encountering the Religions of the World
  19. Mission and the Future

Perspectives
  Strategy for World Evangelization
    84. Finishing the Task
    85. Covering the Globe
    86. The Mission of the Kingdom
    89. The Challenge of the Cities

Strategies for Transforming Communities
  93. State of World Need
  94. Evangelism: The Leading Partner
  95. Transformational Development
  96. What is Poverty Anyway?
  97. The Urban Poor: Who Are We?

Strategies for Church Planting
  101. A Church in Every People...
  102. The Spontaneous Multiplication of Churches
  104. Church Planting Movements
  Case Studies:
    Any two of 112 – 124

Video: Church Planting Movements

Written:

Final paper: This will be an integrative/applicational paper of about 10 pages in length. A set of Guidelines are attached and will be thoroughly explained during the class sessions.

Due: November 12, 2011 (postmarked)
Wrap Up

Reading:
Operation World:
Preface – xxi – xxxiii
Pages 1-87

Perspectives:
World Christian Discipleship
125. Beyond Loving the World….
126. Reconsecration: To a Wartime, Not a Peacetime, Lifestyle
127. Life on Purpose

Strategic Pursuit of God’s Purpose
128. Join the World Christian Movement
131. Your Journey to the Nations….
133. Welcoming the World at Your Door
136. The Lausanne Covenant

Video: Harvest

Written: Same as Strategic Perspective

GRADES:

Calculation:
Attendance, Participation 15%
Reflection Papers 10%
Required Reading 15%
Questions on Biblical Perspective 10%
Questions on Historical Perspective 10%
Review: Through Gates of Splendor 10%
Final Paper 30%

DUE DATES:

Questions on Theology: Due October 12, 2011
Paper on Key Persons and their Wrings: Due October 12, 2011
Book Review (Through Gates of Splendor): Due October 12, 2011
Final Paper: November 12, 2011 (postmarked)
Reading Report (form to be supplied): November 12, 2011 (postmarked)

Other assignments during the intensive course: As indicated when given.

NOTE: This is a “front-loaded” course. If you have not completed the bulk of your reading and the first three written assignments before the class, you will have difficulty in finishing well. Our time together will be intensive.
LIMITED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Theology of Missions


Historical


Anthropological/Cultural


Strategy:


