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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 beginning 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
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.
BV2070.P46.
COURSE EXPECTATIONS

The course has four major components: Class participation, reading, a major research project, and a brief summary paper (which functions as the final exam). There will also be a mid-term exam on Nov. 15. 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. (Two copies of this form are included at the end of this syllabus. You may copy more or duplicate it on your computer.) Usually readings will be discussed in class, and students will be expected to have read 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 and be prepared to critique 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. 6, 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. 13.

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. (Two copies of this form are included at the end of this syllabus. You may copy more or duplicate it on your computer.) Usually readings will be discussed in class, and students will be expected to have read 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 and be prepared to critique 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. 6, 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. 13.

POSSIBLE RESEARCH TOPICS

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

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. 13 - 2:25-3:40 - INTRODUCTION / OVERVIEW

3:50-5:05 - THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH AND MISSION
Readings: Neill, 13-23
          Tucker, 15-24
          Mission Legacies, 373-82
Recommended: Moffett, xiii-44

SEPT. 20 - 2:25-3:40 - THE EARLY CENTURIES

3:50-5:05 - Case Study: EUSEBIUS AND THE EARLY HISTORY OF CHRISTIANITY
Readings: Neill, 24-52
          Tucker, 25-42
          Mission Legacies, 383-90
Recommended: Perspectives, 195-230
              Moffett, 45-147

SEPT. 27 - 2:25-3:40 - ROMAN MISSIONS

3:50-5:05 - HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVES ON CHRISTIAN MISSION
Readings: Tucker, 43-66
          Neill, 53-84
          Mission Legacies, 416-27
Recommended: Perspectives, 231-61
              Moffett, 168-373

OCT. 4 - 2:25-3:40 - MEDIEVAL MISSIONS

3:50-5:05 - Case Study: THE CRUSADES
Video: “The Crusades”
Readings: Neill, 85-119
          Mission Legacies, 445-51
Recommended: Moffett, 374-469
              Perspectives, 262-73

OCT. 11 - 2:25-3:40 - THE AGE OF DISCOVERY, 1500-1600

3:50-5:05 - Research Report: THE NESTORIAN MISSION IN CHINA
            [or: CHRISTIANITY IN NORTH AFRICA]
Presenter:
Readings: Neill, 120-50
          Mission Legacies, 508-15
Recommended: Moffett, 470-512

OCT. 18 - 2:25-3:40 - ROMAN CATHOLIC MISSIONS, 1600-1787

            [or: VLADIMIR AND THE CHRISTIANIZATION OF RUSSIA]
Presenter:
Readings: Neill, 151-78
          Mission Legacies, 55-61

OCT. 25 - 2:25-3:40 - NEW BEGINNINGS EAST AND WEST, 1600-1800

[or: CHRISTIANS, JEWS, AND MUSLIMS IN MEDIEVAL SPAIN]
Presenter:
Readings: Neill, 179-204
Tucker, 67-105
Mission Legacies, 3-10
Recommended: Perspectives, 274-76

NOV. 1 -
2:25-3:40 - THE RISE OF PROTESTANT MISSIONS, 1792-1858

Presenter:
Readings: Neill, 207-72
Tucker, 109-37
Mission Legacies, 245-54, 264-70
Recommended: Perspectives, 277-99

NOV. 8 -
2:25-3:40 - MISSIONS IN THE COLONIAL ERA, 1858-1914

3:50-5:05 - Research Report: WILLIAM TAYLOR [or: THOMAS COKE]
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

NOV. 15 -

3:50-5:05 - MID-TERM EXAM
Readings: Neill, 335-79
Mission Legacies, 102-09, 232-41, 277-82

NOV. 29 -
2:25-3:40 - FROM MISSION TO CHURCH

[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

DEC. 6 -
2:25-3:40 - SPECIALIZATION IN MISSION

3:50-5:05 - Research Report: METHODISM AS A MISSIONARY MOVEMENT
[or: E. STANLEY JONES]
Presenter:
Readings: Tucker, 323-410
Recommended: Perspectives, 323-68

DEC. 13 -
2:25-3:40 - Case Study: AFRICAN INDIGNEOUS CHURCHES
Video: "Zulu Zion"

3:50-5:05 - 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
SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY -- History of Christian Mission


Brooke, Rosalind and Christopher.  *Popular Religion in the Middle Ages: Western Europe, 1000-1300.*


Danker, William J. *Profit for the Lord: Economic Activities in Moravian Missions and the Basel Mission


**JOURNALS:**

*Church History*

*Evangelical Missions Quarterly*

*International Bulletin of Missionary Research*

*International Review of Mission*

*Missiology*

*Mission Studies*
Name_________________________________  Date______________

Assigned Reading__________________________________________

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)