MI 630 730 Biblical Theology of Mission

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MI 630/730 Biblical Theology of Mission

Instructor: Lalsangkima Pachuau
Office: MC310 – Phone: (859) 858 2262
(Office Hours: Tuesdays: 1:30 – 4pm; Wednesdays: 9:30 – 11am or by appointment)
Teaching Intern: Philip Troutman

Description:
A study of principal texts in the Old and New Testaments dealing with mission, evangelism, discipling, and renewal, with attention to relevant scholarly debate regarding their significance. (catalog)

The study of principal texts is done both thematically and textually. Major biblical-theological themes of missiological importance are dealt with using scholarly approaches for their meaning and significance in the understanding and practice of Christian mission.

Objectives:
By the conclusion of the course, candidates are expected to be well-informed on biblical-theological issues surrounding Christian mission, and the meaning and significance of the entire biblical canon for the practice and understanding of Christian mission. They are expected to have learned and understood the various approaches and themes of biblical theology relating to the theory and practice of Christian mission and evangelism, and the main theology of mission of the different families of biblical texts especially the New Testament. They should be able to discern the strength and weakness of a theology of mission based on its biblical underpinnings, and be able conduct biblically-informed missiological studies and research. To these ends the course

- explores major biblical themes relating to mission
- introduce students to the problems and issues of as well as approaches to investigating the meaning of mission in the Bible
- analyzes the theology of mission of the different families of the books of the Bible.

Texts:

REQUIRED (may be added later)

Bible: NRSV or NIV
Course Packet (collection of articles and chapters from books and journals)


**ADDITIONAL REQUIRED TEXT FOR MI 730:**


**STRONGLY RECOMMENDED:**


**CONTENTS OF THE COURSE PACKET**

(Chapters of Books and Articles of journals):


**Requirements:**

**Class Participation:** 10% of the course aggregate.
- Regular attendance of all classes (lecture classes and Group Sessions) and active participation in Group Discussions.
- Reading of all the required texts.
- Readiness to lead each of the small group discussion.

**Papers:** 60%
- A critical and analytical review of a book, 6 to 7 pages for MI630 and 8 to 9 pages for MI730 candidates, to be selected from the accompanying bibliography, especially those marked with */asterisk, and approved by the instructor. **Due date: March 27, 2008 at 4.00 P.M.** (MI730 candidates will present their review in small group sessions). 20%
- Research Paper of candidate’s choice (approximately 15 pages for MI630 and 20 pages for MI730). **Due date: May 1, 2008 at 4.00 P.M.** 40%

**Final Exam** (details TBA), 30%.

**Evaluation:**
Grading will be based on the major course components, as follows:

- Class participation: 10%
- Book review, including oral presentation for MI 730 candidates: 20%
- Research Paper: 40%
- Final exam: 30%
- **Total:** 100%
**Course Grading:**
The unit of credit is a semester hour, which is defined as one hour of classroom work per week for one semester, or its equivalent. The 4.00 point system is used to compute grade point standing. The grading system is:

- **A 4.00** Exceptional work: surpassing, markedly outstanding achievement of course objectives.
- **B 3.00** Good work: strong, significant achievement of course objectives.
- **C 2.00** Acceptable work: basic, essential achievement of course objectives.
- **D 1.00** Marginal work: inadequate, minimal achievement of course objectives.
- **F 0** Unacceptable work: failure to achieve course objectives.

**Incomplete Work:**
The official end of each term is 4:00 p.m. on the last day of the examination schedule. This hour is the deadline for handing in all course work. Each instructor may set an earlier deadline for submission of any or all course work. The student must petition the faculty person involved and the student’s advisor for permission to receive an “I” at the end of the semester.

A grade of “I” denotes that the work of a course has not been completed due to an unavoidable emergency, which does not include delinquency or attending to church work or other employment. If the work of a course is incomplete at the end of a term without an emergency, a letter grade will be given based on the grades of work done, with incomplete work counted as “F.”

