

Theology of Christian Missions

Miss 4163

Howard Culbertson - Office R207 - Phone 491-6693; Cell 740-4149
course web page: <http://home.snu.edu/~hculbert/theo.htm>



Description:

This course is a study of the underlying principles and theological presuppositions of the global Christian mission. It will attempt to help students unify and integrate a wide range of theological themes in and around the idea of missions.

Objectives:

By the end of this course students should be able to:

1. Articulate a biblical foundation for global mission from both the Old and New Testaments
2. Demonstrate an understanding of historic missions paradigms
3. Engage in discussion on the themes, issues and assumptions of various mission theologies, particularly as they apply to doing mission in the post-modern era
4. Describe various approaches to contextualization in a multicultural global context
5. Explain the strategic implications of missionary mandate for the 21st century seen holistically and in conversation with key texts on globalization, socio-political issues and current affairs

Textbooks:

1. Lesslie Newbigin, *The Open Secret*
1. Don Richardson, *Eternity in Their Hearts*
2. Aida and William David Spencer, *The Global God*

Assignment calendar

Aug. 28	Newbigin vii-39
Sept. 4	Newbigin 40-90
6	Interviews of pastor and professors
11	Newbigin 91-159
18	Newbigin 160-189
20	Exam #1 (two journal articles)
25	Richardson 9-71
Oct. 2	Richardson 72-109
9	Richardson 111-150
11	Biblical exegesis paper due
16	Richardson 153-213
18	Fall break -- no class
23	Interview on other religion's views
25	Exam #2
30	Spencer 9-36
Nov. 6	Spencer 37-88
13	Spencer 89-145

20	Essay due 250 pages of outside reading due
27	Spencer 146-206
Dec. 4	Spencer 207-250
11	8 a.m. Final Exam

What do I have to do to pass this course?

1. *Come to class.* An important component of this course is what happens in the classroom: lectures, presentations, interaction and discussions. After four absences, each additional absence will cost 10 points of the attendance grade. Three tardies or early departures count as one absence.
2. *Read the textbooks.* On dates when reading is due, submit a half-page response on what you read. In each report, please tell me if you read 100%, 75%, 50% or 25% of the pages listed. In addition to your personal reflections, include one “test” question that covers what you think is significant material from that particular reading.
3. *Interview of a pastor and two professors.* Choose one of the following questions and ask that same question to a pastor and two SNU School of Theology and Ministry professors. Report their answers on a sheet of paper.
Question choices:
 - (1) Are the heathen hopelessly lost?
 - (2) Is it arrogant for us to say that Jesus is the only way to salvation?
 - (3) How are the concepts of theology and culture related?
4. *Interview of someone of another religion.* Interview someone of another religion (Jew, Muslim, Hindu, Sikh, Wicca, Buddhist) to get their view of major tenets of Christianity (authority of Bible, uniqueness of Christ, Trinitarian view of God). The interview subject needs to be someone who is a believer in a religious system rather than just an atheist or agnostic. Write a report of your interview in a 2-3 page paper.
5. *Participate in a group presentation.* The class will be divided into pairs to present differing (even opposing) answers to a missiological question. You may make up your own question (and get it approved by the professor) or you may choose one of the following: Are the heathen hopelessly lost? Is Jesus the only way to salvation? How central is the missionary mandate in the Bible? What things in the book of Acts lead some to say Paul was sensitive to culture in his evangelism? Must Muslims leave Islam to follow Jesus? Which prayers recorded in the Bible can be used to support the need for global evangelism?
6. *Take the exams on time.* There will be three unit exams and one final. The final exam will include material from questions used in the unit exams. Prior to each of the exams you will receive a study guide. Exams taken late will be reduced by one letter grade.
7. *Write an essay.* 5-8 page well-researched essay on a missions theology topic of your choosing. Bibliography must include a minimum of six sources. Students taking the course for graduate credit should write a graduate-level paper of 8-12 pages.
8. *Do a biblical exegesis:* Write a comprehensive exegesis of one of the following scripture passages
Matthew 28:19-20

Matthew 24:14

More complete instructions will be available on Moodle.

