World Mission of the Church  
Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary  
Fall 2014  
September 8 – December 15, 2014

Instructor: Dr. Kevin Xiyi Yao

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Office hours: by appointment

Teaching Assistant: Bin Xia (bxia@gordonconwell.edu)

Course Description
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 biblical foundation, mission history, and current issues in world mission are discussed.

Gordon-Conwell Mission
This course satisfies the following institutional learning objectives:

1. To maintain academic excellence in the highest tradition of Christian scholarship in the teaching of the biblical, historical and theological disciplines. (Article 2)
2. To train and encourage students, in cooperation with the church, to become skilled in ministry. (Article 3)
3. To develop in students a vision for God’s redemptive work throughout the world and to formulate the strategies that will lead to effective missions, evangelism and discipleship. (Article 6)

Course Learning Objectives
Students who successfully complete the requirements of this course will be able to:

1. Formulate a biblical understanding of missions by summarizing key themes from the biblical account across both Testaments, explaining their relevance for contemporary mission, and applying them to their own Christian identity.
2. Demonstrate awareness of the historical progress of missions throughout the ages by summarizing the various paradigms in mission history and identifying and relating key events and personalities of that history.
3. Become familiar with the global Christian community and the entire scope of God’s mission field.
4. Consider the approaches of contemporary mission studies, and the key issues and current trends in contemporary global missions.
5. Foster an understanding of the cross-cultural nature of Christian missions by analyzing the interactions between missions and their cultural and social contexts.
6. Deepen commitment to Christ’ great commission and strengthen faith in the universality and truthfulness of the gospel and the vitality of missionary movement by integrating the above in a personal statement of mission.
Lesson Topics
The following are a listing of the lesson topics in this course. Note: due to some changes in Sakai, we will be using the term “lesson” instead of “module.”

Part I: Biblical Foundations
Lesson 1 (Week 1): Introduction to World Mission
Lesson 2 (Week 2): Mission in the Old Testament
Lesson 5 (Week 5): Paul's Mission Theology

Part II: Historical Progress of World Mission
Lesson 6 (Week 6): Mission in the Early Church
Lesson 7 (Week 7): The Missions of the Eastern Churches
Lesson 8 (Week 8): Roman Catholic Missions in the Middle Ages
Lesson 9 (Week 9): Protestant Missions Since the Reformation
Lesson 10 (Week 10): The Missionary Movement in Modern Times

Part III: Contemporary Trends in the Mission of the Global Church
Lesson 11 (Week 11): New Developments in Mission Theology
Lesson 12 (Week 12): Missionary Initiatives, Strategies, and Issues
Lesson 13 (Week 13): Rise of World Christianity and its Impacts, Part 1
Lesson 14 (Week 14): Rise of World Christianity and its Impacts, Part 2

Required Materials
There will be some additional essays and handouts which will be provided for you in the relevant lessons.

Course Requirements—Learning Activities

Narrated Presentations
The student is expected to complete the narrated presentations for each lesson. There will be one presentation for each week of the course.

Readings
The student is also expected to read required texts for each lesson. There will be assigned reading for each week of the course, plus an additional book for your book report (see Part II below).
Weekly Reflection Blog (Parts 1 and 3 only): (35%)
For this part, students are required to write a 500-700 words reflection blog on the week’s lectures and readings for Lessons 1-5 (Part 1) and 11-13 (Part 3). You should briefly summarize the contents of the readings and lecture notes, and comment and reflect on them. See Reflection Blog Rubric for precise grading criteria. Due dates: your comment for each week is due the following Monday (weeks 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 12, 13, 14). See course schedule for details.

Project for Part 1, Biblical Foundations: Book Report (10%)
Each student is required to write a report on Borthwick, *Western Christians in Global Mission*. The length of the report: four to five pages. The contents: the summary of the book contents, the impact the book has upon you, and other personal reflections and comments on the book. See Book Report Rubric for precise grading criteria. Due date: Monday of Week 6.

Project for Part 2: History of World Mission: Timeline and Summary Report of Historical Paradigms of Missions (20%)
This will be a group project. You will be assigned to a study group and one of the following historical paradigms of missions (please refer to David Bosch’s Transforming Mission):
- The Apocalyptic Period of the Primitive Church (From the 1st Century to the early 4th Century prior to the Constantine)
- The Hellenistic Period of the Patristic Period (From the 4th Century to the 6th Century)
- The Medieval Roman Catholic Mission (From the 6th Century to the 15th Century)
- The Protestant Reformation to the Protestant Missions in 19th Century (From the 16th Century to the 19th Century)

Each group will compile a three page timeline for their assigned historical paradigm identifying the major dates, events, and personalities. Each date/event/personality identified should include a 50-100 word annotation of how it illustrates the major theology, strategies and impacts of the overall paradigm. In addition each group will compose 600-700 word (about two pages double-spaced) summary header for each paradigm as a whole which should include an overview of its theology, strategies and impacts.

The final timeline and summary should be posted online for the whole class to see in the Wiki tool under the headers already prepared for you. The group will be assigned a grade as a whole, with each individual member receiving the grade for the whole group. Each member should include their name under the header for their group’s section in the Wiki. See Timeline and Summary Report Rubric for precise grading criteria. Due date: Monday of week 11.