Incomplete grades shall be removed one calendar month prior to the close of the following semester unless an earlier date is designated by the Office of the Chief Academic Officer on the individual petition. If the work is not completed by the time designated, the “I” shall be changed to an “F” unless a passing grade can be given based on work already completed or unless special permission is granted by the Chief Academic Officer.

Professors are required to give either a grade or an “I,” if approved, to each student registered for credit in a course. Students with Incompletes in two or more classes will not be allowed to enroll in a new semester or term without permission from their Dean.
SCHEDULE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

Week 1
February 12, 2008 II Cor. 4:1-12.
Introduction to the Course
A historical survey of Bible and Mission
- Protestant Orthodoxy, Hyper-calvinism and the problem of mission in the Bible
- Biblical Studies’ emphasis on historical-critical method and the study of mission
- Bible and models of mission in modern missionary movement – Catholics and Protestants

February 14
1. Reading the Bible missiologically: The shift from biblical proof-texting to biblical theology of mission.
2. Approaches: Deductive and Inductive Readings
READING: Bosch, *Transforming*, 274-345 (esp. 284-313, 334-345);
Bosch, “Reflections on Biblical Models of Mission” (Packet)

Week 2
February 19 Exodus 19:1-6; Deut. 7.
Missionary Religion and Bible (Is the Biblical faith missionary?):
Universal Salvation of God and Particularity of faith
Problem of Election (OT) and Particularity of Jesus (NT)

Old Testament Theology of Mission
- Election and Mission: The centripetal mission of OT
READING: Newbigin, 1-18, 66-90.

Week 3
February 26 John 5: 19-24; Phil. 2:5-11.
Missio Dei and Christian Mission– the Biblical testimony, Theological Implications

February 28
Small Group Session: Themes (1) The problem of “election” and mission
(2) The meaning and implications of missio Dei
READING: Bosch, *Transforming*, 368-393.
Newbigin, 19-65.

Week 4
March 4 Mark 1:15
Kingdom of God and Christian Mission
March 8
Small Group Session: on Kingdom of God; details - TBA
Week 5
March 11 Acts 9 - 10
Conversion and Proselytism
March 13
Small Group Session: on Conversion and Proselytism; details - TBA

Week 6
March 18 Rom 1:16
Salvation and Christian Mission
March 20
Small Group Session: on Salvation; details - TBA
READING: Green, *Salvation*.

Week 7
Gospel and Culture – Biblical Testimony
March 27 **Review Paper Due at 4pm**
Small Group Session: (1) Gospel and Culture in Acts 15 and Paul’s Gal. 1-3; (2) Incarnation as a model of Indigenization, Inculturation & Contextualization.

Week 8
April 1 & 3 – Spring Reading Week: No Class

Week 9
April 8
Main OT themes and models of Mission
April 10
Small Group Session: on the OT and Mission; details - TBA

Week 10
April 15 Romans 15
Paul’s theology of mission
April 17
Small Group Session: on Paul’s theology of mission; details - TBA

Week 11
April 22 Matt. 28: 16-20
Mission in Matthew and Mark
April 24
Small Group Session: on the “commissionings” of the disciples by Jesus; details - TBA
READING: Köstenberger and O’Brien, 73-110.
Bosch, *Transforming*, 56-83.

Week 12
May 1 RESEARCH PAPER DUE AT 4PM
Small Group Session: on Luke’s conception and theology of mission; details - TBA
READING: Köstenberger and O’Brien, 111-160.
Bosch, *Transforming*, 84-122.

Week 13
May 6 John 3: 16-17; 20:21-23.
Johanine theology of mission
May 8
Small Group Session: on John’s theology of mission; details - TBA

May 13
Mission and People of Other Faiths
May 15
The General Epistles and Revelation
READING: Köstenberger and O’Brien, 227-250.
Newbigin, 160-189.

Week 14
May 19: Final Exam (details TBA)
Bibliography: Biblical Theology of Mission


Sheffield, Dan, ed. A Theology of Mission for Free Methodist World Missions. [Dept. of World Missions, Free Methodist Church of North America, 2003.]


