

Introduction to Christian Missions -- MISS 2113
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 Course web page: <http://home.snu.edu/~hculbert/intro.htm>



COURSE DESCRIPTION

Missiology is the science of mission. It combines inter-cultural studies, anthropology, history, cross-cultural communications and theology. This introductory overview of the church's global mission will include a look at biblical motivations, historical background and current strategies.

This course does not seek to transform everyone into a global missionary. It will, however, seek to motivate everyone to be a mobilizer for the cause of world evangelism.

In terms of specific course goals, this course aims to equip students to:

- Outline a biblical rationale and the theological imperative for world evangelization
- Identify and describe some key movements and individuals in the history of the global expansion of the Christian movement including those within one's own denomination
- Explain the task yet to be accomplished and describe important trends and selected strategies being used in contemporary world mission outreach
- List basic components necessary for local congregations to be involved in the missionary task of the Church.

In terms of ordination requirements in the Church of the Nazarene, this course should help produce in students the following outcomes:

1. Ability to understand and articulate the biblical, historical and theological bases for Christian mission
2. Ability to describe how the church implemented its mission in the various periods of Church History
3. Ability to describe the general story line of the expansion of the Church
4. Ability to identify and describe the significance of major figures, themes and events of various periods of Church History as they relate to missionary outreach
5. Ability to sensitively explain the nature of cultures
6. Ability to describe and interpret the relationship between culture and individual behavior
7. Ability to identify and apply the principles of cross-cultural communications
8. Ability to describe basic missiological principles
9. Ability to think globally and engage cross-culturally for the purpose of mission
10. Ability to envision contextualized worship
11. Ability to discern and make theologically based ethical decisions in the midst of a complex and/or paradoxical context
12. Ability to synthesize, analyze, reason logically for discernment, assessment and problem solving and live with ambiguity
13. Ability to develop team building skills, identify and cultivate spiritual gifts, recruit volunteers
14. Ability to write clearly and in a grammatically correct manner

TEXTBOOK

Discovering Missions by Gailey and Culbertson

ASSIGNMENTS

Jan. 10	Course introduction
15	Bible #1: Genesis 12:1-3; Genesis 28:10-15; Galatians 3:7-9
17	Reading report for chapters 1-2

22	Bible #2: Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15; Philippians 2:9-11; Acts 1:8. <i>Note: Memorize Matthew 28:18-20 for first test</i>
24	Reading report for Chapter 3
29	Bible #3: Joshua 4:19-24; 2 Chronicles 6:32-33 (Solomon's prayer of dedication for the Temple), Acts 13:47 (a quote from Isaiah 49:6)
31	Reading report for chapter 4 plus Appendix A on Nazarene missions
Feb. 5	Bible #4: Exodus 19:6; Isaiah 45:20-22; Acts 10:34-35
7	Reading report for chapter 5
12	First exam: Biblical/theological perspectives and early history; Bible #5: Matthew 6:9-10; Ezekiel 36:22-23; Micah 4:1-3
14	Reading report for chapter 6
19	Bible #6: Matthew 24:4-14; Luke 24:45-47; John 20:21
21	Reading report for chapter 7
26	Bible #7: Psalm 47; Psalm 67:1-5; Psalm 96:10-13 Report on journal article from either <i>International Bulletin of Missionary Research</i> or <i>Evangelical Missions Quarterly</i> .
28	Reading report for chapter 8
March 5	Exam #2: History and cultural contexts Bible #8: Psalm 22:1, 27-28; Daniel 7:13-14; Revelation 7:9
7	Reading report for chapter 9
14	Reading report for chapter 10
16-24	Spring break
26	Full-length feature film report (film must be 60 minutes or longer to count)
28	Reading report for chapter 11
April 2	Report on Interview of a missionary
4	Exam #3
9	Reading report for chapter 12
11	Hands-on missions promotion report
16	Reading report for chapter 13
18	Local church report
23	Reading report for chapter 14
25	Report on Nazarene Missions International reading book
30	

May 2	Rewrite of local church report (if desired)
7	Final exam (Tuesday at 8 a.m.)

REQUIREMENTS

Unless otherwise specified, all written assignments will be submitted on Moodle.

1. **Bible readings** Report the reading of selected Bible passages. Do one or more of the following:
 - a. Write 150 words or more about the relevance of the passages to the task of world evangelism by doing the following
 - i. Reflect on one of the passages (“These verses appear in the middle of a section on ...”)
 - ii. What similar themes run through the passages selected for a particular day?
 - iii. Report any new insights that came to you as you read
 - iv. Reflect on why you were asked to read this particular passage (“I think you asked us to read this because . . .”)
 - v. Describe how the passage or passages might be used in a sermon or Sunday school class presentation As you do these readings, don’t be content with off-the-cuff remarks (after all, this is God’s Word).
 - vi. Your reflection can take the form of a written prayer.
 - b. Come up with a graphic of some kind that illustrates the passage(s). This can be a piece of artwork or even a doodle you create.
 - c. Find a song which has words echoing the biblical passage(s).

We are sometimes conditioned to think of the Bible as “God’s Word to me individually.” It will be helpful in this assignment to ask yourself: “What do these passages mean for the People of God?” The grading criteria on this assignment will center on how well you articulate the relevance of these particular passages to the cause of global evangelism.