Project for Part 3, Contemporary Trends: Mission Statement (35%)
By the end of this course, each student is required to write a 6-8 page 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. See Mission Statement Rubric for precise grading criteria. Due date: Thursday after the conclusion of the course.
Course Policies:

Assignment and Grading Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Weekly blog reflections</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>Mondays in weeks 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 12, 13, 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Book Report</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Monday, Week 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Timeline and Summary Report</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Monday, Week 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mission Statement</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>Thursday after conclusion of course</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grading Scale

All assignment grades and the final grade will be calculated using a 4 point letter-grade scale in accordance with the following standard:

A = 4, A- = 3.7, B+ = 3.3, B = 3, B- = 2.7, C+ = 2.3, C = 2, C- = 1.7, D+ = 1.3, D = 1, F = 0

All assignment grades will be reported in the Gradebook with numbers from this scale. The final grade will appear as a letter grade.

Instructor Feedback

I will attempt to reply to questions or messages within 24-48 hours, excluding Sundays. I will provide feedback on your weekly blog reflections within one week of submission. I will provide feedback on your other major assignments within two weeks, and on your mission statement within three weeks. I will post grades in the grade book within two weeks of submission. Your final grade will be available within three weeks.

Document Formatting and Submission

Book Report and Mission Statement

Your book report and mission statement should be submitted as attached files in either MS-Word or PDF format. (If you use a different word processor than MS-Word, please convert the files to PDF before submitting them.) Assignments should be double spaced with 1” margins on all sides of each page, and should be printed in Times New Roman 12 point type or another font of similar size and appearance. Citations should preferably follow Turabian style, although APA style is also acceptable. Assignments must be submitted electronically by posting in the Assignment tool of the Sakai site. Hard-copies will not be accepted.

Weekly reflection blogs

It is recommended that you compose your weekly reflection blog posts in Microsoft Word (or another word processor) before you post them in the Blog tool itself. This will prevent the accidental loss of work due to connectivity issues or session timeouts. You are also encouraged to save this file on your computer for future use, though you will not be required to turn in your Word file at the end of class.

Rubrics

Rubrics are available for all assignment formats under the Resources folder. Consult these prior to completing assignments—they provide vital guidance by listing explicit grading criteria.
Late Work
All work is due at 11:55 PM EST on the due date listed in your course schedule. Unless appropriate arrangements are made beforehand, all late work will receive a penalty equal to one letter grade per week beyond the due date.

Netiquette
Gordon-Conwell does not tolerate disruptive or disrespectful behavior in the online communications in any course. Students should review the netiquette policy in the Student Handbook and this website: http://www.albion.com/netiquette

Additional Seminary Policies

Academic Standards
Cheating and plagiarism are considered serious breaches of personal and academic integrity. Cheating involves, but is not necessarily limited to, the use of unauthorized sources of information during an examination or the submission of the same (or substantially same) work for credit in two or more courses without the knowledge and consent of the instructors. Plagiarism involves the use of another person’s distinctive ideas or words, whether published or unpublished, and representing them as one’s own instead of giving proper credit to the source. Plagiarism can also involve over dependence on other source material for the scope and substance of one’s writing. Such breaches in academic standards often result in a failing grade as well as other corrective measures. For more information, please consult the Student Handbook.

ADA Policy
The seminary complies with the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act. A student with a qualifying and authenticated disability who is in need of accommodations, should petition the seminary in accordance with the stated guidelines in the Student Handbook.

Cancellation of Class
In the event the seminary has to cancel a class meeting (impending storm, professor illness, etc.), the Registration Office will send out an email (via the GCTS email account) notification to all students registered in the respective course. If the cancelation occurs the day of the scheduled meeting, the Registration Office will also attempt to contact students via their primary phone contact on record. The professor will contact the students (via GCTS account) regarding make-up. If a weekend class is cancelled, the class will be made up during the scheduled Make-Up weekend (see the academic calendar for the designated dates). For more info, consult your Student Handbook.

Extension Policy
Arrangements for submission of late work at a date on or before the “last day to submit written work”, as noted on the seminary’s Academic Calendar, are made between the student and professor. Formal petition to the Registration Office is not required at this time. This includes arrangements for the rescheduling of final exams.

However, course work (reading and written) to be submitted after the publicized calendar due date, must be approved by the Registration Office. An extension form, available online, must be submitted to the Registration Office prior to the “last day to submit written work.” Requests received after this date will either be denied or incur additional penalty. For a full discussion of this policy, please consult the Student Handbook.
Grades
Grades are posted on line within twenty-four hours of receipt from the professor. Students are expected to check their CAMS student portal in order to access posted grades. Those individuals who need an official grade report issued to a third party, should put their request in writing to the Registration Office. Faculty have six weeks from the course work due date to submit a final grade.

Contacting the Semlink Office
email: semlink@gordonconwell.edu
phone: 978-646-4144 (office hours only)
Office hours: 9:00 am - 12:00 pm and 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm, Monday through Friday.
Selected Bibliography


Bednarowski, Mary Farrell, Twentieth-century Global Christianity (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2008).


Isichei, Elizabeth, A History of Christianity in Africa from Antiquity to the Present (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1995).


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).


