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MI 600 History of the Christian Movement

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MI 600. HISTORY OF THE CHRISTIAN MOVEMENT
MI 700. HISTORY OF CHRISTIAN MISSION

DESCRIPTION
A survey of the expansion of the Christian Faith from its beginnings to the present time. Gives attention to emerging factors and themes contributing to advance or decline at key historical junctures and assesses the present state of Christianity in its worldwide spread.

OBJECTIVE
The principal objective of this course is to give a broad understanding of the story of the church's missionary self-understanding and practice, and to assist in identifying issues which have continuing missiological relevance. The course traces the growth of the church with particular attention to the crossing of cultural barriers and adaptation to various social-cultural contexts.

STRUCTURE OF COURSE
We will follow the schedule indicated below. The readings will give a fairly comprehensive overview of the subject matter. Class sessions will focus on a series of missiological issues, viewed historically, and on topics which are important in their own right and which illustrate issues, dynamics, and practical questions in mission.

Class sessions will be conducted as a graduate seminar. Students will be expected to contribute to our shared learnings based upon their readings, research, and experience. In addition, each student will prepare one major research paper during the semester, and some of this research will be shared as class presentations.

TEXTS

RECOMMENDED [One copy on reserve, also]

COURSE EXPECTATIONS
The course has four major components: Reading, class participation, a major research project, and a brief summary paper (which functions as the final exam). There will also be a mid-term exam on Oct. 27. The expectations are as follows —

**MI 600**

1. Participate in all class sessions, seeking to advance the learning of others as well as yourself. *Come to each class prepared to share information and insights from your reading.*

2. Complete the reading of at least 1,000 pages from the assigned texts. Consult the assignments for each week, and turn in weekly a Reading Interaction Form. (One copy of this form is included at the end of this syllabus. You may photocopy this or duplicate it on your computer.)

   Usually readings will be discussed in class, and students will be expected to have read and studied the required assigned readings before class. Please note that the required reading is a bit heavier during the second half of the course than the first, so you may want to read ahead and then review later. (Recommended readings are optional.)

3. Attend at least three sessions of Kingdom Conference (Oct. 17–21) and be prepared to discuss those sessions in class.

4. Research Project: Each student will complete a major research project on a topic in the history of Christian mission. You may choose one of the topics listed on the schedule, or request another topic of your own choosing. Some of the listed topics indicate fairly broad areas, and would need further limitation. The project should focus especially and specifically on missiological issues.

   The research project should be submitted to the professor in the form of a research paper (with references and bibliography). Research papers are due Dec. 8, but may be submitted earlier. This paper should be in the range of 15–20 pages, approximately. (If you would like to make a class presentation [15–20 min. summary] of your research, please contact the professor.)

5. Write a 5–6 page summary or overview of the history of the Christian world mission. The objective here is synthesis: How would you tell the story of the Christian world mission in a very few pages? This paper will function as the final examination. Due Dec. 15.

**MI 700**

1. Participate in all class sessions, seeking to advance the learning of others as well as yourself. *Come to each class prepared to share information and insights from your reading.*

2. Complete all the assigned readings (approx. 1,400 pp.). Consult the assignments for each week, and turn in weekly a Reading Interaction Form. (One copy of this form is included at the end of this syllabus. You may photocopy this or duplicate it on your computer.)

   Usually readings will be discussed in class, and students will be expected to have read and studied the assigned readings before class. Please note that the required reading is a bit heavier during the second half of the course than the first, so you may want to read ahead and then review later. (Recommended readings are optional.)

3. Attend at least three sessions of Kingdom Conference (Oct. 17–21) and be prepared to discuss those sessions in class.

4. Research Project: Each student will complete a major research project which may also be presented in summary form in class (15 to 20-minute presentation—this is optional and does not affect grade). You may choose one of the topics listed on the schedule, or request another topic in place of one of those listed. Some of the listed topics indicate fairly broad areas, and would need further limitation. The project should focus especially and specifically on missiological issues.

   The research project should be submitted to the professor in the form of a research paper (with references and bibliography). Research papers are due Dec. 8, but may be submitted
earlier. This paper should be in the range of 20-30 pages, approximately.

