MI 740 Introduction to Christian Mission

Ralph S. Yoder

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I. Course Title: MI 740 XL Introduction to Christian Mission
   Spring Semester 2004

II. Facilitator: Ralph S. Yoder, Jr.
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III. Course Description:
   An overview of the biblical, theological, historical, biographical, cultural, and strategic
   perspectives of the Christian World Mission seeking to highlight significant issues and
   missiological dynamics in mission today.

IV. Course Objectives
   This introductory course intends to give the students a base or launching point which not
   only generates further questions, interests, and enthusiasm but equips them with
   functional working knowledge, or more tools in whatever ministry or vocational tool
   chests they use. The course engages the biblical theological basis that all missionary
   activity originates with God’s love and yearning to reign over “the nations” from Babel to
   the demonstration nation of Israel, from the Exhilic periods to Pentecost, from Paul’s
   voyages to John’s revelation on the Isle of Patmos.

   This essential preliminary work then guides the course in examining the various mission
   theologies, the motives driving mission, and the contexts these theologies operate in.
   Students acquire further evaluative tools and will implement them when studying the
   history of Christian missions, with special focus on modern missions.

   The course turns to mission praxis, which look at the current mission climate, and the
   numerous challenges missionaries (and Christians) face as servants in God’s redeeming
   plan for “the nations.” In meeting those challenges, students will discover appropriate
   strategies that promote the spread of the gospel rather than hinder it.
Finally, the course will provide students the opportunity to evaluate actual missionary work by their biblical, theological, and practical aspects.

V. Course Methodology

The objectives will be achieved mainly through group discussion especially when dealing with the weightier a subject matter in the texts. Discussions will take place in the Collaborative Classroom several times during the week. Students will utilize the 4-MAT method when writing interaction papers. Both major exams will serve as summary means of the preceding material enabling students to demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of the modules.

VI. Course Requirements

Submit assigned 4-MATs on specified readings in each module. Total of 9 for 30% of grade.

Mid-term exam. An 8-10 page interactive evaluation of Kane’s A Concise History of Christian World Mission. 30% of grade.

A final paper (12-15 pages) on Vincent Donovan’s Christianity Rediscovered, and Bruce Olson’s Bruchko. Pulling from the modules, identify any biblical models they followed, the theologies of these missionaries, the cultural contexts in which they worked, strategies employed, successes and failures, etc. Also, identify and explain any problem areas you had with their work and how you would do things differently. 40% of grade.

VII. Required Texts


VIII. Course Outline

Introduction Feb. 9th. - Welcome, Bios, Creating community.


4. Yoder, Mission Vision in Revelation

Two (2) 4MATs, one OT and one NT on Hedlund, The Mission of the Church in the World. _______________ Due 2/23.

2nd Module March 8th “Theological Issues in Mission.”

3. Phillips and Coote, Toward the 21st Century . . :

4MAT on Van Engen, Mission on the Way. _______________ Due 3/15.

3rd Module March 29th “History of Christian World Mission.”

2. MID-TERM on Kane, A Concise History of Christian World Mission.
_____________________________ DUE 4/5.

SPRING READING WEEK MARCH 29- APRIL 2

4th Module April 12th- “Cultural Challenges in Mission.”
**Readings:**


Section IV “Special Challenges in Mission.” pp. 269-374.

4MAT, and Case studies from Van Rheenen Missions. Chapters 3 – 7.

**Due 4/26.**

4MAT on any 2 of 8 from Phillips & Coote, Section IV

**Due 4/26.**

4MAT on Whiteman's Anthropology and Mission

**Due 4/26.**

**5th Module May 3rd- “Effective Strategies for Mission.”**

**Readings:**

1. Van Rheenen, Missions. Chapters 8 – 11.


4MAT, and Case studies on Van Rheenen Missions. Chapters 8 – 11.

**Due on 5/10.**

4MAT on 1 of 5 from Phillips and Coote, Section III

**Due on 5/10.**

4MAT on Whiteman's Anthropology and Mission

**Final Exam due Mon 5/17 at High Noon!**

**Basic Orientation**

Windows and Icons ....

While I am sure that each of you are aware of the intended use of each of the items which appear in the MI740XL folder, let me summarize the manner in which I intend to use them this semester:

The Course Center will contain a copy of the syllabus as well as all class modules.

The Discussion Center will be used for all public communications. Anytime you have a question or comment about the course, the modules, the assignments, or anything else, which would be of interest to your classmates and me, you should post to the Discussion Center.

The MI740XL Office is for private correspondence between you and me. This will contain items that you do not want to appear publicly before all of your classmates or items that you think may embarrass me if they were to appear publicly.

The Archives Center will be used for storing conversations that have already taken place during the course of the semester. This keeps the Discussion Center from becoming too unmanageable.

The Chat Center is intended primarily for real-time interaction among students. You can get together with other members to study, ask questions, or to explore topics. None of the conversations carried on in this location is ever saved.

The Resource Center provides access to a number of specific tools available to all ExL students. These include access to the B.L. Fisher Library, the Services in Estes Chapel, ExL Updates, Guidelines for Success, Helpful Hints, Interesting Links, a Powerpoint Viewer (which you can use to view my overheads).
as well as a Real Audio player. I encourage you to take advantage of all these resources, and particularly to utilize the chapel access in order to connect with the seminary's on-campus opportunities for spiritual growth.