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MW 780 Comparative Missiology

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ASBURY THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
Fall 2005

MW780 Comparative Missiology

Thursday, 6:00 – 9:00 pm

Room:

Instructor: Terry C. Muck

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Office Hours: Wednesday 2:00 – 4:00 or by appointment

Required Texts:

Hitchcock, Susan. Geography of Religion. Washington: National Geographic, 2004.

Montgomery, Robert. The Diffusion of Religions: A Sociological Perspective.

NY: University Press of America, 1996.

Park, Chris C. Sacred Worlds: An Introduction to Geography and Religion.

London: Routledge, 1994.

Smart, Ninian, ed. Atlas of the World's Religions. Oxford, 1999.

Readings as assigned by instructor

Requirements:

1. Attendance and participation in all classes.
2. Reading of assigned texts and articles.
3. Lead one (1), one-hour discussion of week's assigned readings.
4. Write a five-page reader response paper on Chris Park's book, Sacred Worlds. Due December 1.
5. Write a five-page paper on the self-advocacy role of each religion or religious group discussed: Hinduism, Buddhism, Chinese religions, Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Indigenous religions, New religious movements, Atheism/secularism. Due at the class time of each group discussed.
6. Final take home exam to be scheduled.

Description:

This course examines how the religions of the world self-advocate, that is, attempt to promote themselves to their children and to those in other religious traditions and to those with no religion. Nine different religions or religious categories will be examined: Hinduism, Buddhism, Chinese religions, Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Indigenous religions, New religious movements, Atheism/secularism. After a study of these religions and how they "do mission/evangelism," students will then consider the Christian missiological implications of the way other religions are promoting themselves in the world today.

Course Objectives:

1. Students will be able to write 300 word summaries of the way each of the nine religious traditions studied during the semester promote themselves to non-adherents.
2. Students will be able to do field research into a religion's worship practice and behavior.
3. Students will be able to compare and contrast the way Christians do mission with the way other religious traditions do mission.
4. Students will be able to devise mission strategies to other religions depending on the nature of the competition in discrete contexts.