5. Write a 6–8 page summary or overview of the history of the Christian world mission. The objective here is synthesis: How would you tell the story of the Christian world mission in a very few pages? This paper will function as the final examination. Due Dec. 15.

POSSIBLE RESEARCH TOPICS

In addition to the topics suggested in the schedule, the following would be acceptable topics for the research project:

- Music (or art) as a factor in mission
- Anabaptism as a missionary movement
- Pentecostals in Latin America
- Early 20th-century revival in Korea
- The Crusades
- The “Reducciones”: Jesuit communities in Latin America
- The birth of the church in [a particular country or people group]
- Revivals as a factor in mission
- Early Methodist missions (Britain or U.S.)
- The Student Volunteer Movement
- Youth With A Mission (YWAM) (or another specific mission)
- Biographical study of a particular missionary

GUIDELINES FOR RESEARCH PAPER

1. You may use either the anthropological style (recommended by the ESJ School) or the Chicago/Turabian style, but be consistent. The paper must be typed or computer-printed, and should include appropriate documentation of sources cited or consulted. (See “Academic Writing in the ESJ School,” available as a hand-out from the ESJ School Office.)

2. Attach a title page giving the paper’s title, your name, course name and number, professor’s name, and date. Staple in upper left-hand corner. Please do not use a cover or binder. (I may later request a second clean copy of your paper for my files.)

3. Follow the syllabus guidelines as to the length of the paper. The grade will depend on the content, development of the argument, proper form and style, and evidence of adequate research—not on length.

4. The paper should contain no spelling errors. Use a spell-checker.

5. Students for whom English is not their natural language may want to get editorial assistance. I will evaluate only the final product. Correct English tends to have a favorable influence on grade.

Papers that do not conform to these guidelines may be returned for correction and revision.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

See the current seminary Catalog, p. 25. Attendance will be taken at each class. Each morning’s classes count as two sessions. More than three unexcused absences will result in lowering the grade by one letter. Three unexcused tardies are considered to be equivalent to one unexcused absence.

EVALUATION

In grading, the course components will be weighted approximately as follows: Class participation, including input from readings (20%), mid-term exam (20%), research project (40%), final synthesis paper (20%).
SCHEDULE & ASSIGNED READING
(To be revised after student presentations are determined)

SEPT. 8 - 8:00-9:15 - INTRODUCTION / OVERVIEW
9:30-10:45 - THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH AND MISSION
Readings: Neill, 13–23
Stark, 3–29
Recommended: Moffett, xiii–44
Mission Legacies, 373–82
Irvin & Sunquist, 1–46
NOTE: Complete the above readings by Sept. 15.

SEPT. 15 - 8:00-9:15 - THE EARLY CENTURIES
9:30-10:45 - EUSEBIUS AND THE EARLY HISTORY OF CHRISTIANITY
Readings: Neill, 24–52
Stark, 29–49
Tucker, 13–43
Recommended: Perspectives, 195–230
Mission Legacies, 383–90
Irvin & Sunquist, 47–97
Moffett, 45–147

SEPT. 22 - 8:00-9:15 - ROMAN & MEDIEVAL MISSIONS
9:30-10:45 - Case Study: THE CRUSADES
Video: “The Crusades”
Readings: Tucker, 44–70
Neill, 53–119
Stark, 49–73
Recommended: Perspectives, 231–73
Mission Legacies, 416–27, 445–51
Irvin & Sunquist, 99–380
Moffett, 168–469

SEPT. 29 - 8:00-9:15 - THE AGE OF DISCOVERY, 1500-1600
9:30-10:45 - Research Report: THE NESTORIAN MISSION IN CHINA
[or: CHRISTIANITY IN NORTH AFRICA]
Presenter:
Readings: Neill, 120–50
Stark, 73–95
Seamands, Pioneers, 7–36
Recommended: Irvin & Sunquist, 383–504
Mission Legacies, 508–15
Moffett, 470–512