9. *Read and reflect on two periodical articles.* Two periodical articles on the theology of missions must be read and a written reflection on each turned in by the time of Exam #1. Note: These are not just any articles from the journals listed in the syllabus. The article must specifically deal with theology of missions topics. One purpose of the article reading is to give you a look at some possible essay topics.
10. *Do 250 pages of outside reading.* Such reading may be done for group presentations and/or as research for the biblical exegesis paper.
 - The reading report should consist of bibliographic information (author and title of each resource) and at least one idea gleaned from each reading as well as the specific pages read.
 - Some books in the bibliography section have page numbers listed. These are the sections relevant to course material. Where no page numbers are given, the entire book may be read for credit.
11. *Write video reactions.* Written reflections on videos shown in class will be required.
12. *Check your e-mails!* E-mail will be an important way of communicating with you. “I didn’t check my e-mail,” will not be an adequate excuse for missing a piece of vital information.

How will grades be figured?

The letter grade for the course will be assigned according to a standard breakdown (A=90-100%, B=80-89%, etc.) Late assignments (including exams taken late) will receive a reduced grade.

3 exams @100	300
Pastor/professors interview report	50
Other religion interview report	50
Two periodical articles	50
Group presentation	100
Video reaction/critiques 10 pts each	
2 Outside reading reports@100	200
Text reading responses 10 pts each	130
Essay	100
Exegesis paper	100
Attendance	100

Some possible topics for papers

The sin and lostness of people in the world as motivation for missions
Old Testament basis for missions
The Incarnation and Missions
The promises to Abraham and their fulfillment
The Old Testament function of the priesthood and its implications for the missionary mandate
The passion for fulfilling what God wants as a motivation for missions
The missions paradox of it being both God’s work and the work of human beings
The strategic global twist of Jesus’ emphasis on His coming to “the lost sheep of the house of Israel”
The Great Commission
Pauline Motives for global evangelism
End Times / Eschatology and implications for missions theology
Syncretism as a Theological Problem

Challenge of the Historical and New Religions
The uniqueness of Christ
Search Theology or Theology of Harvest?
Today's theological shifts in missions thinking
Missionary thought during the Reformation
Roman Catholic Missionary Theology
Cooperation in world evangelization
The Wheaton/Lausanne/Thailand Declarations
A theology of Gospel and culture
Contextualization
Cultural rules and biblical expectations
Prayer and world evangelism
Ecclesiology / What kind of church?
The Holy Spirit's work and power in global evangelism
The gospel and social concerns
The poor of the world
Stewardship and world missions
Holy living and missions
The world evangelism implications of seeing the church as a community

Classroom Behavior

Proper in-class behavior is important to maximize group learning. Thus, talking during the lecture, neglecting cellphone etiquette (ringing during class, taking calls in class, text messaging during class, etc.), game-playing or Internet-browsing with a laptop, physical horseplay, and/or other disrespectful behavior is inappropriate. The instructor maintains the right, and merely on subjective grounds, to penalize a student's final grade up to one full letter grade for repeated instances of inappropriate behavior. Also the instructor maintains the right, in consultation with the Academic Affairs office, to drop the student from the course for behavior which degrades the learning environment.

Your mother doesn't clean our building. So, if you bring a soft drink or coffee to class, handle it carefully and clean up any spills. Do not leave cans, cups or other trash in or around your seat.

Ethical computer use statement

<https://my.snu.edu/catalog/catalog.asp?ContentCode=127-166>

Academic Integrity statement

<https://my.snu.edu/catalog/catalog.asp?ContentCode=124-115>

Assistance available

If you need assistance with a learning, physical or psychological disability that may affect your academic progress, I encourage you to contact the Academic Center for Excellence, Disability Services at #491-6694 (M-F 8:00-5:00). All undergraduate students are encouraged to seek assistance from ACE, the Academic Center for Excellence (LRC 3rd floor).