2. **Read the assigned textbook readings.** On the first line of your reading report, specify whether you read all (worth up to 25 points), 75% (worth up to 20 points), 50% (worth up to 17 points) or 25% (worth up to 12 points).

Reporting Options

- a. A paragraph of reflection and summary of key thoughts. Minimum of 250 words
 - b. The book chapters have discussion questions at the end. Write a substantive answer to one or more of those questions. Minimum of 250 words total
 - c. Fill out the crossword puzzle which has key words/people from that chapter
3. **Full-length feature film:** View and report on a full-length feature missions film such as “End of the Spear” or one of the film biographies in our library. Those include:
 - a. “Beyond the Next Mountain” (biography of Rochunga Pudaite of India)
 - b. “Candle in the Dark” (biography of William Carey)
 - c. “First Fruits” (story of first Moravian missionaries)

d. "Hudson Taylor" (biography of founder of China Inland Mission)

By full length is meant at least 60 minutes. If a film is shorter, two can be viewed.

4. **Read and reflect on one major article from one of two periodicals: *International Bulletin of Missionary Research* or *Evangelical Missions Quarterly*.**

What you report on needs to be a major journal article rather than a short book review or news story.

Submit at least 150 words of summary/reflection on major ideas from the article. Be sure to give bibliographical information (author, article title, name of periodical, date article was published, page numbers on which article appeared) in your note.

5. **Hands-On Missions Promotion.** During the semester you must spend at least 5 hours promoting, recruiting, helping publicize or organize:
- Spring break trips
 - Commission Unto Mexico, Dec. 27 to Jan. 3
 - Youth in Mission summer opportunities (you could help someone, for instance with their fund-raising)
 - The one-year opportunities (such as MissionCorps) for graduating seniors in places like Bulgaria, Croatia, Macedonia, Sicily, and Spain.
 - September Work and Witness conference

This assignment can be done individually or with others. A written report of what was done including a detailed log of time spent must be turned in.

This assignment can also be fulfilled by participating in *all* of the activities of a day-long district NMI convention (Southwest Oklahoma's is at Western Oaks on April 6).

Individuals have different learning styles that reflect preferences for acquiring and processing information. David Kolb's experiential learning theory proposes that "knowledge is created through the transformation of experience." This missions mobilization assignment is an experiential learning one. While many discussions on experiential learning focus on the experience portion of the theory, Kolb suggests that learning takes place through a four-step process. The steps in the experiential learning cycle include having a concrete experience, reflecting on that experience, conceptualizing abstractly about the experience, and actively experimenting with a new behavior.

6. **Interview someone with extended cross-cultural missions experience.** Ideally this will be a former, furloughed or retired missionary. It can also be someone who has spent at least three months in volunteer missionary service. Your written report of this interview (which needs to be more than a two-minute conversation in the hallway at church) can be done in several ways:

- a. An edited transcript with an introductory paragraph and two or three concluding paragraphs of summation
- b. An article written for the ECHO or “Engage” magazine (<http://engagemagazine.com/>)
- c. Personal reflections on ideas which sparked your own thinking.

Part of the grade will be based on how your report reflects themes dealt with throughout the semester. For some suggested questions, go to: <http://home.snu.edu/~hculbert/intervie.htm>

For a web page listing former, furloughed and retired missionaries living in the area, go to: <http://home.snu.edu/~hculbert/misslist.htm>

7. **An accurate picture of what one local church is doing in world evangelism.** Pick a local church, find out everything they’re doing to promote world evangelism (events, publicity channels, prayer, hands-on opportunities) and write a detailed descriptive report. Don’t just write what you see. The report must be based on interviews with NMI leaders and pastoral staff. Your interview sources must be listed on a bibliography page.
8. **NMI reading book.** Read one of the NMI missionary reading books produced each year by Nazarene Publishing House. Submit a short summary report. Be sure to include the title and author of the book as well as the date of publication.
9. **Attendance.** An attendance grade based on the number of times you were in class will be given. Students who arrive late for class or leave early will not receive full credit for that day.

Late work: Late work will be accepted for greatly reduced credit.

Writing Standards: I expect students to produce written work that is focused, well developed, and organized. Written papers should be relatively free of grammatical, punctuation and spelling errors. Written work that falls short of this standard will not be accepted; the work will be returned to the students for revision within a reasonable time. For further writing help, see my web page and related links: <http://home.snu.edu/~hculbert/writing.htm>

Grading		
13 Textbook readings @ 25 pts	325	SNU's standard letter grade equivalents will be used.
Journal article reading	50	
Interview	100	
Full-length feature film	100	
Video/guest speaker reviews @ 10 pts		
8 Bible readings @ 10 pts	80	
NMI reading book	75	
Missions Promotion Report	100	
Local church report	100	
Attendance	100	
Exams @ 100 pts	400	

Academic dishonesty is never acceptable (especially in a religion class) and will be penalized severely. Check out SNU's policy on plagiarism and other forms of cheating at: <http://home.snu.edu/~hculbert/integrity.htm>

If you need assistance with a learning, physical or psychological disability that may affect your academic progress, you are encouraged to contact the Academic Center for Excellence, Disability Services at #491-6694. Specialized services are also available for first generation (neither parent earned a bachelor's degree), low-income, and international students. All students are encouraged to seek assistance from ACE, the Academic Center for Excellence (Learning Resource Center, Room #309).