OCT. 6 - 8:00-9:15 - ROMAN CATHOLIC & EARLY PROTESTANT MISSIONS, 1600-1787
Presenter:
Readings: Neill, 151–204
Tucker, 71–113
Seamands, Pioneers, 37–51
Recommended: Perspectives, 274–76
Mission Legacies, 3–10, 55–61

OCT. 13 - 8:00-9:15 - NEW BEGINNINGS EAST AND WEST, 1600-1800
9:30-10:45 - THE RISE OF PROTESTANT MISSIONS, 1792-1858
Video: “Stanley and Livingstone” (50 min.)
Readings: Neill, 207–72
Tucker, 117–46
Seamands, Pioneers, 52–67

Recommended: Perspectives, 277–99
Mission Legacies, 245–54, 264–70
Fiedler, 9–31

OCT. 20 - 8:00-9:15 - MISSIONS IN THE COLONIAL ERA, 1858-1914
9:30-10:45 - Research Report: THOMAS COKE [or: WILLIAM TAYLOR]
Presenter:

Readings: Neill, 273–334
Tucker, 147–232
Stark, 95–129

Recommended: Perspectives, 300–08
Fiedler, 32–69, 169–246

Steven O’Malley, “The Role of African Americans in the
Millennial Vision of the United Brethren in Christ: The Case of
Joseph and Mary Gomer” (on reserve).

OCT. 27 - 8:00-10:00 - MID-TERM EXAM

NOV. 3 - 8:00-9:15 - ROME, THE ORTHODOX, AND THE WORLD, 1815-1914
9:30-10:45 - Research Report: THE JESUITS
[or: ORTHODOX MISSIONS, 19th CENTURY]
Presenter:

Readings: Neill, 335–79
Seamands, Pioneers, 69–82
Stark, 129–63

Recommended: Mission Legacies, 102–09, 232–41, 277–82

NOV. 10 - 8:00-9:15 - FROM MISSION TO CHURCH
9:30-10:45 - Research Report: THE RISE OF THE ECUMENICAL MOVEMENT
Presenter:

Readings: Neill, 380–413
Tucker, 233–311
Seamands, Pioneers, 83–127

Recommended: Perspectives, 309–22
Mission Legacies, 18–27, 71–84, 117–22
Fiedler, 70–111

NOV. 17 - 8:00-9:15 - SPECIALIZATION IN MISSION
9:30-10:45 - Research Report: METHODISM AS A MISSIONARY MOVEMENT
[or: E. STANLEY JONES]
Presenter:

Readings: Tucker, 312–391
Stark, 163–217
Seamands, Pioneers, 129–62

Recommended: Perspectives, 323–68
Fiedler, 112–68

NOV. 24 - [NO CLASS – READING WEEK]

DEC. 1 - 8:00-9:15 - THE GLOBALIZATION OF MISSION
9:30-10:45 - Research Report: THE RISE OF “TWO-THIRDS WORLD” MISSION
SOCIETIES

Presenter:

Readings: Neill, 414–72
Tucker, 395–457
Seamands, Pioneers, 163–99

Recommended: Perspectives, 323–68
Fiedler, 247–91

DEC. 8 - 8:00-9:15 - Case Study: AFRICAN INDIGNEOUS CHURCHES
             Video: “Zulu Zion”
9:30-10:45 - THE NEW AGE OF MISSIONS

Readings: Neill, 473–99
Tucker, 458–82
Seamands, Pioneers, 201–14

Recommended: Perspectives, 369–70; Fiedler, 319–91
MI600/700                      History of Christian Mission                        Fall, 2003

Reading Interaction Form

Name__________________________________________________ Date______________

Assigned Reading__________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

What were your major learnings from this material?  (List up to 5)

1. 

2. 

3. 

4. 

5. 

What questions would you like to raise for class discussion?

1. 

2. 

What are some of the missiological implications of this material?

1. 

2. 

3. 

What issues or concerns for further study and reflection arise from this reading? (Optional)
SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY – History of Christian Mission


JOURNALS:

Church History: Studies in Christianity and Culture

Evangelical Missions Quarterly

International Bulletin of Missionary Research

International Review of Mission

Missionalia

Missiology

Mission Studies