Bibliography Journals

Books

- Allen, Roland. *Missionary Methods: St. Paul's or Ours?*
- Anderson, Gerald H. *The Theology of the Christian Mission.*
- Bavinck, Johan H. *An Introduction to the Science of Missions.* pp. 11-69.
- Blauw, Johannes. *The Missionary Nature of the Church.*
- Barr, William, ed. *Constructive Christian Theology in the Worldwide Church*
- Bartle, Neville R. *Developing a Contextual Theology in Melanesia with References to Death, Witchcraft and the Spirit World*
- Bevans, Stephen B. And Roger P. Schroeder. *Constants in Context: A Theology of Mission for Today*
- Boer, Harry. *Pentecost and Missions.*
- Bosch, David J. *Transforming Mission: Paradigm Shifts in Theology of Mission*
- Carver, William. *Missions in the Plan of the Ages.*
- Chambers, Oswald. *So Send I You.*
- Smith, Oswald. *Passion for Souls.* (Check for section on exegesis of Matthew.)
- Conn, Harvie. *Eternal Word and Changing Worlds.* pp. 210-260.
- Cook, Harold R. *An Introduction to the Study of Christian Missions,* pp. 9-84.
- Douglas, J.D., ed. *Let the Earth Hear His Voice,* pp. 65-93, 259-302, 985-1293 (in "Ref." section as well as on reserve).
- DuBose, Francis. *Classics of Christian Missions.* pp. 9-84.
- Flemming, Dean. *Contextualization in the New Testament: Patterns for Theology and Mission*
- Gilliland, Dean. *The Word Among Us: Contextualizing Theology for Mission Today.*
- _____. *Pauline Theology and Mission Practice.*
- Glasser, A. F. and Donald McGavran. *Contemporary Theologies of Mission.*
- Hahn, Ferdinand. *Missions in the New Testament.*
- Hedlund, Roger E. *The Mission of the Church in the World: A Biblical Theology*
- Henry, Carl F.H. and Stanley Mooneyham. *One Race, One Gospel, One Task,* Vol. 1, pp. 37-160; Vol. 2, pp. 1-342.
- Huizenga, Lee. *The Missionary Significance of the Lord's Prayer.*
- Kane, J. Herbert. *Christian Missions in Biblical Perspective.*
- _____. *Understanding Christian Missions.* pp. 85-138.
- Kane, J. Herbert. *The Christian World Mission,* pp. 15-72, 139-214.
- Kostenberger, Andreas J. and Peter T. O'Brien. *Salvation to the Ends of the Earth: A Biblical Theology of Mission.*
- Knitter, Paul F. *Jesus and the Other Names*
- Kraft, Charles. *Communicating the Gospel God's Way.*
- Langmead, Ross. *The Word Made Flesh: Towards an Incarnational Missiology*
- Lindsell, Harold. *Missionary Principles and Practice,* pp. 314-332.
- _____. *An Evangelical Theology of Missions.*
- Lindsell, Harold, ed. *The Church's Worldwide Mission.* pp. 1-237.
- Lingenfelter, Sherwood. *Ministering Cross-Culturally: An Incarnational Model for Personal Relationships.*
- Love, Julian P. *The Missionary Message of the Bible.*
- McGavran, Donald, ed. *Crucial Issues in Missions Tomorrow,* pp. 33-171.
- Nicholls, Bruce. *The Unique Christ in our Pluralist World*
- Orjala, Paul. *God's Mission is My Mission.*
- Pentecost, Edward C. *Issues in Missiology.*
- Priest, Doug. *Doing Theology with the Maasai.*
- Ramachandra, Vinoth. *Faiths in Conflict? Christian Integrity in a Multicultural World*
- Ramachandra, Vinoth. *The Recovery of Mission: Beyond the Pluralist Paradigm*
- Shenk, Calvin. *Who do you say that I am? Christians Encounter Other Religions*
- Shenk, David and Linford Stutzmann. *Practicing Truth: Confident Witness in Our Pluralistic World*
- Seamands, John T. *The Supreme Task of the Church.*
- Smith, Eugene. *God's Mission--And Ours,* pp. 41-65, 100-166.

- Soltau, T. Stanley. *Missions at the Crossroads*, pp. 128-152.
- Soper, Edmund Davison. *The Philosophy of the Christian World Mission*.
- Stamps, Don. "An Inquiry into the Missionary Motivation and Activity of the New Testament," M.A. thesis
- Sundkler, Bengt. *The World of Mission*, pp. 11-68.
- Terry, John Mark, Ebbie Smith and Justice Anderson, eds. *Missiology: An Introduction to the Foundations, History and Strategies of World Missions*
- Thangaraj, M. Thomas. *The Common Task: A Theology of Christian Mission*
- Tiessen, Terrance. *Who Can Be Saved?*
- Tippett, Alan. *Introduction to Missiology*, pp. 6-96.
- Trueblood, Elton. *The Validity of the Christian Mission*, pp. 91-113.
- Van Engen, Charles. *Mission on the Way: Issues in Mission Theology*
- Yung, Hwa. *Mangoes or Bananas? The Quest for an Authentic Asian Christian Theology*
- Wagner, C. Peter. *Stop the World, I Want to Get On*, pp. 15-44.
- Winter, Ralph and Steven Hawthorne. *Perspectives on the World Christian Movement*, pp. 3-127.