

86140 Theology of the Christian Mission

Wed, 11:30 AM - 2:20 PM

8/13/2007 - 12/7/2007

NRT 207

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I. Seminar Description

A study of the encounter between the missionary enterprise and the church and its theology. An effort will be made to develop a contemporary theology of mission.

II. Objectives

1. Identify and discuss the major issues and trends in the theology of mission from the early church until today.
2. Identify and discuss the developments that have been associated with the major world missions conferences of the twentieth century.
3. Become familiar with major publications in the area of the theology of mission during the latter half of the twentieth century.
4. Learn about the development and rise of various national and ethnic theologies of mission and evaluate them.
5. Identify and evaluate with historical insight present day approaches to the theology of missions.
6. Write an acceptable theology of missions in at least germinal form.

III. Textbooks

Bosch, David J. *Transforming Mission: Paradigm Shifts in Theology of Mission*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis, 1991. ISBN 0-88344-719-3

Fuller, Andrew. *The Gospel Worthy of All Acceptation*. 1786. The manuscript can be obtained at http://www.thebaptistpage.com/Reading/Gospel_Fuller/Gospel01.htm

Levison, John R. and Priscilla Pope-Levison. *Jesus In Global Contexts*. Louisville, KY: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1992. ISBN 0-664-25165-X

Platinga, Richard J. *Christianity and Plurality: Classic and Contemporary Readings*. Malden, MA: Blackwell, 1999. ISBN 0-631-20915-8

Samuel, Vinay and Chris Sugden, eds.. *Mission as Transformation: A Theology of the Whole Gospel*. Irvine, CA: Regnum Books International, 1999. ISBN 1-870-34513-4.

Thomas, Norman E., ed. *Classic Texts in Mission & World Christianity: A Reader's Companion to David Bosch's Transforming Mission*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis, 1995. ISBN 1-57075-006-8

Van Engen, Charles. *Mission on the Way: Issues in Mission Theology*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 1996. ISBN 0-8010-2090-5

Wright, J. H. *The Mission of God*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2006.

III. Seminar Requirements. The assignments for this course are explained below. The schedule of due dates and presentations will be determined during our first class meeting.

IMPORTANT: In order to ensure full class participation, any student with a disabling condition requiring special accommodations (e.g., tape recorder, special adaptive equipment, special note-taking or test-taking needs, etc.) is strongly encouraged to contact the professor at the beginning of the course.

1. Each student will read the textbooks in their entirety and prepare a one-page overview of each book (except the Levisons' *Jesus in Global Contexts* – see #3 below), which will consist of a one paragraph annotation of the book and a brief explanation of the book's value for missions.
2. Three students will lead discussions of the major sections in Bosch's *Transforming Mission*. Two students will be assigned to each of the remaining textbooks, with one student presenting the merits of the book and the other presenting the weaknesses of the book.
3. Each student will read John R. Levison and Priscilla Pope-Levison's *Jesus In Global Contexts* and prepare a full, formal review of the book. Guidelines for the review are affixed to the end of this syllabus. DUE OCT. 3
4. Throughout history, the churches has confronted and debated various theological issues as they have touched upon the missionary enterprise. From the list below (or, you may suggest a topic of your own choosing and obtain the professor's permission to write on that topic), each student will choose a topic and prepare a twenty to twenty five page paper that a) from history, outlines the major views concerning that issue, b) explains the significance of that issue for missions and c) describes the current trends of missiological thought and practice related to the issue.

Each student will email an Adobe Acrobat .pdf file of the completed paper to the professor by the Wednesday morning the week prior to the class presentation. These files will be uploaded onto Ecampus, where they will be available for the seminar participants to read in preparation for the following week.

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| 1) Creation | 3) The Bible and Missions |
| 2) Imago Dei | 4) God |

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| 5) The Kingdom of God | 11) Divine Sovereignty & Human Responsibility |
| 6) The Church | 12) Evangelism and Missions |
| 7) Sin and Redemption | 13) Eschatology & Missions |
| 8) Holistic Ministry | 14) The Contextualization of Theology |
| 9) Justice | 15) Theology of Missions Leadership |
| 10) Exclusivity of the Gospel (or, Christianity & Its Relationship to Other Religions) | 16) Culture and the Bible |

5. Articles on selected topics will be uploaded to Ecampus throughout the semester, and these will be read in preparation for class discussions. No written assignments are given in connection with these articles, but you are expected to read them prior to class and be able to respond to questions in class and to discuss the issues presented in the articles.
6. Class participation. Because each student has insight to offer from his/her ministry context and experience, students are expected to participate fully in seminar discussions. The professor reserves the right to ask questions of each student in order to facilitate discussion.
7. A one to two hour final exam will be written by each student. You will compose a personal theology of missions for which you are expected to draw from your readings and research for the seminar, while demonstrating your own understanding of the encounter between the missionary enterprise and the church and its theology. You may take the paper in any direction you wish, but ultimately you are providing your understanding of the place of theology in contemporary missions. Additional discussion and direction for the exam will be given during the seminar.

IV. Grading. The student's final grade for the course will be determined according to the following:

Book overviews	20%
Review of <i>Jesus in Global Contexts</i>	20%
Topical paper	20%
Class participation/discussion	20%
Final exam	20%
	100%

NOTE: According to seminary policy, a student must receive a final grade of B- or above in order to receive credit for this seminar.

IV. Course Schedule

See the attached schedule, which will be revised and completed during the first class meeting.

Disclaimer: This syllabus is intended to reflect accurately the course description, course objectives, general content, grading criteria, course requirements, attendance requirements, and other information necessary for students to appraise the course. However, the instructor reserves the right to modify any portion of this syllabus as may appear necessary because of changed events and circumstances.

DATE	TOPIC	PRESENTER / FACILITATOR	ADDITIONAL READINGS
Aug. 15	Introduction to and organization of the seminar	Dr. Martin	
Aug. 22	Bosch: Intro & Pt. 1 (*with reflection on corresponding materials in Thomas)		
Aug. 29	Bosch: Pt. 2 (*with reflection on corresponding materials in Thomas)		
Sept. 5	Bosch: Pt. 3 (*with reflection on corresponding materials in Thomas)		
Sept. 12	Wright, <i>The Mission of God</i> Andrew Fuller, <i>The Gospel Worthy of All Acceptation</i>		
Sept. 19	Samuel & Sugden, <i>Mission as Transformation</i> Platinga, <i>Christianity and Plurality</i>		
Sept. 24-28	Fall Reading Days		
Oct. 3	Levisons, <i>Jesus in Global Contexts</i> Van Engen, <i>Mission on the Way</i>		
Oct. 10	Panel Discussion		
Oct. 17	Paper #1		
Oct. 24	Paper #2		
Oct. 31	Paper #3		
Nov. 7	Paper #4		
Nov. 14	Paper #5		
Nov. 28	FINAL EXAM		