MI 760 Seminar In Mission History

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MI 760. SEMINAR IN MISSION HISTORY

DESCRIPTION

A seminar in which students conduct and share research in selected topics in mission history. Typically a particular issue forms the integrating focus of the course (such as mission structures, concepts of the church, theologies of mission, leadership development). Assigned readings which explore this issue historically supplement the students' particular research. The focus for this semester is ecclesiology — the concept of the church as found in a wide variety of mission contexts.

OBJECTIVES

1. To explore a range of concepts and models of the church.
2. To discern what ecclesiologies were operative in different mission contexts.
3. To illuminate mission history by examining it through the lens of ecclesiology.
4. To clarify the relationship between ecclesiology and mission.
5. To contribute to students' understanding of the church, expanding their range of images and models of the church.
6. To contribute to students' understanding and practice of a missional ecclesiology.

STRUCTURE OF COURSE

The class will be conducted as a graduate seminar. The assigned texts explore the church and its self-understanding in widely different contexts and thus provide both information and interpretive keys. This reading will be supplemented by students' focused research which will from time to time be reported in class. Student-selected research beginning with items listed in the bibliography will form a major part of the course.

TEXTS


We will use the books in the order they are listed.


COURSE EXPECTATIONS

1. Complete the assigned readings by the dates indicated. Take notes and be prepared to contribute significantly to class discussion.
2. Research the concept of the church in two different contexts, examining two or more specific churches, movements, or mission leaders. These two research reports (approx. 10 pages each) will be presented in class according to a schedule to be arranged.

3. Research and write a comparative study of the way the church was understood in two significantly different contexts. A research paper based on this investigation (approx. 20 pages) will be due on April 25. However, the major findings of your research will be presented in class in late March or April (Schedule to be determined).

POSSIBLE RESEARCH TOPICS AND COMPARISONS (Representative examples)

**Persons:**
- Pope Gregory the Great
- Augustine of Hippo
- Ignatius Loyola
- John de Nobili
- Count Zinzendorf
- Bartholomew Ziegenbalg
- Ida Scudder
- David Livingstone
- Jonathan Goforth
- J. Hudson Taylor
- J. Waskom Pickett
- William Taylor
- John R. Mott
- Gustav Warneck
- Francis of Assisi
- Gustavo Gutierrez
- Alan A. Tippett
- Arthur Tappan Pierson
- John Wimber
- Paul Cho
- George Müller
- St. Patrick
- Tertullian
- Matteo Ricci
- Bartholomew las Casas
- William Carey
- St. Vladimir
- Mary Slessor
- John Nevius
- Henry Venn
- Melvin Hodges
- Donald McGavran
- E. Stanley Jones
- Francis X. Ford
- Columba
- Thomas Coke
- Karl Barth
- J. H. Oldham
- A. B. Simpson
- Toyohiko Kagawa
- Watchman Nee
- Lesslie Newbigin

**Movements:** The origin of a particular mission society, order, or denomination in terms of its ecclesial self-understanding.

**Possible comparisons:**
- The Donatist Church and 20th-Cent. Pentecostalism
- Augustine of Hippo and Patrick of Ireland
- An African Independent Church and the Donatist Church
- Mennonites and Franciscans
- China Inland Mission and Maryknoll
- Anabaptists and Base Ecclesial Communities
- Youth With A Mission and the Jesuits

**ATTENDANCE POLICY:** See the current seminary Catalog, p. 21. 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 (30%), two research reports (30%), research paper (comparative study), (40%).
SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNED READING  [To be revised]

FEB. 8 - INTRODUCTION / OVERVIEW  
*Rise of Christianity*, Preface, chapter 1

FEB. 15 -  *Rise of Christianity*, chapters 2-5

FEB. 22 -  *Rise of Christianity*, chapters 6-7

FEB. 29 -  *Rise of Christianity*, chapters 8-10  
DISCUSSION OF RESEARCH

MAR. 7 -  *After Our Likeness*, Preface; pp. 1-25  
Recommended:  Dulles, *Models of the Church*, chapter 1  
Snyder, *Models of the Kingdom*, chapter 1  
Snyder, *Liberating the Church*, chapter 4

MAR. 14 -  *After Our Likeness*, pp. 29-72 (Chap. 1)

MAR. 21 -  DISCUSSION OF RESEARCH  
*After Our Likeness*, pp. 73-123 (Chap. 2)

MAR. 28 -  *After Our Likeness*, pp. 127-89 (Chaps. 3-4)

[APR. 3-7 - Reading Week]

APR. 11 -  *After Our Likeness*, pp. 191-282 (Chaps. 5-7)

APR. 18 -  DISCUSSION OF RESEARCH  
*Missional Church*, chapters 1-2

APR. 25 -  *Missional Church*, chapter 3-5

MAY 2 -  *Missional Church*, chapters 6-9

MAY 9 -  DISCUSSION OF RESEARCH  
SUMMARY / CONCLUSION
Bibliography - Seminar in Mission History - Spring, 2000


Callen, Barry L. *Choosing the Rule of God: The Believers Church Tradition in Christianity’s History.* [Forthcoming, 1999. Advance copy available from Prof. Snyder.]


Howard, David M. *Student Power in World Missions.* Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press,
1979.


Mott, John R. *The Evangelization of the World in This Generation.* 1901.


Mundadan, A. Mathias. *History of Christianity in India. Vol. 1, From the Beginning up to the Middle of the Sixteenth Century (up to 1542).* Bangalore: Theological Publications in India, 1984.


1975.


