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MI 610 introduction to Christian Mission

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MI 610-Introduction to Christian Mission

DESCRIPTION

A survey of the biblical, theological, historical, strategic and socio-cultural issues related to the World Christian Movement and its progress through time and space. Drawing upon insights from a number of fields including theology, history and the social sciences the course provides a distinctive missiological framework for understanding the nature of the Christian mission, its growth and the role of individual Christians. The course material is structured around four vantage points, or "perspectives".

The Biblical Perspective exploring God's abiding purpose revealed throughout the Bible as God's people participate with God in bringing redemption to all of the peoples of the earth.

The Historical Perspective examining the progress and continuity of the Christian Movement in world history. An analysis of various strategies and notable figures sheds light on the remaining task of world evangelization.

The Cultural Perspective pinpoints crucial issues of cross-cultural communication and service, incarnational ministry and contextualization with emphasis on a biblical understanding of cultural issues and the missionary task.

The Strategic Perspective offering guidelines for an overall approach to advancing the Christian mission among the world's peoples as well as strategies for evangelism, church planting, relief and development work, missionary recruitment and training, resource mobilization, and prayer.

A unique feature of the course is its use of a variety of lecturers representing a wide range of field experience, mission leadership and academic expertise from a number of denominational points of view. In addition, the texts and study materials provide a comprehensive survey of the entire subject of Christian mission and opportunity for personal reflection and advancement in missionary commitment.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. To introduce students to the major themes and ideas of mission studies, to acquaint them with the major figures and literature in the field, and to prepare them for subsequent studies in a number of missiological disciplines.
2. To confront students with the missionary calling that is an integral part of the life and faith of all Christians regardless their respective fields of ministry, and to challenge them to informed, life-long participation in God's mission to the world.

COURSE HISTORY

Although this is an ATS course, it is incorporated within an international study program called "Perspectives on the World Christian Mission." Initially offered in 1974 "Perspectives" was developed by Dr. Ralph D. Winter, one of the most influential mission scholars of our generation. It is administered through the Institute for International Studies (IIS) located at the United States Center for World Mission in Pasadena, CA. Since 1974, over 46,000 students have taken the course in the United States and around the world. It is offered annually in more than 100 locations. More than 125,000 copies of the Perspectives Reader are in print in English, Spanish and Portuguese with over 100 colleges and seminaries in the United States using it as a text. It is by far the largest course of its kind in the world.

This is the eighth year that "Perspectives" has been offered in Lexington, Kentucky in conjunction with the Perspectives Study Program and ATS. Hundreds of participants from several academic institutions as well as many area churches have taken the course and affirm its life-changing impact. In order to facilitate interactions among seminary students and those preparing for missionary service and support ministries within their churches, the course is offered where it can be made most accessible-in area churches rather than on the ATS campus. Separate academic, non-academic and audit tracks are available to meet the various needs of a wide range of students.

TEXTBOOKS


COURSE ORIENTATION AND OVERVIEW

Date and time: February 3, 2003 from 6.30 to 9.00- Dinner and child-care provided.
Location: Immanuel Baptist Church (Fellowship Hall)

Because of the distinctive nature of this course-i.e., it covers a wide range of subjects, and that it mixes together people from a number of seminary and non-seminary backgrounds-we have found it helpful to provide a course orientation prior to the first class meeting. Students will be introduced to each other and to the course staff, course content, materials and expectations. A special presentation on the nature of cross-cultural ministry and the unique role of each Christian will introduce the major themes of
the course. Attendance is encouraged though it is not mandatory. Keep in mind, however, that the first homework assignment is due on the first day of class.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Homework assignments (15)</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm and final exams</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Integrative project</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<td></td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Attendance at all class sessions. Completion of all reading assignments, weekly homework, projects, and exams.

1. **Attendance**: Since the class meets only once a week and features a different speaker, attendance is extremely important. Please make it a matter of prayer and personal discipline to attend each session and to be on time. If more than two classes are missed without an approved excuse the grade may be lowered. Attendance will be recorded on a sign-up sheet, Each student is responsible for signing the attendance sheet at each session.

2. **Homework**: Weekly questions are located in the Study Guide and are to be turned-in at the beginning of each class session as indicated on the schedule. In addition, five "personal response" pages are located in the back of the Study Guide and are to be filled-out following completion of designated sections of the material (see the schedule). Weekly assignments may be completed "open book." There will be a 10% penalty (minimum 1 point) per week for late work,

3. **Exams**: Midterm and final exams are take-home, closed book and subject to a time limit. Students are expected to honor the exam guidelines. A review sheet will be provided for exam preparation.

4. **Project**: Each student is required to complete one integrative project from a list of topics to be provided. Papers shall be a minimum of 16 pages of text, typed and double spaced, plus illustrations, charts, graphs, etc. as may be relevant to the project. Details of the project requirements will be provided on the first day of class, late work will be penalized by a minimum of 1/2 of the grade.

