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MI 600 History of the Christian Movement

Howard A. Snyder

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Asbury Theological Seminary
Fall Semester, 2002
Thursdays, 8:00-10:45 a.m. – SH404

Professor Howard A. Snyder
Office: MC310 - Ext. 2262
Home: 858-8964

[Syllabus available also on the Seminary Network as: MI600/700 - F02]

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 [One copy on reserve, also]

Anderson, Gerald H., Robert Coote, Norman Horner, and James Phillips, eds. *Mission Legacies: Biographical Studies of Leaders of the Modern Missionary Movement*. Orbis, 1994.

Neill, Stephen. *A History of Christian Missions*. Rev. ed. New York: Penguin, 1986.

Tucker, Ruth A. *From Jerusalem to Irian Jaya: A Biographical History of Christian Missions*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1983.

Mission Frontiers (April, 2000) will also be used as a resource because of several articles it contains. Free copies will be distributed early in the semester.

RECOMMENDED [One copy on reserve, also]

Fiedler, Klaus. *The Story of Faith Missions*. Oxford, UK: Regnum Books, 1994.

Moffett, Samuel H. *History of Christianity in Asia*, vol. 1 (Rev. ed.). Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 1998.

Winter, Ralph D., and Steven C. Hawthorne, eds. *Perspectives on the World Christian Movement*. 3rd ed. Pasadena, CA: William Carey Library, 1999. "The Historical Perspective," pp. 195-370.

Stark, Rodney. *The Rise of Christianity: A Sociologist Reconsiders History*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1996.

Irvin, Dale T., and Scott W. Sunquist. *History of the World Christian Movement, Vol. 1, Earliest Christianity to 1453*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis, 2001.

Tucker, Ruth. *Guardians of the Great Commission: The Story of Women in Modern Missions*.

Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1988. [This book is out of print, but is worth acquiring if you find a copy.]

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. 17. 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 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. 22-25) 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. 5, but may be submitted earlier. This paper should be in the range of 15-20 pages, approximately.

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. 12.

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. 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 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. 22-25) and be prepared to discuss those sessions in class.

4. Research Project: Each student will complete a major research project which will be presented in summary form in class (20-minute presentation). 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. 5, 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. 12.

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, and evidence of adequate research, not 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. 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. 5** - 8:00-9:15 - INTRODUCTION / OVERVIEW
 9:30-10:45 - THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH AND MISSION
Readings: Neill, 13-23
 Tucker, 15-24
 Mission Legacies, 373-82
Recommended: Moffett, xiii-44
 Irvin & Sunquist, 1-46
 NOTE: Complete the above readings by Sept. 10.
- SEPT. 12** - 8:00-9:15 - THE EARLY CENTURIES
 9:30-10:45 - EUSEBIUS AND THE EARLY HISTORY OF CHRISTIANITY
Readings: Neill, 24-52
 Tucker, 25-42
 Mission Legacies, 383-90
Recommended: *Perspectives*, 195-230
 Irvin & Sunquist, 47-97
 Moffett, 45-147
 Stark, chapters 1-4
- SEPT. 19** - 8:00-9:15 - ROMAN MISSIONS
 9:30-10:45 - HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVES ON CHRISTIAN MISSION
Readings: Tucker, 43-66
 Neill, 53-84
 Mission Legacies, 416-27
Recommended: *Perspectives*, 231-61
 Irvin & Sunquist, 99-254
 Moffett, 168-373
 Stark, chapters 5-7
- SEPT. 26** - 8:00-9:15 - MEDIEVAL MISSIONS
 9:30-10:45 - Case Study: THE CRUSADES
Video: "The Crusades"
Readings: Neill, 85-119
 Mission Legacies, 445-51
Recommended: Moffett, 374-469
 Perspectives, 262-73
 Irvin & Sunquist, 257-380
 Stark, chapters 8-10
- OCT. 3** - 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
 Mission Legacies, 508-15
Recommended: Irvin & Sunquist, 383-504
 Moffett, 470-512
- OCT. 10** - 8:00-9:15 - ROMAN CATHOLIC & EARLY PROTESTANT MISSIONS, 1600-1787
 9:30-10:45 - Research Report: VLADIMIR AND THE CHRISTIANIZATION OF
 RUSSIA [or: THE ANABAPTISTS AND MISSION]
Presenter:

Readings: Neill, 151-204
 Tucker, 67-104
Mission Legacies, 3-10, 55-61
Recommended: *Perspectives*, 274-76

OCT. 17 - 8:00-9:15 - MID-TERM EXAM
 9:30-10:45 - NEW BEGINNINGS EAST AND WEST, 1600-1800
 (Discussion of Neil, 179-204; Tucker, 67-104)

OCT. 24 - 8:00-9:15 - THE RISE OF PROTESTANT MISSIONS, 1792-1858
Video: "Stanley and Livingstone" (50 min.)
 9:30-10:45 - Research Report: THE FIRST PIETIST AND MORAVIAN MISSIONS
 [or: CHRISTIANS, JEWS, AND MUSLIMS IN MEDIEVAL SPAIN]
Presenter:
Readings: Neill, 207-72
 Tucker, 109-37
Mission Legacies, 245-54, 264-70
Recommended: *Perspectives*, 277-99
 Fiedler, 9-31

OCT. 31 - 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, 139-224
Mission Legacies, 28-47, 62-70, 140-47, 190-215,
 461-68, 541-53
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).

NOV. 7 - 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
Mission Legacies, 102-09, 232-41, 277-82

NOV. 14 - 8:00-9:15 - FROM MISSION TO CHURCH
 9:30-10:45 - Research Report: THE RISE OF THE ECUMENICAL MOVEMENT
 [or: THE GROWTH OF "THIRD WORLD" MISSIONS]
Presenter:
Readings: Neill, 380-413
 Tucker, 227-319
Mission Legacies, 18-27, 71-84, 117-22
Recommended: *Perspectives*, 309-22
 Fiedler, 70-111

- NOV. 21 - 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, 323-410
Mission Legacies, 173-80, 307-15, 339-54, 500-07
Recommended: *Perspectives*, 323-68
 Fiedler, 112-68
- DEC. 5 - 8:00-9:15 - Case Study: AFRICAN INDIGNEOUS CHURCHES
Video: "Zulu Zion"
 9:30-10:45 - THE NEW AGE OF MISSIONS
Readings: Neill, 414-78
 Tucker, 413-90
Mission Legacies, 290-96, 516-22, 532-38, 570-80,
 591-601, 616-23
Recommended: *Perspectives*, 369-70; Fiedler, 247-91, 319-91

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

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

What are some of the missiological implications of this material?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

What issues or concerns for further study and reflection arise from this reading?
(Optional)