WM 601: World Mission of the Church

Instructor
Dr. Kevin Xiyi Yao
Associate Professor of World Christianity and Asian Studies

Contact Information
(978) 646-4286
xyao@gordonconwell.edu

Gordon-Conwell offers technical support during regular business hours. If you have a technical issue, please email helpdesk@gordonconwell.edu. All requests related to the course should be sent to the professor, T.A., and/or the Semlink program staff.

Download the Syllabus as a PDF.

Table of Contents
Course Description
Gordon-Conwell Mission
Course Learning Objectives
Lesson Topics
Required Materials
Learning Activities
Reading and Video Lectures
Weekly Reflection Blog
Book Report
Historical Paradigms of Missions Timeline
Mission Statement
Course Policies
Assignment and Grading Policy
Grading Scale
Instructor Feedback
Assignment Formatting and Submission
Late Work
Additional Seminary Policies
Contacting the Semlink Office

Office Hours
By appointment.

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

- To maintain academic excellence in the highest tradition of Christian scholarship in the teaching of the biblical, historical and theological disciplines. (Article 2)
- To train and encourage students, in cooperation with the church, to become skilled in ministry. (Article 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
This course is 14 weeks long, with 14 discreet lessons divided between three different major content areas, or "parts."
1. Part 1: Biblical Foundations (5 weeks)
   - 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

2. Part 2: Historical Progress of World Mission (5 weeks)
   - 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

   - 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 two additional essays and one handout which will be provided for you in the relevant lesson.
- See also Dr. Yao's select bibliography of missiology texts which may be helpful to you as you move through this course.

Learning Activities

Reading and Video Lectures
The student is expected to complete the narrated presentations for each lesson. There will be one presentation for each week of the course.

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 (30%)
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 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 11, 12, 13). See course schedule for precise calendar dates.

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. See course schedule for precise calendar date.

Project for Part 2: Timeline and Summary Report of the Historical Paradigms of Missions (20%)
This will be a group project. You will be assigned to a study group with a group number 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 4th century prior to Constantine)
- The Hellenistic Paradigm of the Patristic Period (the paradigm of the Eastern church after Constantine)
- The Medieval Roman Catholic Church and the Protestant Reformation (from the 6th century to the 18th century; including the Pietist Breakthrough and the Puritan Missions in Colonial America)
- The Great Century of Christian Missions: The 19th Century (from William Carrey’s mission in late 18th century to the Modernist-Fundamentalist Controversy in the 1920-30s)

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. Please write down your group number and all your group members' names on your paper.

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. See course schedule for precise calendar date.

Project for Part 3: Mission Statement (35%)
By the end of this course, each student is required to write a 8-10 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: final day of the course. See course schedule for precise calendar date.

Course Policies

Assignment and Grading Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course 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 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 11, 12, 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Book Report</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Monday in week 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Timeline and Summary Report</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Monday in week 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mission Statement</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>Final day of the 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.

Grading 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.

**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. Note that the final grade posted in Sakai is not official; the official final grade will be posted in the CAMS student portal.

**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