CLASS LOCATIONS AND TIME

Please note that the Course meets in three different sections (Sunday evening, Monday morning and Monday evening) in three separate off-campus locations. Select the time and location that best fits your schedule.

Section A: Northeast Christian Church
Sunday evenings: 5:30 to 8:30
Section B: Hill 'n Dale Christian Church
Monday mornings: 9:00 to 12:00

Section C: Immanuel Baptist Church
Monday evenings: 6:30 to 9:30

COURSE STAFF

To ensure consistency and accuracy the course is administered by a team of individuals representing both ATS and the Perspectives Study Program, all of whom have taken the course and are intimately familiar with its requirements" Effective communication between the students and staff is very important" While every team member may not be present for every class, enough will be present to address any questions, comments, suggestions, problems, etc" that you may have" Feel free to contact any of the staff by phone if necessary"

ATS course instructor:   Greg Leffel  Phone: 858-8005
Perspectives Study Program coordinator: Pete McLain  Phone: 881-0018

Sunday evening class team:

Coordinators:    John Meadows Phone:  223-4317
Prayer coordinators:    TBA    Phone:
Graders:       TBA    Phone:

Monday morning class team:

Coordinators:    Dave Tremble Phone:  881-9010
Prayer coordinators:    TBA    Phone:
Graders:       TBA    Phone:

Monday evening class team:

Coordinators:    Sherry and Geoff Maddock Phone:  223-4317
Prayer coordinators:    TBA    Phone:
Graders:       TBA    Phone:
SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNMENTS DUE

FEB. 3   COURSE ORIENTATION AND OVERVIEW  
         Location: see above

FEB. 9/10 THE LIVING GOD IS A MISSIONARY GOD  
         Instructor: Ron Pearce,  
         Canadian Director, World Serve  
         Study Guide: Lesson 1

FEB. 16/17 THE STORY OF HIS GLORY  
         Instructor: Mary Fisher, Asbury Theological Seminary  
         Study Guide: Lesson 2

FEB. 23/24 YOUR KINGDOM COME  
         Instructor: Dow Robinson, American Center for Theological Studies  
         Study Guide: Lesson 3  
         Integrative Project Topic Selected

MAR. 2/3 MANDATE FOR THE NATIONS  
         Instructor: Joel B. Green, Asbury Theological Seminary  
         Study Guide: Lessons 4 and 5

MAR. 9/10 THE EXPANSION OF THE WORLD CHRISTIAN MOVEMENT  
         Instructor: Steve Bevans, Catholic Theological Union  
         Study Guide: Lesson 6  
         Personal Response 1

MAR. 16/17 ERAS OF MISSION HISTORY  
         Instructor: Howard A. Snyder, Asbury Theological Seminary  
         Study Guide: Lessons 7 and 8  
         Exam 1 Assigned

MAR. 23/24 THE TASK REMAINING  
         Instructor: Derwood Snead, Northpoint Community Church, Atlanta  
         Study Guide: Lesson 9  
         Personal Response 2  
         Exam 1 Due

MAR. 29 SATURDAY SESSION: MISSION AND DEVELOPMENT  
         Time and Location: TBA

MAR. 30/31 HOW SHALL THEY HEAR?  
         Instructor: Darrell Whiteman, Asbury Theological Seminary  
         Study Guide: Lesson 10
Personal Response 3

APR. 6/7  READING WEEK – NO CLASS

APR. 13/14  BUILDING BRIDGES OF LOVE
Instructor: Larry Ragan, Culture Link, North Metro Church, Atlanta
Study Guide: Lesson 11

APR. 20/21  CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
Instructor: Shane Claiborne, The Simple Way, Philadelphia
Study Guide: Lesson 12
Personal Response 4

APR. 27/28  THE SPONTANEOUS MULTIPLICATION OF CHURCHES
Instructor: John Chen, WorldServe Ministries, China
Study Guide: Lesson 13

MAY 4/5  PIONEER CHURCH PLANTING
Instructor: Simon Varghese, Pastor, Independent House Churches, Calicut, India
Study Guide: Lesson 14

MAY 11/12  WORLD CHRISTIAN PARTNERSHIP
Instructor: Amy Bardstat, YWAM
Study Guide: Lesson 15
Project Due
Exam 2 Assigned

MAY 18/19  CLASS WRAP-UP: SO WHAT? NOW WHAT?
Presentation and seminar
Personal Response 5
Exam 2 Due
SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY: MI 610/710

+/- 10 Titles per category

BIBLICAL AND THEOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVES

- Biblical theology
- Mission theology
- Missional ecclesiology
- Missiology/mission studies texts

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVES

- General histories
- Biographies
- Case studies

SOCIAL SCIENCE PERSPECTIVES

- Cultural anthropology
- Cross-cultural communication
- Sociology
- Sociology of religion/religious movements
- Globalization
- Case studies

STRATEGIC PERSPECTIVES

- Evangelism
- Pioneer church planting
- Tentmaking
- Short-term missions
- Partnerships
- Community development
- Urban mission